

News

United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

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

For Release:
February 9, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ORLEANS, LA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2003

Workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area averaged \$16.47 per hour during March 2003, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Acting Regional Commissioner John Gordon reported that white-collar workers averaged \$21.12 per hour and accounted for 51 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.60 per hour and represented 25 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.42 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 212 firms representing 226,700 workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area, which includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana. Seventy-one percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the New Orleans metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 55 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, petroleum engineers averaged \$39.12 per hour; accountants and auditors, \$27.22; and secretaries, \$13.62. Blue-collar occupations included electricians at \$16.57 per hour and bus drivers at \$12.63. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$14.92 per hour and janitors and cleaners, \$8.10.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the New Orleans area averaged \$17.46 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.45. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.37 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.51. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$12.37 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$21.31.

National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 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 New Orleans, LA National Compensation Survey March 2003 (Bulletin 3120-36). 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 9534.

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, New Orleans, LA, 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	\$16.47	3.5	\$16.22	4.7	\$17.12	2.8
All excluding sales	16.64	3.5	16.44	4.9	17.13	2.8
White collar	21.12	3.5	21.15	4.9	21.06	4.0
White collar excluding sales	21.86	3.6	22.29	5.1	21.09	4.0
Professional specialty and technical	27.10	3.6	29.22	6.2	24.58	2.1
Professional specialty	28.71	4.1	31.24	7.4	26.08	1.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	36.84	8.8	37.14	8.8	—	—
Petroleum engineers	39.12	1.4	39.12	1.4	—	—
Industrial engineers	28.15	5.1	—	—	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	39.51	9.6	39.51	9.6	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	26.09	2.7	26.74	3.2	24.71	5.2
Registered nurses	25.49	4.3	25.94	5.2	24.85	6.4
Teachers, college and university	37.21	8.3	—	—	—	—
Other post-secondary teachers	34.02	5.4	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	27.11	3.5	—	—	28.16	2.4
Elementary school teachers	27.22	4.5	—	—	27.41	4.7
Secondary school teachers	28.34	.3	—	—	28.34	.3
Teachers, special education	31.49	1.2	—	—	31.49	1.2
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	13.13	4.2	—	—	12.78	3.1
Social workers	13.33	5.0	—	—	12.95	4.0
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	16.31	17.7	—	—	—	—
Technical	20.60	11.8	23.05	15.3	15.54	6.3
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	20.50	8.8	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	13.97	1.4	—	—	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	19.63	29.6	22.08	34.3	12.93	6.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial	28.32	6.8	27.43	7.8	31.75	13.3
Executives, administrators, and managers	28.39	8.8	25.96	10.4	36.14	12.1
Administrators and officials, public administration	51.06	21.1	—	—	51.06	21.1
Administrators, education and related fields	34.41	5.5	—	—	—	—
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	22.03	20.9	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	31.56	8.8	31.56	8.8	—	—
Management related	28.23	11.2	29.36	11.6	22.21	16.1
Accountants and auditors	27.22	6.8	29.06	2.9	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	25.27	17.1	—	—	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	21.84	12.3	20.37	15.2	—	—
Sales	12.14	7.1	12.18	7.1	—	—
Cashiers	6.93	10.2	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.77	5.2	12.15	6.8	10.96	4.1
Secretaries	13.62	5.4	14.69	7.1	12.43	8.5
Receptionists	7.78	5.6	7.66	6.4	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	12.07	14.9	—	—	10.99	26.6
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.94	7.8	11.63	9.3	—	—
Dispatchers	15.85	37.6	—	—	16.21	11.0
General office clerks	9.15	7.8	—	—	8.89	10.1
Teachers' aides	9.93	2.1	—	—	9.93	2.1
Administrative support, n.e.c.	10.99	6.0	—	—	11.52	6.2
Blue collar	14.60	4.2	15.20	5.1	12.15	4.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.49	3.5	19.67	3.4	14.22	2.5
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	17.88	21.0	—	—	—	—
Automobile mechanics	14.54	11.8	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	15.97	5.8	17.99	6.9	13.44	7.7
Electricians	16.57	7.2	—	—	—	—

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, New Orleans, LA, 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 —Continued						
Supervisors, production	\$17.26	6.7	\$17.38	7.1	—	—
Machinists	18.64	13.6	18.64	13.6	—	—
Water and sewer treatment plant operators	11.48	5.4	—	—	\$11.48	5.4
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	11.95	6.0	11.96	6.1	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	12.59	2.5	12.81	4.3	11.68	5.0
Bus drivers	13.91	9.3	—	—	—	—
Bus drivers	12.63	5.1	—	—	11.77	2.9
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	9.10	5.9	9.05	7.6	9.24	9.3
Stock handlers and baggers	7.24	5.0	—	—	7.62	9.9
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.72	18.1	9.72	18.1	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	10.54	7.8	10.85	8.7	—	—
Service						
Protective service	8.42	4.4	7.65	6.4	10.60	3.3
Supervisors, police and detectives	11.26	7.5	9.14	8.6	13.02	4.5
Firefighting	18.69	2.1	—	—	18.69	2.1
Police and detectives, public service	11.63	9.0	—	—	11.63	9.0
Correctional institution officers	14.92	4.9	—	—	14.94	5.0
Food service	9.64	3.7	—	—	9.64	3.7
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	6.95	18.4	6.88	19.8	8.41	22.9
Waiters and waitresses	4.20	33.5	4.20	33.5	—	—
Other food service	3.70	33.5	3.70	33.5	—	—
Cooks	8.27	10.1	8.26	10.9	8.41	22.9
Kitchen workers, food preparation	8.01	5.4	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.55	8.9	—	—	—	—
Health service	9.00	19.2	9.66	20.0	—	—
Health aides, except nursing	8.18	7.7	7.79	8.7	9.15	10.9
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.38	13.5	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	7.85	8.4	—	—	8.70	7.3
Maids and housemen	7.81	3.9	7.66	5.4	8.22	3.9
Janitors and cleaners	6.83	3.9	6.83	3.9	—	—
Personal service	8.10	2.4	8.00	2.8	8.27	4.3
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities	7.95	3.5	8.16	2.7	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	7.11	2.4	7.29	2.3	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	8.77	4.8	8.77	4.8	—	—

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, New Orleans, LA, 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	\$17.46	\$7.45	\$16.66	\$16.45	\$16.48	\$16.32
All excluding sales	17.57	7.35	16.92	16.61	16.59	18.81
White collar	21.92	9.43	18.92	21.20	21.34	16.19
White-collar excluding sales	22.42	10.06	21.07	21.89	21.86	–
Professional specialty and technical	27.30	18.40	–	27.11	27.38	–
Professional specialty	28.86	21.40	–	28.78	29.15	–
Technical	20.93	12.58	–	20.60	20.60	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	28.41	11.56	–	28.32	28.23	–
Sales	13.79	8.26	–	12.37	12.20	–
Administrative support, including clerical	12.22	7.45	–	11.32	11.77	–
Blue collar	15.08	7.94	18.37	13.51	14.51	16.55
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.50	–	20.76	17.53	18.45	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.94	–	–	12.54	13.68	–
Transportation and material moving	12.74	–	13.45	12.33	12.19	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.78	6.46	–	8.65	9.10	–
Service	9.10	5.94	8.27	8.43	8.42	–
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.2	4.2	8.7	3.7	3.7	26.7
All excluding sales	3.3	5.3	7.7	3.7	3.7	27.6
White collar	3.6	9.9	11.1	3.6	3.7	37.9
White-collar excluding sales	3.9	14.0	5.0	3.7	3.6	–
Professional specialty and technical	3.7	13.9	–	3.7	3.0	–
Professional specialty	4.1	12.9	–	4.2	2.9	–
Technical	12.4	8.9	–	11.8	11.8	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.8	44.5	–	6.8	7.0	–
Sales	7.0	11.9	–	8.4	12.9	–
Administrative support, including clerical	5.4	4.7	–	3.4	5.2	–
Blue collar	3.9	13.9	7.7	6.2	4.2	16.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.5	–	3.9	7.8	3.7	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.1	–	–	10.9	5.2	–
Transportation and material moving	3.5	–	6.6	3.9	2.2	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.5	13.1	–	6.1	5.9	–
Service	4.7	11.9	10.5	5.1	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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in 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 the 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, New Orleans, LA, 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	\$16.22	\$12.37	\$17.42	\$14.57	\$21.31
All excluding sales	16.44	12.54	17.61	14.67	21.34
White collar	21.15	15.65	23.13	18.48	25.95
White-collar excluding sales	22.29	16.65	24.18	20.20	26.01
Professional specialty and technical	29.22	22.10	30.90	30.51	30.96
Professional specialty	31.24	22.02	34.03	34.15	34.02
Technical	23.05	—	23.06	—	21.43
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.43	23.46	28.71	24.70	31.76
Sales	12.18	—	13.23	13.29	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.15	10.04	13.12	13.89	12.48
Blue collar	15.20	10.72	15.96	15.81	16.51
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.67	—	20.12	20.08	20.29
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.88	9.50	15.79	14.48	—
Transportation and material moving	12.81	—	12.72	12.65	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.05	—	9.07	9.61	—
Service	7.65	7.68	7.64	7.20	8.46
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	4.7	6.4	6.2	7.9	7.8
All excluding sales	4.9	7.0	6.2	8.2	7.8
White collar	4.9	10.2	5.7	8.6	7.1
White-collar excluding sales	5.1	12.8	5.3	8.7	7.1
Professional specialty and technical	6.2	22.7	6.0	14.8	7.1
Professional specialty	7.4	25.0	4.9	22.2	5.0
Technical	15.3	—	16.5	—	21.1
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.8	21.6	7.9	5.2	10.6
Sales	7.1	—	9.1	9.0	—
Administrative support, including clerical	6.8	8.7	8.8	15.6	9.8
Blue collar	5.1	9.8	5.6	6.9	15.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.4	—	3.8	6.2	10.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.3	9.0	10.2	13.6	—
Transportation and material moving	4.3	—	4.1	5.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.6	—	10.0	5.6	—
Service	6.4	15.7	2.9	5.5	1.7

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 (in full publication).

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 the full publication.

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