News

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROVIDENCE-FALL RIVER-WARWICK, RI-MA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER, 2002

Workers in the Providence-Fall River-Warwick metropolitan area averaged $18.99 per hour during December 2002, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney reported that white-collar workers averaged $23.76 per hour and accounted for 54 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged $14.10 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned $12.72 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 141 firms representing 219,700 workers in the Providence-Fall River-Warwick metropolitan area, which is comprised of 41 cities and towns in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Seventy-eight percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Providence-Fall River-Warwick metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 42 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged $33.20 per hour; registered nurses, $26.74; accountants and auditors, $25.52; and secretaries, $15.25. Blue-collar occupations included truck drivers earning $16.75 per hour, stock handlers and baggers at $11.01; and electrical and electronic equipment assemblers at $10.95 per hour. In the service occupations, cooks averaged $12.46 per hour; janitors and cleaners, $11.55; and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, $11.31.

Individual earnings within an occupational category may be affected by such characteristics as union and nonunion status and full- and part-time status. (See table 2.) For example, unionized workers ($21.79) earned more, on average, than nonunionized workers ($17.77). Unionized white-collar ($27.43), blue-collar ($17.04), and service ($16.42) occupational groups all reported higher hourly earnings compared with their nonunion counterparts who averaged $22.42, $12.77 and $10.33, respectively. Regarding full-

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and part-time status, full-time employees averaged $19.91 per hour compared with $11.87 for part-time workers. Among occupational groups, full-time white collar workers earned 24.78 per hour compared with their part-time counterparts at 15.04. Similarly, full time blue-collar ($14.44) and services ($13.93) employees earned more on an hourly basis than their part-time counterparts, at $9.07 and $8.88, respectively.

In addition, establishment size may impact occupational earnings. (See table 3.) Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged $13.73 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned $21.69. While there was little difference in average hourly earnings for white collar workers by size class, blue-collar and service workers averaged $12.96 and $8.38 in establishments employing 50-99 workers, while their counterparts in establishments with 500 or more employees averaged $17.86 and $13.26, respectively.

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 Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA National Compensation Survey December 2002 (Bulletin 3120-14). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Boston Information Office by calling 617-565-2327. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at http://www.bls.gov/comhome.htm. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Boston by dialing 617-565-9167 and requesting documents 9870.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Boston Information Office at 617-565-2327 from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. e.t.

Technical Note

Because the NCS is a sample survey, it is subject to sampling errors. Sampling errors occur because observations come only from a sample and not from an entire population. The sample used for this survey is one of a number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the sample design. Estimates derived from the different samples would differ from each other. A measure of the variation among these differing estimates is the standard error. It can be used to measure the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the expected result of all possible samples. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the survey differs from a complete population figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error. The statements of comparisons appearing in this publication are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. This means that for differences cited, the estimated difference is greater than 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

Table 1. **Mean hourly earnings,**[1] **all workers:**[2] **Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, December 2002**

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	$18.99	3.3	$16.87	3.3	$27.09	4.9
All excluding sales	19.52	3.3	17.34	3.2	27.09	4.9
White collar	23.76	3.9	21.05	4.5	31.41	4.5
White collar excluding sales	25.60	3.1	23.07	3.7	31.41	4.5
Professional specialty and technical	30.13	3.2	26.94	3.9	37.76	3.5
Professional specialty	32.63	2.6	29.47	4.6	37.94	3.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	29.19	3.5	29.11	3.8	–	–
Mathematical and computer scientists	34.22	4.6	34.22	4.6	–	–
Computer systems analysts and scientists	33.20	2.5	33.20	2.5	–	–
Natural scientists	–	–	–	–	–	–
Health related	28.93	4.0	28.88	4.3	29.53	.5
Physicians	44.14	13.9	44.14	13.9	–	–
Registered nurses	26.74	1.8	26.44	2.0	29.53	.5
Teachers, college and university	56.69	2.7	–	–	–	–
Teachers, except college and university	38.07	3.5	–	–	39.06	4.7
Elementary school teachers	38.84	7.8	–	–	38.84	7.8
Secondary school teachers	37.36	4.5	–	–	38.04	5.6
Teachers, special education	39.52	8.6	–	–	39.52	8.6
Librarians, archivists, and curators	–	–	–	–	–	–
Social scientists and urban planners	–	–	–	–	–	–
Social, recreation, and religious workers	18.49	9.7	15.64	4.8	–	–
Social workers	18.48	9.8	15.58	4.8	–	–
Lawyers and judges	–	–	–	–	–	–
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	–	–	–	–	–	–
Technical	21.14	5.8	21.17	5.9	–	–
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	22.38	11.4	22.98	11.7	–	–
Radiological technicians	25.74	7.8	25.74	7.8	–	–
Licensed practical nurses	20.48	4.7	20.44	4.8	–	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.38	5.5	29.17	2.8	34.67	12.4
Executives, administrators, and managers	34.50	7.4	30.72	6.4	39.95	10.6
Administrators, education and related fields	46.28	7.1	–	–	46.90	7.3
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	36.32	6.9	36.69	9.1	–	–
Management related	23.15	8.7	25.26	11.2	–	–
Accountants and auditors	25.52	12.5	–	–	–	–
Management related, n.e.c.	18.18	11.4	–	–	–	–
Sales	12.12	12.6	12.12	12.6	–	–
Cashiers	8.10	2.1	8.10	2.1	–	–
Administrative support, including clerical	15.40	3.5	14.67	3.7	17.51	4.0
Secretaries	15.25	6.7	14.77	3.6	16.84	21.5
Typists	16.97	2.5	–	–	–	–
Receptionists	12.61	3.3	12.19	4.0	–	–
Records clerks, n.e.c.	13.42	9.1	–	–	–	–
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	14.62	14.0	14.62	14.0	–	–
General office clerks	14.83	4.4	14.73	5.1	–	–
Teachers' aides	13.76	4.8	–	–	13.73	5.2
Administrative support, n.e.c.	19.87	4.6	–	–	–	–
Blue collar	14.10	4.0	13.88	4.3	17.04	4.6
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.46	6.3	18.48	7.2	18.31	3.5
Industrial machinery repairers	15.84	7.4	15.84	7.4	–	–
Supervisors, production	19.07	5.8	19.07	5.8	–	–
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers ..	10.95	5.2	10.95	5.2	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.70	6.4	11.67	6.5	–	–
Winding and twisting machine operators	11.96	7.4	11.96	7.4	–	–
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	11.66	2.3	11.66	2.3	–	–
Assemblers	9.68	5.7	9.68	5.7	–	–
Transportation and material moving	14.46	7.9	14.50	8.0	–	–

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, Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, December 2002** — 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						
Transportation and material moving –Continued						
Truck drivers	$16.75	3.1	$16.75	3.1	–	–
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	14.52	8.9	14.52	8.9	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.88	9.0	11.28	11.2	–	–
Stock handlers and baggers	11.01	12.8	11.01	12.8	–	–
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	11.24	9.8	11.24	9.8	–	–
Hand packers and packagers	8.18	9.0	8.18	9.0	–	–
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	11.57	7.6	10.65	8.6	–	–
Service	12.72	3.4	10.32	5.2	$18.94	4.0
Protective service	18.21	12.1	–	–	21.21	3.5
Police and detectives, public service	21.41	1.3	–	–	21.41	1.3
Food service	8.91	5.0	8.38	5.8	13.96	4.9
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	6.19	7.1	6.19	7.1	–	–
Other food service	10.04	5.9	9.43	7.0	13.96	4.9
Cooks	12.46	6.6	12.41	8.0	–	–
Kitchen workers, food preparation	9.24	9.4	–	–	–	–
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.10	11.5	–	–	–	–
Health service	12.04	6.1	11.86	7.1	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	11.31	2.3	10.96	2.7	–	–
Cleaning and building service	10.95	4.0	9.88	1.9	15.58	4.7
Maids and housemen	9.43	4.5	9.43	4.5	–	–
Janitors and cleaners	11.55	5.4	10.12	3.1	15.58	4.7
Personal service	12.81	10.8	11.25	15.1	–	–

[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. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

[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 bulletin.

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, Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, December 2002**

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	$19.91	$11.87	$21.79	$17.77	$19.07	–
All excluding sales	20.28	12.72	22.16	18.29	19.64	–
White collar	24.78	15.04	27.43	22.42	23.77	–
White-collar excluding sales	26.07	19.56	28.59	24.35	25.60	–
Professional specialty and technical	30.51	25.82	34.36	27.55	30.13	–
Professional specialty	33.20	26.69	36.27	29.90	32.63	–
Technical	21.18	20.42	19.67	21.51	21.14	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.56	–	25.36	32.06	31.38	–
Sales	13.81	8.36	8.39	12.60	11.35	–
Administrative support, including clerical	15.77	11.92	17.21	14.72	15.40	–
Blue collar	14.44	9.07	17.04	12.77	14.28	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.48	–	22.11	16.29	18.46	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.83	–	13.92	11.18	11.91	–
Transportation and material moving	15.36	–	–	14.24	14.46	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.90	7.75	13.37	10.99	11.88	–
Service	13.93	8.88	16.42	10.33	12.72	–
	Relative error[6] (percent)					
All occupations	3.5	4.1	5.6	3.7	3.3	–
All excluding sales	3.4	5.3	5.6	3.7	3.2	–
White collar	4.1	5.0	5.3	4.7	4.0	–
White-collar excluding sales	3.3	6.3	5.2	3.8	3.1	–
Professional specialty and technical	3.5	2.0	4.0	3.9	3.2	–
Professional specialty	2.8	2.1	2.2	4.4	2.6	–
Technical	6.2	.2	18.1	6.3	5.8	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.5	–	6.8	6.3	5.5	–
Sales	17.2	5.1	5.6	13.5	11.9	–
Administrative support, including clerical	3.7	4.8	4.8	3.8	3.5	–
Blue collar	4.0	13.0	7.4	5.2	3.9	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.3	–	5.8	8.2	6.3	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	6.2	–	2.6	8.7	6.4	–
Transportation and material moving	6.5	–	–	6.8	7.9	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.6	4.2	4.8	14.5	9.0	–
Service	4.4	5.2	8.0	5.8	3.4	–

[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 in the full bulletin for information.

[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 bulletin.

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Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings[1] by occupational group,[2] private industry, National Compensation Survey, Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, December 2002**

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	$16.87	$13.73	$17.64	$15.45	$21.69
All excluding sales	17.34	13.76	18.26	16.01	22.02
White collar	21.05	21.19	21.04	18.52	24.48
White-collar excluding sales	23.07	24.10	22.98	20.95	25.13
Professional specialty and technical	26.94	25.85	27.03	24.26	29.07
Professional specialty	29.47	28.78	29.51	25.19	32.80
Technical	21.17	–	21.11	21.90	20.57
Executive, administrative, and managerial	29.17	33.35	28.55	27.41	31.01
Sales	12.12	13.32	11.92	11.74	–
Administrative support, including clerical	14.67	14.50	14.68	14.06	15.52
Blue collar	13.88	12.96	14.25	13.23	17.86
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.48	19.40	18.31	17.46	19.33
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors ...	11.67	10.41	12.29	12.11	14.55
Transportation and material moving	14.50	16.11	–	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.28	12.66	10.54	9.97	–
Service	10.32	8.38	11.25	10.16	13.26
	Relative error[4] (percent)				
All occupations	3.3	7.6	4.2	6.0	6.2
All excluding sales	3.2	8.7	4.1	5.9	6.3
White collar	4.5	12.2	5.2	6.8	6.5
White-collar excluding sales	3.7	8.9	3.9	3.1	6.2
Professional specialty and technical	3.9	6.8	4.2	3.8	7.2
Professional specialty	4.6	9.3	4.8	5.4	6.1
Technical	5.9	–	6.6	11.6	7.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial	2.8	14.1	3.5	3.6	6.9
Sales	12.6	27.3	15.5	17.5	–
Administrative support, including clerical	3.7	4.2	3.9	5.4	5.0
Blue collar	4.3	13.2	5.2	6.5	9.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	7.2	19.2	8.3	14.6	9.1
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors ...	6.5	13.5	6.1	6.9	5.1
Transportation and material moving	8.0	8.2	–	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.2	22.9	8.0	9.6	–
Service	5.2	5.5	6.3	3.2	4.9

[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 the full bullletin 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 the full bulletin.

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