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HIGHLIGHTS OF ATLANTA, GA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2003

Workers in the Atlanta metropolitan area averaged \$19.71 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 Janet S. Rankin reported that white-collar workers averaged \$24.15 per hour and accounted for 56 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.22 per hour and represented 26 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 18 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.70 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 627 firms representing 888,300 workers in the Atlanta metropolitan area, which is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia. Eighty-one percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 98 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, electrical and electronic engineers averaged \$32.87 per hour; licensed practical nurses, \$16.94; and receptionists, \$10.96. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$21.98 per hour; truck drivers at \$14.55; and stock handlers and baggers, \$10.23. In the service occupations, firefighting averaged \$15.78 per hour; janitors and cleaners, \$10.70; and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$10.11.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Atlanta area averaged \$20.42 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.63. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.59 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.20. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.09 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$22.80.

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

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Atlanta, GA National Compensation Survey December 2003 (Bulletin 3125-11). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-331-3415. 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 Atlanta by dialing 404-331-3403 and requesting document 9430.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, 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	\$19.71	2.5	\$19.33	3.1	\$21.41	3.4
All excluding sales	19.90	2.8	19.53	3.4	21.42	3.4
White collar	24.15	3.0	24.11	3.6	24.29	4.9
White collar excluding sales	25.28	3.4	25.61	4.2	24.31	4.9
Professional specialty and technical	30.93	6.4	32.36	8.8	27.67	3.6
Professional specialty	31.55	3.7	32.80	5.2	29.24	3.5
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	32.48	6.3	32.38	6.5	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	32.87	4.4	32.87	4.4	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	38.45	3.9	38.45	3.9	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	31.12	5.5	31.63	5.5	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	30.20	4.5	30.76	4.5	—	—
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	35.22	8.7	35.22	8.7	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	32.08	13.2	33.12	14.2	25.64	7.8
Registered nurses	27.23	6.3	27.34	7.3	26.62	6.4
Pharmacists	39.71	5.4	39.71	5.4	—	—
Dietitians	22.72	10.8	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	39.66	20.8	32.02	12.6	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	29.93	4.2	22.04	7.3	31.22	3.7
Prekindergarten and kindergarten	30.33	12.2	—	—	—	—
Elementary school teachers	29.96	5.1	—	—	30.70	5.2
Secondary school teachers	29.77	4.2	—	—	31.38	9
Teachers, special education	29.85	1.5	—	—	—	—
Teachers, n.e.c.	28.53	6.6	18.76	8.4	—	—
Vocational and educational counselors	39.93	.8	—	—	39.93	.8
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	25.84	7.3	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	19.19	9.1	—	—	19.15	9.7
Social workers	19.33	9.1	—	—	19.29	9.7
Lawyers and judges	54.77	3.1	—	—	—	—
Lawyers	54.77	3.1	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	35.76	7.1	35.76	7.1	—	—
Professional, n.e.c.	40.25	15.2	40.25	15.2	—	—
Technical	28.97	26.2	31.29	28.8	17.23	11.7
Licensed practical nurses	16.94	1.1	17.44	1.9	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	16.24	11.2	—	—	13.26	14.7
Electrical and electronic technicians	21.21	9.8	22.60	8.0	—	—
Airplane pilots and navigators	138.45	12.6	138.45	12.6	—	—
Computer programmers	26.54	3.0	27.63	3.2	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	19.22	3.3	19.22	3.3	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.43	4.7	31.47	3.6	31.29	16.8
Executives, administrators, and managers	37.35	6.5	35.16	5.8	46.00	18.7
Administrators and officials, public administration	23.34	8.0	—	—	23.34	8.0
Financial managers	42.00	16.5	33.79	9.9	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	48.35	20.0	—	—	54.46	22.3
Managers, medicine and health	33.58	7.0	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	40.29	6.3	40.29	6.3	—	—
Management related	24.81	4.7	26.96	4.9	19.05	13.0
Accountants and auditors	24.13	9.7	26.20	5.7	—	—
Other financial officers	22.80	7.2	22.80	7.2	—	—
Management analysts	31.76	11.8	31.76	11.8	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	19.98	15.5	24.94	14.0	—	—
Construction inspectors	17.72	1.6	—	—	17.72	1.6
Management related, n.e.c.	28.75	13.5	31.73	15.6	—	—
Sales	17.52	13.2	17.53	13.3	—	—
Supervisors, sales	23.84	7.7	23.84	7.7	—	—
Sales, other business services	24.21	15.4	24.21	15.4	—	—
Sales workers, hardware and building supplies	11.50	4.3	11.50	4.3	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	11.62	2.6	11.62	2.6	—	—

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, Atlanta, GA, 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						
Cashiers	\$8.96	6.3	\$8.96	6.4	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical						
Supervisors, general office	15.26	2.3	15.68	2.7	\$13.48	1.0
Secretaries	24.28	4.8	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	18.00	7.7	19.21	9.2	14.38	2.1
Information clerks, n.e.c.	10.96	5.2	11.02	5.3	—	—
Order clerks	14.22	6.6	14.25	7.2	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	15.39	3.8	15.39	3.8	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.55	4.3	14.68	3.4	12.07	4.2
Billing clerks	14.86	7.3	15.55	9.0	13.27	3.1
Dispatchers	13.43	8.8	13.43	8.8	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	18.67	7.1	—	—	—	—
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	14.37	19.9	—	—	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	17.73	9.9	19.51	7.7	—	—
Bill and account collectors	14.88	9.5	14.88	9.5	—	—
General office clerks	14.95	8.6	15.00	9.2	—	—
Data entry keyers	14.56	2.9	14.94	3.0	12.15	3.3
Teachers' aides	12.07	7.2	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	11.55	6.1	—	—	12.09	2.8
	16.04	5.4	16.18	5.4	—	—
Blue collar	15.22	3.0	15.14	3.2	16.58	1.6
Precision production, craft, and repair						
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	20.34	4.6	20.41	4.9	19.38	.5
Automobile mechanics	34.59	17.6	—	—	—	—
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	19.90	7.3	19.95	1.6	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	21.22	7.0	20.82	7.3	—	—
Machinery maintenance	19.00	5.4	19.22	5.7	—	—
Electronic repairers, communications and industrial equipment	12.33	36.3	—	—	—	—
Telephone installers and repairers	22.94	4.6	23.50	5.1	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	20.25	17.5	20.25	17.5	—	—
Electricians	18.53	10.9	19.09	12.1	—	—
Supervisors, production	21.98	6.7	24.06	9.8	—	—
Butchers and meat cutters	23.45	14.6	23.45	14.6	—	—
	11.01	21.2	11.01	21.2	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Packaging and filling machine operators	13.85	6.1	13.86	6.1	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.37	4.3	13.37	4.3	—	—
Assemblers	15.21	10.8	15.21	10.8	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	17.09	16.4	17.09	16.4	—	—
	10.94	9.4	10.94	9.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	14.57	2.2	14.35	2.5	15.80	3.1
Bus drivers	14.55	2.8	14.63	2.8	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	15.57	6.4	—	—	16.57	3.5
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	14.08	4.7	14.08	4.7	—	—
	16.56	13.0	16.56	13.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	10.82	3.9	10.79	4.0	11.94	5.6
Stock handlers and baggers	11.49	8.3	—	—	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	10.23	5.9	10.23	5.9	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	14.33	4.2	14.33	4.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.79	5.0	8.79	5.0	—	—
	9.78	8.0	9.69	8.8	—	—
Service						
Protective service	11.70	2.4	10.51	1.8	14.99	4.0
Supervisors, firefighters and fire prevention	14.06	7.5	10.62	9.2	17.09	4.5
Supervisors, police and detectives	26.74	6.4	—	—	26.74	6.4
	25.33	15.7	—	—	25.33	15.7

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, Atlanta, GA, 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						
Firefighting	\$15.78	1.9	—	—	\$14.23	2.9
Police and detectives, public service	17.07	5.3	—	—	17.07	5.3
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	17.46	4.5	—	—	17.46	4.5
Correctional institution officers	14.13	5.8	—	—	14.13	5.8
Guards and police, except public service	9.86	5.9	\$9.64	4.9	—	—
Food service	7.95	5.9	7.59	6.3	12.92	15.1
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.44	13.3	4.44	13.3	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.85	17.8	3.85	17.8	—	—
Other food service	9.90	11.4	9.55	12.1	12.92	15.1
Supervisors, food preparation and service	13.45	7.9	13.43	8.3	—	—
Cooks	10.63	3.7	10.63	3.7	—	—
Food counter, fountain, and related	7.10	7.2	6.94	6.1	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	10.35	5.2	9.75	5.2	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.50	20.1	7.19	12.9	13.92	26.2
Health service	10.11	3.6	10.05	3.7	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.11	4.0	10.11	4.2	—	—
Cleaning and building service	10.36	4.2	9.92	5.4	11.69	11.0
Maids and housemen	8.25	2.2	8.25	2.2	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	10.70	4.6	10.27	6.2	11.69	11.0
Personal service	17.09	8.1	19.11	10.5	10.90	6.4
Early childhood teachers' assistants	11.76	1.4	—	—	—	—
Child care workers, n.e.c.	9.92	7.5	—	—	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	10.32	22.5	10.33	22.7	—	—

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 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 group,² National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, 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	\$20.42	\$9.63	\$23.15	\$19.33	\$19.67	\$20.19
All excluding sales	20.49	9.90	23.43	19.52	20.05	16.64
White collar	24.87	10.68	36.74	23.55	24.16	24.01
White-collar excluding sales	25.63	12.95	46.35	24.55	25.40	21.56
Professional specialty and technical	31.06	20.87	99.15	29.17	30.90	–
Professional specialty	31.67	22.42	–	31.54	31.52	–
Technical	29.14	–	116.10	21.13	28.97	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.48	–	–	31.57	31.27	34.86
Sales	19.56	8.71	20.55	17.12	13.63	25.38
Administrative support, including clerical	15.53	10.83	19.25	15.03	15.26	15.28
Blue collar	15.52	10.24	18.59	14.20	15.38	13.57
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.39	–	21.93	19.67	19.91	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.91	–	19.17	11.41	14.84	7.76
Transportation and material moving	14.49	15.34	17.69	14.03	14.37	15.51
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.20	8.01	11.29	10.74	11.05	–
Service	12.33	7.85	16.88	11.40	11.70	–
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.7	4.7	15.7	2.5	2.6	14.8
All excluding sales	3.0	6.2	17.0	2.7	2.8	8.0
White collar	3.0	6.9	41.2	2.7	3.3	15.4
White-collar excluding sales	3.5	9.5	47.1	3.1	3.7	14.4
Professional specialty and technical	6.5	13.1	37.8	3.5	6.4	–
Professional specialty	3.7	10.7	–	3.7	3.7	–
Technical	26.4	–	32.7	3.0	26.2	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.7	–	–	4.6	5.0	12.1
Sales	13.3	5.0	12.2	15.1	8.0	21.9
Administrative support, including clerical	2.6	6.4	3.6	2.0	2.5	2.7
Blue collar	3.3	4.1	4.7	3.3	2.5	17.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.6	–	2.2	5.9	4.4	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	6.2	–	12.2	4.9	6.4	9.7
Transportation and material moving	2.4	3.9	9.0	2.0	2.6	5.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.4	3.8	3.1	4.5	3.6	–
Service	2.9	16.2	3.6	2.9	2.4	–

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.

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 earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, 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	\$19.33	\$15.09	\$20.77	\$18.65	\$22.80
All excluding sales	19.53	15.30	20.96	18.71	22.90
White collar	24.11	21.53	24.72	22.26	26.97
White-collar excluding sales	25.61	24.29	25.89	23.67	27.51
Professional specialty and technical	32.36	36.42	31.64	29.62	32.70
Professional specialty	32.80	43.38	31.14	33.80	29.79
Technical	31.29	24.21	32.94	19.54	40.55
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.47	27.92	32.16	33.08	31.64
Sales	17.53	13.26	19.01	18.35	20.96
Administrative support, including clerical	15.68	13.62	16.23	16.28	16.17
Blue collar	15.14	12.13	16.62	14.80	19.18
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.41	16.89	21.18	19.51	23.13
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.86	11.53	14.96	11.90	19.71
Transportation and material moving	14.35	13.49	15.09	13.97	18.66
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.79	9.55	11.71	10.90	12.71
Service	10.51	7.14	12.07	10.33	12.96
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.1	8.8	2.8	5.0	5.1
All excluding sales	3.4	9.6	3.4	5.1	5.8
White collar	3.6	12.1	3.8	6.1	7.2
White-collar excluding sales	4.2	12.6	4.7	6.2	8.0
Professional specialty and technical	8.8	16.3	10.3	12.0	14.3
Professional specialty	5.2	14.7	6.0	12.2	4.5
Technical	28.8	12.7	34.0	8.4	41.1
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.6	11.1	3.8	6.5	4.8
Sales	13.3	9.9	14.1	18.3	19.7
Administrative support, including clerical	2.7	5.9	2.6	4.2	2.5
Blue collar	3.2	7.4	5.3	4.5	10.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.9	6.8	6.4	6.1	11.4
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	6.1	11.6	7.1	4.0	11.0
Transportation and material moving	2.5	8.7	10.4	5.5	8.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.0	5.5	5.4	6.2	11.1
Service	1.8	4.4	3.3	5.0	4.2

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.