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HIGHLIGHTS OF RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL, NC NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2004

Workers in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, North Carolina, metropolitan area averaged \$21.74 per hour during March 2004, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin reported that white-collar workers averaged \$25.22 per hour and accounted for 69 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.56 per hour and represented 20 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 11 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.29 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 203 firms representing 229,800 workers in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill metropolitan area, which consists of Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Johnston, Orange, and Wake Counties in North Carolina. Seventy-two percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 33 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$35.13 per hour; elementary school teachers, \$22.58; and bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks, \$15.91. Blue-collar occupations included stock handlers and baggers earning \$10.44 per hour. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$19.78; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$10.53 per hour; and janitors and cleaners, \$9.04.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area averaged \$22.34 per hour and part-timers earned \$10.98. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$16.02 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$25.87.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC National Compensation Survey March 2004 (Bulletin 3125-30). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-331-3415. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Atlanta by dialing 404-331-3403 and requesting document 9535.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, March 2004

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$21.74	2.6	\$21.80	3.5	\$21.59	2.1
All excluding sales	22.20	2.4	22.44	3.2	21.60	2.1
White collar	25.22	2.7	25.99	3.3	23.51	4.1
White collar excluding sales	26.20	2.5	27.56	3.3	23.53	4.1
Professional specialty and technical	31.29	4.0	31.84	5.1	30.07	5.4
Professional specialty	33.71	3.1	33.90	4.4	33.29	2.0
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	35.03	5.4	36.92	4.9	—	—
Civil engineers	28.50	9.1	—	—	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	36.90	7.3	36.90	7.3	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	35.26	2.9	35.26	2.9	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	35.13	2.7	35.13	2.7	—	—
Natural scientists	32.62	11.7	29.79	11.0	—	—
Health related	23.41	5.0	23.90	5.3	20.78	14.4
Registered nurses	24.85	2.8	25.58	3.3	20.56	6.7
Teachers, college and university	61.94	9.8	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	22.53	3.5	23.28	19.4	22.37	.1
Elementary school teachers	22.58	1.0	—	—	22.35	.1
Secondary school teachers	23.73	6.4	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	33.11	7.3	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	19.49	8.0	—	—	17.25	3.6
Social workers	19.49	8.0	—	—	17.25	3.6
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	36.53	8.4	36.53	8.4	—	—
Professional, n.e.c.	36.01	5.8	36.01	5.8	—	—
Technical	21.03	6.9	22.52	6.5	18.27	18.0
Computer programmers	30.73	4.2	30.73	6.0	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	12.89	13.5	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.15	6.0	34.01	7.0	30.73	10.7
Executives, administrators, and managers	40.30	5.7	42.46	7.4	35.29	3.7
Administrators and officials, public administration	36.10	16.6	—	—	36.10	16.6
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	46.52	10.4	47.07	11.2	—	—
Management related	26.07	9.9	26.45	12.2	24.76	2.8
Accountants and auditors	29.49	9.4	—	—	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	19.78	6.4	—	—	—	—
Sales	14.44	11.7	14.42	11.9	—	—
Cashiers	8.06	7.2	7.79	5.4	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	14.25	3.0	15.45	4.5	12.48	2.5
Secretaries	17.05	3.0	17.19	3.2	16.00	4.9
Order clerks	17.68	9.6	17.68	9.6	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	13.62	4.7	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	15.91	2.3	—	—	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	13.80	11.6	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	12.26	2.8	13.11	7.1	12.03	2.4
Teachers' aides	11.40	2.5	—	—	11.40	2.5
Administrative support, n.e.c.	15.01	3.2	15.07	3.3	—	—
Blue collar	14.56	6.4	14.52	7.3	14.88	3.8
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.37	6.8	19.03	9.6	16.29	1.6
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	17.26	7.9	—	—	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.51	11.3	14.62	11.2	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	15.10	14.3	15.10	14.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving	12.00	21.2	11.95	22.1	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.24	6.3	11.24	7.0	11.19	6.8
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	11.25	14.2	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	10.44	6.7	10.71	6.8	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, March 2004 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service	\$11.29	3.9	\$10.02	5.0	\$13.82	6.4
Protective service	13.85	14.4	—	—	17.10	7.7
Supervisors, police and detectives	28.08	5.7	—	—	28.08	5.7
Police and detectives, public service	19.78	3.0	—	—	19.78	3.0
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	12.89	6.5	—	—	12.89	6.5
Food service	8.78	4.2	8.78	5.1	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.52	14.9	4.52	14.9	—	—
Other food service	9.45	6.9	9.61	8.2	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.92	9.2	—	—	—	—
Health service	10.63	3.0	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.53	3.8	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	10.90	16.6	11.26	19.4	9.26	6.7
Janitors and cleaners	9.04	5.2	8.97	6.4	9.26	6.7
Personal service	12.62	13.5	—	—	13.91	13.1

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, March 2004

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$22.34	\$10.98	–	\$21.83	\$21.84	–
All excluding sales	22.78	11.37	–	22.30	22.23	–
White collar	25.48	16.05	–	25.24	25.42	–
White-collar excluding sales	26.35	19.41	–	26.22	26.26	–
Professional specialty and technical	31.48	23.39	–	31.29	31.43	–
Professional specialty	34.03	23.39	–	33.72	33.92	–
Technical	21.03	–	–	21.03	21.03	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.15	–	–	33.15	33.15	–
Sales	15.14	–	–	14.44	14.38	–
Administrative support, including clerical	14.29	12.36	–	14.22	14.25	–
Blue collar	15.21	8.62	–	14.29	14.47	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.37	–	–	18.35	18.28	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.66	–	–	14.72	14.51	–
Transportation and material moving	13.69	7.54	–	9.47	12.00	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.36	–	–	11.19	11.24	–
Service	11.94	7.56	–	11.27	11.29	–
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.7	8.4	–	2.7	2.8	–
All excluding sales	2.4	8.9	–	2.5	2.3	–
White collar	2.7	10.0	–	2.7	3.0	–
White-collar excluding sales	2.5	9.5	–	2.5	2.6	–
Professional specialty and technical	4.0	8.2	–	4.0	4.0	–
Professional specialty	3.2	8.2	–	3.1	3.2	–
Technical	6.9	–	–	6.9	6.9	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.0	–	–	6.0	6.0	–
Sales	12.6	–	–	11.7	17.5	–
Administrative support, including clerical	3.1	11.7	–	3.0	3.0	–
Blue collar	6.5	11.5	–	6.6	6.3	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.8	–	–	7.1	7.1	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.0	–	–	12.0	11.3	–
Transportation and material moving	26.1	9.3	–	11.6	21.2	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.3	–	–	7.2	6.3	–
Service	4.0	8.0	–	3.9	3.9	–

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

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Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, March 2004

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$21.80	\$16.02	\$24.02	\$20.33	\$25.87
All excluding sales	22.44	17.25	24.09	20.84	25.61
White collar	25.99	19.82	27.89	27.10	28.15
White-collar excluding sales	27.56	24.56	28.19	29.43	27.85
Professional specialty and technical	31.84	—	31.59	31.76	31.55
Professional specialty	33.90	—	34.01	33.56	34.13
Technical	22.52	—	22.52	22.56	22.51
Executive, administrative, and managerial	34.01	36.82	33.80	37.23	32.51
Sales	14.42	11.19	21.93	14.42	—
Administrative support, including clerical	15.45	14.03	16.03	18.51	15.29
Blue collar	14.52	11.80	16.01	14.18	18.37
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.03	18.86	19.08	15.14	24.20
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.62	—	14.59	15.35	13.93
Transportation and material moving	11.95	—	16.92	14.15	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.24	10.28	12.08	11.20	13.44
Service	10.02	9.11	10.59	—	11.25
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.5	14.1	4.7	12.4	4.7
All excluding sales	3.2	13.2	4.7	12.8	4.7
White collar	3.3	12.8	3.7	8.6	4.3
White-collar excluding sales	3.3	7.2	3.8	7.4	4.4
Professional specialty and technical	5.1	—	6.0	6.6	7.3
Professional specialty	4.4	—	5.3	7.8	6.6
Technical	6.5	—	6.5	8.3	7.9
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.0	37.9	6.8	11.4	7.7
Sales	11.9	12.0	14.5	22.8	—
Administrative support, including clerical	4.5	8.9	3.3	6.6	2.1
Blue collar	7.3	13.5	5.6	5.1	5.6
Precision production, craft, and repair	9.6	7.3	13.7	12.5	6.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.2	—	9.4	10.2	10.6
Transportation and material moving	22.1	—	26.5	28.4	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.0	9.0	6.1	4.7	12.8
Service	5.0	14.4	4.0	—	6.1

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

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³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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