News

HIGHLIGHTS OF PITTSBURGH, PA
NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2003

Workers in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged $17.78 per hour during December 2003, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins reported that white-collar workers averaged $21.02 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged $15.69 per hour and represented 23 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 22 percent worked in service occupations and earned $11.62 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 515 firms representing 525,000 workers in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, which includes Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. Eighty-four percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 88 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged $29.34 per hour; registered nurses, $23.69; and secretaries, $15.05. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning $17.54 per hour, truck drivers at $15.49, and stock handlers and baggers at $8.57. In the service occupations, janitors and cleaners averaged $12.48 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, $10.51; and cooks, $9.84.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area averaged $18.86 per hour and part-timers earned $9.88. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged $17.11 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made $13.54. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged $15.04 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned $19.00.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that has integrated three 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 <u>Pittsburgh, PA National Compensation Survey December 2003</u> (Bulletin 3125-05). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Philadelphia Information Office by calling (215) 597-3282. 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 Philadelphia by dialing (215) 597-4153 and requesting documents 9795, 9796, 9797, 9798, and 9799.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Philadelphia Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Mean hourly earnings,**[1] **all workers:**[2] **Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, 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	$17.78	2.4	$16.76	2.8	$23.62	2.9
All excluding sales	18.36	2.5	17.36	2.9	23.70	3.0
White collar	21.02	3.1	19.87	3.8	27.79	2.4
White collar excluding sales	22.65	3.3	21.59	4.1	28.00	2.4
Professional specialty and technical	28.06	2.9	26.38	4.1	33.83	2.2
Professional specialty	29.54	2.6	27.70	3.9	34.85	1.6
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	38.46	8.6	38.46	8.6	–	–
Electrical and electronic engineers	41.59	13.1	41.59	13.1	–	–
Mathematical and computer scientists	28.85	5.3	28.85	5.3	–	–
Computer systems analysts and scientists	29.34	4.9	29.34	4.9	–	–
Natural scientists	25.30	5.4	25.30	5.4	–	–
Health related	26.56	2.1	26.65	2.2	–	–
Registered nurses	23.69	2.6	23.72	2.7	–	–
Pharmacists	36.54	1.9	36.54	1.9	–	–
Physical therapists	29.07	4.8	29.07	4.8	–	–
Therapists, n.e.c.	15.79	13.4	15.18	13.6	–	–
Teachers, college and university	29.44	6.1	25.25	.5	37.52	2.9
Other post-secondary teachers	27.33	15.4	–	–	–	–
Teachers, except college and university	33.65	3.9	17.10	13.2	36.10	2.9
Elementary school teachers	37.48	1.1	–	–	38.04	1.1
Secondary school teachers	35.23	1.8	–	–	35.72	1.4
Teachers, special education	38.48	8.7	22.17	16.3	–	–
Teachers, n.e.c.	33.98	23.8	–	–	–	–
Substitute teachers	12.55	6.4	–	–	12.71	6.2
Librarians, archivists, and curators	22.82	10.8	22.84	10.9	–	–
Social scientists and urban planners	27.11	7.0	27.23	9.1	–	–
Psychologists	22.29	7.5	–	–	–	–
Social, recreation, and religious workers	13.91	6.4	10.56	8.6	–	–
Social workers	15.52	16.7	–	–	–	–
Lawyers and judges	–	–	–	–	–	–
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	30.13	25.4	30.13	25.4	–	–
Editors and reporters	23.60	11.8	23.60	11.8	–	–
Technical	21.47	11.4	21.61	12.3	–	–
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	16.75	6.9	16.75	6.9	–	–
Health record technologists and technicians	17.02	6.2	17.02	6.2	–	–
Radiological technicians	19.13	2.1	19.13	2.1	–	–
Licensed practical nurses	16.08	2.1	16.05	2.3	–	–
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	12.64	4.1	12.64	4.1	–	–
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	25.19	8.4	–	–	–	–
Drafters	22.74	12.5	22.74	12.5	–	–
Computer programmers	27.72	9.0	27.72	9.0	–	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	28.15	4.7	28.01	5.1	29.39	10.6
Executives, administrators, and managers	34.00	5.0	34.20	5.5	32.76	11.0
Financial managers	38.82	22.9	38.82	22.9	–	–
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	37.07	13.0	37.07	13.0	–	–
Administrators, education and related fields	27.86	9.7	–	–	33.55	22.2
Managers, medicine and health	25.82	14.4	25.82	14.4	–	–
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	29.12	34.6	29.12	34.6	–	–
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	38.64	15.8	39.07	17.0	–	–
Management related	21.58	4.7	21.55	5.0	–	–
Accountants and auditors	21.08	8.2	20.94	9.1	–	–
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	24.41	13.2	24.41	13.2	–	–
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	22.01	7.9	22.01	7.9	–	–
Management related, n.e.c.	22.69	5.3	22.69	5.3	–	–
Sales	10.43	4.9	10.33	4.9	–	–
Sales workers, other commodities	9.47	6.5	9.47	6.5	–	–
Cashiers	7.74	5.2	7.32	2.9	–	–
Sales support, n.e.c.	8.67	18.0	8.67	18.0	–	–

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, Pittsburgh, PA, 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						
Administrative support, including clerical	$13.31	2.6	$13.02	3.1	$15.30	3.8
Secretaries	15.05	3.7	14.07	4.1	17.37	5.2
Stenographers	14.49	4.0	13.19	1.0	–	–
Receptionists	10.27	6.3	10.27	6.3	–	–
Information clerks, n.e.c.	11.96	10.2	11.96	10.2	–	–
Order clerks	16.72	12.7	16.72	12.7	–	–
Records clerks, n.e.c.	11.96	3.2	11.96	3.2	–	–
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.40	6.3	13.26	6.9	–	–
Billing clerks	12.80	1.9	12.80	1.9	–	–
Telephone operators	13.90	9.2	13.90	9.2	–	–
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	10.93	8.9	10.93	8.9	–	–
Stock and inventory clerks	11.80	6.8	11.36	6.6	–	–
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	15.04	17.9	15.04	17.9	–	–
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	13.77	7.3	13.77	7.3	–	–
General office clerks	12.96	5.4	12.59	7.1	–	–
Bank tellers	10.64	10.1	10.64	10.1	–	–
Teachers' aides	11.36	6.8	–	–	–	–
Administrative support, n.e.c.	12.80	7.1	13.03	8.1	–	–
Blue collar	15.69	2.3	15.33	2.5	18.65	3.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.29	3.0	18.34	3.3	17.71	3.3
Automobile mechanics	17.71	1.1	17.73	1.4	–	–
Industrial machinery repairers	21.00	4.0	21.00	4.0	–	–
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	14.94	14.4	14.94	14.4	–	–
Carpenters	20.21	9.3	–	–	–	–
Electricians	17.54	6.0	–	–	–	–
Machinists	16.14	4.7	16.14	4.7	–	–
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers ..	12.47	2.0	12.47	2.0	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.54	6.1	13.54	6.1	–	–
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	14.93	11.3	14.93	11.3	–	–
Molding and casting machine operators	13.56	15.7	13.56	15.7	–	–
Mixing and blending machine operators	17.38	9.0	17.38	9.0	–	–
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.27	4.1	13.27	4.1	–	–
Welders and cutters	17.08	11.3	17.08	11.3	–	–
Assemblers	11.38	.1	11.38	.1	–	–
Transportation and material moving	16.49	3.1	15.54	3.9	19.30	1.6
Truck drivers	15.49	6.2	15.36	6.9	–	–
Bus drivers	17.41	9.5	–	–	–	–
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	14.82	3.7	14.82	3.7	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	13.18	5.9	12.57	6.4	18.34	8.4
Stock handlers and baggers	8.57	13.3	8.57	13.3	–	–
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	18.69	2.1	18.69	2.1	–	–
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	10.03	19.2	10.03	19.2	–	–
Hand packers and packagers	10.78	5.8	10.78	5.8	–	–
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	14.75	6.3	13.73	3.1	–	–
Service	11.62	3.5	9.78	3.1	18.84	6.6
Protective service	17.13	7.8	9.22	5.4	24.48	5.9
Police and detectives, public service	26.10	2.1	–	–	26.10	2.1
Guards and police, except public service	9.16	3.9	9.16	3.9	–	–
Food service	7.11	6.5	6.82	6.4	11.36	4.2
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.31	9.5	4.31	9.5	–	–
Bartenders	6.27	11.0	6.27	11.0	–	–
Waiters and waitresses	2.99	2.8	2.99	2.8	–	–
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	5.98	3.1	5.98	3.1	–	–
Other food service	9.07	3.9	8.80	4.4	11.36	4.2
Supervisors, food preparation and service	10.34	15.6	10.34	15.6	–	–

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, Pittsburgh, PA, 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						
Food service –Continued						
Other food service –Continued						
Cooks	$9.84	4.7	$9.85	4.7	–	–
Kitchen workers, food preparation	7.80	8.2	7.80	8.2	–	–
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.86	3.6	8.14	.8	$11.47	3.7
Health service	10.36	3.0	10.10	2.8	–	–
Health aides, except nursing	10.14	5.4	10.11	5.3	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.51	3.3	10.13	3.0	–	–
Cleaning and building service	12.13	5.2	11.19	8.5	14.37	1.3
Maids and housemen	8.94	8.4	8.87	8.6	–	–
Janitors and cleaners	12.48	3.6	11.51	6.7	14.41	1.1
Personal service	14.62	11.0	14.79	13.3	–	–
Child care workers, n.e.c.	12.50	14.3	–	–	–	–

[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.

[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 earnings[1] by occupational group,[2] National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, 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	$18.86	$9.88	$19.85	$16.85	$17.83	$16.15
All excluding sales	19.23	10.63	20.06	17.53	18.41	16.38
White collar	22.01	12.65	27.00	19.80	21.16	15.11
White-collar excluding sales	23.06	17.07	28.23	21.40	22.73	–
Professional specialty and technical	28.58	22.35	34.00	25.74	28.06	–
Professional specialty	30.23	22.95	33.94	27.59	29.54	–
Technical	21.70	16.08	34.59	19.05	21.47	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	28.15	–	–	28.26	28.27	–
Sales	12.20	7.18	8.74	10.58	9.83	–
Administrative support, including clerical	13.62	9.72	15.87	12.86	13.28	–
Blue collar	16.17	8.32	17.11	13.54	15.61	16.96
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.37	–	19.56	16.67	18.45	17.31
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.63	–	14.27	12.53	13.40	–
Transportation and material moving	16.86	11.28	17.86	13.65	16.62	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	14.46	7.29	15.63	9.25	13.13	–
Service	13.00	6.98	16.18	9.25	11.62	–
	Relative error[6] (percent)					
All occupations	2.6	4.3	4.4	3.0	2.4	5.9
All excluding sales	2.7	5.0	4.3	2.9	2.5	2.4
White collar	3.3	5.4	5.5	3.6	3.1	14.4
White-collar excluding sales	3.5	6.6	5.4	3.6	3.3	–
Professional specialty and technical	3.0	5.4	4.7	3.8	2.9	–
Professional specialty	2.7	5.5	1.2	4.0	2.6	–
Technical	11.8	5.8	46.6	4.4	11.4	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.7	–	–	4.9	4.8	–
Sales	6.4	2.1	20.3	5.4	4.2	–
Administrative support, including clerical	2.6	5.1	7.3	2.6	2.7	–
Blue collar	2.4	5.0	3.6	3.6	2.4	3.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.2	–	4.6	3.8	3.3	.7
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	6.1	–	6.6	8.7	6.0	–
Transportation and material moving	2.9	11.7	3.2	6.1	2.8	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.3	7.5	5.3	8.8	6.0	–
Service	3.8	3.4	5.7	3.6	3.5	–

[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.
[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.

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

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings[1] by occupational group,[2] private industry, National Compensation Survey, Pittsburgh, PA, December 2003**

Occupational group	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers[3]	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
			Mean		
All occupations	$16.76	$15.04	$17.24	$15.73	$19.00
All excluding sales	17.36	15.38	17.90	16.21	19.84
White collar	19.87	18.63	20.10	19.72	20.39
White-collar excluding sales	21.59	20.66	21.75	21.73	21.77
Professional specialty and technical	26.38	27.98	26.20	29.05	24.35
Professional specialty	27.70	32.03	27.31	30.79	24.93
Technical	21.61	20.59	21.81	20.91	22.27
Executive, administrative, and managerial	28.01	25.49	28.68	25.26	30.91
Sales	10.33	11.68	9.92	10.51	9.17
Administrative support, including clerical	13.02	12.26	13.16	12.95	13.34
Blue collar	15.33	14.85	15.58	14.44	18.36
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.34	18.13	18.54	16.51	21.38
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.54	12.08	14.12	14.03	14.38
Transportation and material moving	15.54	14.25	16.02	15.33	19.27
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.57	10.45	13.47	12.14	16.90
Service	9.78	7.17	10.43	9.27	12.65
			Relative error[4] (percent)		
All occupations	2.8	5.6	2.9	4.7	3.4
All excluding sales	2.9	5.9	3.1	4.9	3.3
White collar	3.8	9.9	3.5	6.6	3.8
White-collar excluding sales	4.1	9.7	4.0	7.0	3.8
Professional specialty and technical	4.1	10.2	4.4	8.3	4.6
Professional specialty	3.9	17.8	4.3	9.1	2.7
Technical	12.3	16.8	14.5	5.2	21.1
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.1	8.1	5.6	11.0	3.7
Sales	4.9	4.3	6.7	10.6	7.7
Administrative support, including clerical	3.1	5.4	3.3	4.9	3.4
Blue collar	2.5	5.4	2.2	3.4	3.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.3	3.8	4.4	6.3	2.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	6.1	14.9	4.1	2.7	13.0
Transportation and material moving	3.9	8.9	3.2	4.0	3.7
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.4	12.1	5.5	9.0	2.8
Service	3.1	11.7	2.4	3.0	5.0

[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.

[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.

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