

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

Dallas/Kansas City Regional Office
Cheryl Abbot
Economist
(214) 767-6970
<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm>

For Release:
October 15, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOUSTON-GALVESTON-BRAZORIA, TX NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2003

Workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area averaged \$19.85 per hour during December 2003, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stan Suchman reported that white-collar workers averaged \$24.51 per hour and accounted for 59 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.73 per hour and represented 26 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$9.94 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with 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 624 firms representing 922,500 workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area, which is comprised of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties in Texas. Seventy-nine percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Houston metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 93 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, petroleum engineers averaged \$51.56 per hour; pharmacists, \$39.84; and registered nurses, \$28.20. Blue-collar occupations included electricians at \$25.19 per hour; bus drivers at \$15.48; and construction laborers at \$10.22. In the service occupations, firefighters averaged \$14.91 per hour and correctional institution officers, \$12.55.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Houston area averaged \$20.53 per hour and part-timers earned \$8.84. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$20.26 per hour compared to their nonunion counterparts at \$13.50. Private industry workers in establishments with 500 or more employees averaged \$23.69 per hour, earning more than the \$15.93 average hourly wage of those in establishments employing 50-99 workers.

National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2003 (continued)

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 Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX National Compensation Survey December 2003 (Bulletin 3125-13). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9530.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 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	\$19.85	4.1	\$19.65	5.1	\$20.68	3.7
All excluding sales	20.31	4.3	20.20	5.4	20.73	3.6
White collar	24.51	3.9	24.71	4.9	23.82	4.1
White collar excluding sales	26.14	3.8	26.95	4.8	23.90	4.0
Professional specialty and technical	31.64	3.0	33.29	4.0	28.61	2.9
Professional specialty	33.04	2.8	35.36	3.8	29.64	2.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	36.85	5.4	36.85	5.4	—	—
Petroleum engineers	51.56	9.3	51.56	9.3	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	39.15	3.9	39.15	3.9	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	34.49	7.1	34.63	7.1	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	34.70	7.0	34.85	7.1	—	—
Natural scientists	38.54	19.9	43.28	19.3	—	—
Geologists and geodesists	50.37	9.8	50.37	9.8	—	—
Health related	30.77	8.1	30.88	11.0	30.47	6.2
Registered nurses	28.20	1.4	27.82	1.5	29.13	3.1
Pharmacists	39.84	.7	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	47.06	15.5	97.45	30.7	41.86	16.0
Other post-secondary teachers	51.03	25.7	—	—	51.88	26.4
Teachers, except college and university	29.16	1.3	23.50	8.5	29.42	1.0
Elementary school teachers	28.91	.2	—	—	28.91	.2
Secondary school teachers	30.01	.7	—	—	29.95	.8
Teachers, n.e.c.	27.56	5.7	17.63	4.9	—	—
Vocational and educational counselors	30.95	4.5	—	—	31.20	4.5
Librarians, archivists, and curators	23.31	13.3	—	—	23.48	15.4
Librarians	23.34	13.3	—	—	23.48	15.4
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	17.35	7.4	—	—	17.02	7.8
Social workers	17.30	7.8	—	—	17.02	7.8
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	27.37	17.5	27.43	19.9	—	—
Designers	17.90	25.7	17.90	25.7	—	—
Technical	26.21	4.5	27.68	5.2	18.41	7.7
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	19.50	10.1	19.44	10.5	—	—
Radiological technicians	23.43	14.8	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	16.55	.8	16.66	.9	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	19.02	4.5	19.04	4.3	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	24.40	15.7	25.99	17.7	—	—
Drafters	28.95	12.0	28.95	12.0	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	17.66	12.0	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	35.66	5.9	36.67	6.7	30.23	4.9
Executives, administrators, and managers	38.45	5.3	40.34	6.5	31.36	5.3
Administrators and officials, public administration	34.08	18.7	—	—	27.03	3.3
Financial managers	47.72	16.4	48.25	16.8	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	45.87	6.5	45.87	6.5	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	40.12	3.7	48.14	1.1	39.26	4.0
Managers, medicine and health	26.65	1.8	26.38	1.6	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	40.34	6.1	42.35	6.5	—	—
Management related	30.11	9.4	30.60	9.7	20.14	6.2
Accountants and auditors	30.89	5.3	30.89	5.3	—	—
Other financial officers	35.15	4.6	35.15	4.6	—	—
Management analysts	33.21	34.3	33.21	34.3	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	33.65	17.6	—	—	—	—
Buyers, wholesale and retail trade, except farm products	30.89	19.9	30.89	19.9	—	—
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	21.64	16.2	—	—	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	25.87	11.1	26.12	12.1	—	—
Sales	14.97	9.5	15.02	9.5	—	—
Supervisors, sales	25.11	11.5	25.11	11.5	—	—
Sales, other business services	16.10	14.7	16.10	14.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 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)
White collar —Continued						
Sales —Continued						
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	\$26.42	12.8	\$26.42	12.8	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	10.37	8.0	10.37	8.0	—	—
Cashiers	9.10	7.3	9.05	7.7	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical						
Supervisors, general office	13.62	2.2	13.99	2.6	\$12.36	1.9
Secretaries	18.33	14.6	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	15.61	3.8	16.48	4.5	13.55	3.0
Information clerks, n.e.c.	10.76	5.6	10.71	6.1	—	—
Order clerks	12.40	8.5	12.45	9.1	—	—
File clerks	15.24	15.7	15.24	15.7	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	10.57	4.6	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.13	7.0	12.93	9.5	13.64	8.8
Dispatchers	13.43	3.0	13.44	3.1	—	—
Production coordinators	17.57	33.3	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	19.85	10.3	—	—	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	12.90	4.6	12.77	5.0	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	11.33	4.6	11.32	4.7	—	—
General office clerks	18.17	9.9	18.37	9.9	—	—
Bank tellers	13.29	3.7	14.83	4.2	11.31	3.1
Data entry keyers	11.45	2.3	11.45	2.3	—	—
Teachers' aides	11.18	6.0	11.18	6.0	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	10.26	2.4	—	—	10.26	2.4
	13.34	3.8	13.21	4.8	13.84	2.6
Blue collar	14.73	2.9	14.82	3.1	13.51	5.0
Precision production, craft, and repair						
Automobile mechanics	18.58	2.4	18.82	2.5	15.21	5.5
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	24.53	11.6	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	17.40	1.8	—	—	—	—
Carpenters	15.72	6.9	15.60	7.8	—	—
Electricians	15.44	14.2	15.44	14.2	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	25.19	7.6	25.89	6.6	—	—
Construction trades, n.e.c.	14.24	7.0	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, production	12.16	6.3	—	—	—	—
Machinists	21.22	9.6	21.29	9.7	—	—
Miscellaneous plant and system operators, n.e.c.	18.39	8.8	18.39	8.8	—	—
	25.72	1.0	25.72	1.0	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Welders and cutters	13.78	7.7	13.78	7.7	—	—
	15.21	12.3	15.21	12.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	14.30	4.9	14.33	5.4	14.06	1.9
Bus drivers	15.90	12.1	16.01	12.5	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	15.48	5.3	—	—	14.62	.2
	11.14	8.7	11.14	8.7	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	10.14	2.0	10.03	2.0	11.24	3.7
Helpers, mechanics and repairers	10.67	8.9	—	—	10.95	9.3
Helpers, construction trades	11.63	11.5	—	—	—	—
Construction laborers	10.32	2.4	10.12	.1	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	10.22	.6	10.18	.0	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	7.82	6.0	7.82	6.0	—	—
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	12.57	11.1	12.57	11.1	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.77	8.7	9.69	9.1	—	—
	9.15	4.8	8.78	3.7	11.60	9.5
Service						
Protective service	9.94	3.0	8.22	4.1	13.81	4.1
Firefighting	16.46	6.7	8.60	10.2	18.54	1.4
Police and detectives, public service	14.91	.2	—	—	14.91	.2
	21.21	7.5	—	—	21.21	7.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 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)
Service –Continued						
Protective service –Continued						
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	\$20.29	0.7	–	–	\$20.29	0.7
Correctional institution officers	12.55	.0	–	–	12.55	.0
Guards and police, except public service	10.14	9.5	–	–	–	–
Food service	6.66	8.9	\$6.28	10.8	8.87	1.5
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.61	16.2	3.61	16.2	–	–
Waiters and waitresses	2.71	9.9	2.71	9.9	–	–
Other food service	8.14	3.3	7.94	4.3	8.87	1.5
Cooks	8.65	6.1	8.65	6.1	–	–
Kitchen workers, food preparation	8.01	2.3	8.18	3.1	–	–
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.37	6.1	6.35	8.4	9.14	2.6
Health service	10.28	3.3	9.75	3.4	11.29	5.5
Health aides, except nursing	10.58	6.7	9.71	7.8	11.83	6.1
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.89	2.6	9.69	3.1	10.44	3.4
Cleaning and building service	7.96	3.4	7.71	3.6	9.24	1.5
Maids and housemen	7.27	3.1	7.27	3.1	–	–
Janitors and cleaners	7.81	4.5	7.43	4.4	9.26	1.5
Personal service	15.37	10.0	17.69	12.4	11.78	11.5
Early childhood teachers' assistants	9.61	4.1	–	–	9.67	4.4

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 group², National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 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	\$20.53	\$8.84	\$22.10	\$19.68	\$19.85	\$19.78
All excluding sales	20.84	9.29	22.63	20.12	20.35	18.76
White collar	25.08	11.37	26.74	24.44	24.72	20.52
White-collar excluding sales	26.27	18.24	29.99	26.02	26.28	19.51
Professional specialty and technical	31.77	24.81	86.32	30.84	31.64	—
Professional specialty	33.17	26.45	—	33.04	33.04	—
Technical	26.36	—	86.32	21.71	26.21	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	35.68	—	—	35.66	36.33	24.19
Sales	16.66	7.69	8.31	15.19	13.24	21.08
Administrative support, including clerical	13.66	11.69	15.58	13.47	13.62	—
Blue collar	14.93	8.80	20.26	13.50	14.51	19.51
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.60	—	23.31	17.30	18.41	21.34
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.76	—	21.53	12.63	13.64	—
Transportation and material moving	14.31	—	20.67	12.47	13.98	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.39	8.02	12.30	9.80	10.11	—
Service	10.73	6.32	23.85	9.49	9.96	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	4.1	2.6	4.3	4.5	4.2	8.9
All excluding sales	4.3	3.5	4.5	4.7	4.2	9.2
White collar	3.8	8.2	14.6	4.0	3.7	10.6
White-collar excluding sales	3.8	5.9	18.5	4.0	3.6	20.5
Professional specialty and technical	2.9	8.2	13.4	3.1	3.0	—
Professional specialty	2.8	8.9	—	2.8	2.8	—
Technical	4.5	—	13.4	4.4	4.5	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.9	—	—	5.9	5.7	22.4
Sales	9.1	1.1	9.9	9.7	9.3	14.5
Administrative support, including clerical	2.2	7.5	12.5	1.9	2.1	—
Blue collar	3.0	10.1	3.3	3.4	2.9	6.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.4	—	3.9	3.9	2.5	10.7
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.6	—	3.8	5.8	7.3	—
Transportation and material moving	5.0	—	3.4	6.6	6.9	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	2.7	11.0	7.6	1.8	2.0	—
Service	3.5	5.0	10.1	2.8	3.0	—

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 for more information (from full publication).

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², private industry, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 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	\$19.65	\$15.93	\$20.51	\$17.05	\$23.69
All excluding sales	20.20	15.92	21.18	17.55	24.19
White collar	24.71	23.35	24.93	20.70	28.18
White-collar excluding sales	26.95	26.20	27.05	23.18	29.41
Professional specialty and technical	33.29	29.29	33.60	28.35	35.62
Professional specialty	35.36	32.34	35.55	30.58	37.31
Technical	27.68	23.80	28.07	23.30	30.38
Executive, administrative, and managerial	36.67	41.18	35.83	33.43	37.54
Sales	15.02	16.02	14.77	14.33	15.81
Administrative support, including clerical	13.99	13.88	14.01	13.70	14.27
Blue collar	14.82	11.70	16.07	14.31	18.53
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.82	15.16	19.85	17.99	21.95
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.78	11.45	14.46	12.91	17.57
Transportation and material moving	14.33	12.49	15.40	13.61	18.33
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.03	8.15	11.09	10.19	12.37
Service	8.22	7.49	8.39	7.65	9.02
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	5.1	10.4	4.7	4.3	5.8
All excluding sales	5.4	11.3	4.8	4.7	5.7
White collar	4.9	14.3	4.5	4.9	4.4
White-collar excluding sales	4.8	16.1	4.4	5.7	4.0
Professional specialty and technical	4.0	13.4	3.8	4.0	3.8
Professional specialty	3.8	14.3	3.8	3.6	3.9
Technical	5.2	16.3	5.1	6.5	6.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.7	12.7	6.6	10.3	6.4
Sales	9.5	17.1	8.6	8.9	15.3
Administrative support, including clerical	2.6	6.6	2.6	4.8	3.3
Blue collar	3.1	5.5	3.3	3.4	5.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.5	4.1	2.7	4.9	6.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.7	11.6	8.3	7.4	7.4
Transportation and material moving	5.4	10.7	8.7	4.4	10.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	2.0	4.2	4.3	6.2	6.4
Service	4.1	10.5	3.6	7.3	6.9

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 full publication for more information.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.