

News

United States
Department
of Labor



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For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, February 4, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, OH NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2003

Workers in the Columbus metropolitan area averaged \$17.68 per hour during March 2003, according to a new survey released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Acting Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer reported that white-collar workers averaged \$20.83 per hour and accounted for 58 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.33 per hour and represented 24 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 18 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.41 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 379 firms representing 379,100 workers in the Columbus metropolitan area, which is comprised of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway Counties. Seventy-seven percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Columbus metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 50 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$24.91 per hour; secretaries, \$17.02; and cashiers, \$8.33. Blue-collar occupations included truck drivers earning \$16.83 per hour; production inspectors, checkers and examiners at \$11.92; and stock handlers and baggers at \$11.25. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants averaged \$10.53 per hour and cooks, \$9.94.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Columbus area averaged \$18.75 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.14. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.24 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$12.65. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$14.49 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.86.

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 judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Columbus, OH National Compensation Survey March 2003 (Bulletin 3120-38). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the BLS Information Office in Chicago by calling 312-353-1880. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm. Survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau’s fax-on-demand service by dialing (312) 353-1880, menu option 1. Up to five documents at a time may be selected and faxed to you within minutes, 24 hours a day.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880, option 1		
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For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

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Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Columbus, OH, March 2003

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	\$17.68	2.9	\$16.10	3.7	\$22.96	1.7
All excluding sales	18.10	2.9	16.51	3.7	22.96	1.7
White collar	20.83	3.8	19.28	5.1	24.68	1.8
White collar excluding sales	21.97	3.8	20.69	5.4	24.68	1.8
Professional specialty and technical	26.78	2.4	24.77	4.0	29.14	2.3
Professional specialty	28.22	2.1	26.73	3.1	29.66	1.8
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	31.28	3.8	31.09	4.7	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	36.65	5.9	36.65	5.9	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	29.17	4.1	29.19	4.3	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	29.49	4.2	29.53	4.4	—	—
Natural scientists	29.60	11.9	31.68	16.6	—	—
Physical scientists, n.e.c.	29.68	12.9	—	—	—	—
Health related	23.45	10.0	25.92	5.7	19.79	18.3
Registered nurses	24.91	3.8	24.71	4.7	25.64	5.4
Teachers, college and university	34.41	4.6	34.41	4.6	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	32.83	2.7	—	—	33.33	2.9
Prekindergarten and kindergarten	31.28	9.3	—	—	—	—
Elementary school teachers	34.97	1.9	—	—	35.36	1.8
Secondary school teachers	33.77	.6	—	—	34.15	.1
Librarians, archivists, and curators	23.62	16.9	—	—	25.17	16.8
Librarians	23.62	16.9	—	—	25.17	16.8
Social scientists and urban planners	22.60	23.6	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	26.38	22.3	—	—	30.26	19.2
Social workers	26.55	22.2	—	—	30.26	19.2
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	23.05	4.1	23.05	4.1	—	—
Technical	22.01	8.8	20.25	8.9	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	19.92	17.1	19.92	17.1	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	19.28	5.3	19.42	5.6	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.77	7.4	32.68	9.3	25.28	5.3
Executives, administrators, and managers	35.33	11.4	36.18	12.5	28.77	11.8
Administrators and officials, public administration	24.84	8.6	—	—	24.84	8.6
Financial managers	20.60	12.5	20.60	12.5	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	45.47	20.0	45.47	20.0	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	41.68	5.2	—	—	—	—
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	22.88	12.7	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	42.73	11.0	43.07	11.2	—	—
Management related	25.32	5.1	26.19	7.4	24.17	7.2
Accountants and auditors	21.86	5.9	23.87	3.1	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	23.35	8.4	25.60	20.9	—	—
Sales	11.65	6.6	11.65	6.6	—	—
Supervisors, sales	11.52	10.3	11.52	10.3	—	—
Sales workers, apparel	8.56	.3	8.56	.3	—	—
Cashiers	8.33	2.2	8.33	2.2	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.67	3.6	12.97	4.3	16.05	3.1
Supervisors, general office	16.23	6.1	17.03	6.7	—	—
Secretaries	17.02	5.7	16.70	8.4	17.65	5.7
Order clerks	9.45	17.0	9.45	17.0	—	—
Library clerks	11.44	9.2	—	—	10.50	8.5
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	15.45	7.0	13.74	6.6	16.43	7.8
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	14.48	8.5	14.48	8.5	—	—
Eligibility clerks, social welfare	12.46	11.0	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	12.09	6.5	11.69	7.7	—	—
Data entry keyers	10.91	3.0	—	—	—	—
Teachers' aides	12.17	12.7	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	12.29	6.3	12.28	7.0	—	—
Blue collar	14.33	4.3	14.06	4.8	17.62	1.3

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, Columbus, OH, March 2003 — 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)
Blue collar —Continued						
Precision production, craft, and repair	\$19.04	8.1	\$19.21	10.3	\$18.45	2.8
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	20.33	11.5	20.67	12.1	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.81	7.8	13.73	8.0	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	14.36	27.3	14.36	27.3	—	—
Welders and cutters	14.54	6.2	14.13	6.8	—	—
Assemblers	13.02	5.4	13.02	5.4	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	11.92	4.8	11.92	4.8	—	—
Transportation and material moving	15.57	7.2	15.28	8.7	17.59	1.1
Truck drivers	16.83	9.2	16.83	9.2	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.58	3.5	11.55	3.6	13.10	11.6
Stock handlers and baggers	11.25	2.5	11.25	2.5	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	12.37	7.9	12.37	7.9	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.89	8.7	9.83	8.9	—	—
Service	11.41	7.9	8.57	6.1	18.72	6.8
Protective service	16.91	22.6	—	—	23.12	2.0
Food service	6.76	14.1	6.15	15.6	11.58	7.3
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	2.89	23.2	2.89	23.2	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.63	19.5	2.63	19.5	—	—
Other food service	9.44	5.0	8.94	4.7	11.58	7.3
Cooks	9.94	2.2	9.47	2.7	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	10.08	2.6	10.08	2.6	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.32	9.5	7.41	.7	—	—
Health service	10.45	3.5	10.42	3.7	—	—
Health aides, except nursing	10.00	7.2	10.00	7.2	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.53	2.6	10.50	2.8	—	—
Cleaning and building service	11.95	7.8	10.86	10.4	13.91	9.7
Janitors and cleaners	12.99	6.5	11.95	10.2	13.91	9.7
Personal service	10.52	10.7	8.78	14.4	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	8.14	1.3	8.14	1.3	—	—

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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-38.

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, Columbus, OH, March 2003**

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	\$18.75	\$9.14	\$21.46	\$16.58	\$17.69	\$17.24
All excluding sales	19.02	9.42	21.66	17.00	18.10	18.65
White collar	21.78	11.22	24.59	19.96	20.92	—
White-collar excluding sales	22.52	13.45	25.12	21.17	21.99	—
Professional specialty and technical	27.02	19.98	29.74	25.29	26.78	—
Professional specialty	28.41	21.60	30.76	26.51	28.22	—
Technical	22.29	17.46	—	22.58	22.01	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.87	—	—	31.45	30.77	—
Sales	13.46	7.95	—	11.80	10.79	—
Administrative support, including clerical	14.00	10.75	16.06	13.27	13.65	—
Blue collar	14.62	8.95	18.24	12.65	14.20	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.09	—	21.32	16.69	19.57	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.83	—	17.47	12.20	13.81	—
Transportation and material moving	15.75	—	22.71	13.40	14.90	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.02	8.54	12.81	11.24	11.52	—
Service	13.32	6.75	19.10	8.88	11.41	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.2	6.9	3.2	3.3	2.8	22.9
All excluding sales	3.1	8.3	3.2	3.5	2.9	17.2
White collar	3.7	8.3	4.1	4.4	3.5	—
White-collar excluding sales	3.6	10.3	4.1	4.6	3.8	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.3	8.2	4.7	3.5	2.4	—
Professional specialty	2.0	12.5	4.1	4.5	2.1	—
Technical	8.7	1.0	—	9.0	8.8	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.3	—	—	7.6	7.4	—
Sales	8.9	1.5	—	6.9	1.9	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.6	10.1	7.9	4.1	3.7	—
Blue collar	4.4	6.9	4.3	3.8	4.5	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	8.1	—	8.2	6.6	7.6	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.9	—	6.6	4.6	7.8	—
Transportation and material moving	7.8	—	7.6	7.4	8.0	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.5	5.3	3.4	5.1	3.4	—
Service	8.7	17.9	7.5	6.1	7.9	—

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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-38.

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.

⁶ 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.

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Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Columbus, OH, March 2003**

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	\$16.10	\$14.49	\$16.55	\$14.96	\$18.86
All excluding sales	16.51	14.83	16.96	15.45	18.87
White collar	19.28	19.10	19.32	18.00	20.61
White-collar excluding sales	20.69	21.84	20.49	20.29	20.63
Professional specialty and technical	24.77	20.58	25.26	21.85	27.97
Professional specialty	26.73	23.33	27.04	25.23	28.03
Technical	20.25	—	20.81	17.33	27.69
Executive, administrative, and managerial	32.68	33.46	32.43	33.53	31.22
Sales	11.65	12.04	11.47	11.49	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.97	13.43	12.90	12.01	13.42
Blue collar	14.06	13.45	14.25	13.78	15.09
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.21	15.34	19.79	19.51	20.65
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.73	11.69	13.91	12.66	17.98
Transportation and material moving	15.28	17.09	13.72	12.71	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.55	11.17	11.73	11.32	12.10
Service	8.57	7.31	9.23	9.23	9.30
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	3.7	8.2	5.3	6.0	5.9
All excluding sales	3.7	9.0	5.5	6.3	6.0
White collar	5.1	14.9	6.3	8.7	8.5
White-collar excluding sales	5.4	19.3	6.6	9.3	8.6
Professional specialty and technical	4.0	6.2	4.6	7.1	6.2
Professional specialty	3.1	5.0	3.5	7.0	4.8
Technical	8.9	—	10.5	6.9	19.7
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9.3	20.7	8.2	12.1	11.6
Sales	6.6	6.7	10.7	10.7	—
Administrative support, including clerical	4.3	10.7	4.7	5.8	5.3
Blue collar	4.8	7.5	6.1	7.9	5.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	10.3	14.3	10.6	13.7	7.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.0	14.5	9.3	7.7	12.8
Transportation and material moving	8.7	18.6	5.9	13.2	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.6	8.0	2.3	4.8	1.9
Service	6.1	15.6	5.5	6.2	19.3

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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-38.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

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

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.

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