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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF HICKORY-MORGANTON-LENOIR, NC NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2004**

Workers in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir metropolitan area averaged \$14.90 per hour during January 2004, 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 \$19.33 per hour and accounted for 28 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$13.41 per hour and represented 60 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 12 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$12.35 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 222 firms representing 88,600 workers in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir metropolitan area, which includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties in North Carolina. Eighty-four percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 38 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$24.04 per hour; general office clerks, \$12.12; and bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks, \$11.02. Blue-collar occupations included truck drivers earning \$20.10; industrial machinery repairers at \$14.48; and hand packers and packagers at \$9.64. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants averaged \$10.33; and janitors and cleaners, \$8.66.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir area averaged \$15.18 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.23. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$12.54 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$14.32.

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

## **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC National Compensation Survey January 2004 (Bulletin 3125-03). 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 9467.

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,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2004**

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>All</b> .....	\$14.90	4.0	\$14.22	3.8	\$18.70	9.7
All excluding sales .....	14.82	4.0	14.11	3.5	18.70	9.7
<b>White collar</b> .....	19.33	4.4	18.81	5.8	20.26	6.1
White collar excluding sales .....	19.68	3.8	19.27	4.5	20.26	6.1
<b>Professional specialty and technical</b> .....	22.61	4.1	22.93	5.3	22.44	5.7
Professional specialty .....	23.47	5.6	25.03	5.0	22.86	7.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related .....	27.43	12.8	24.55	4.3	—	—
Registered nurses .....	24.04	4.6	24.81	5.1	—	—
Teachers, college and university .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c. ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical .....	19.16	3.4	19.29	4.5	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c. ....	15.39	8.0	—	—	—	—
<b>Executive, administrative, and managerial</b> .....	31.45	7.4	31.02	7.7	—	—
Executives, administrators, and managers .....	31.60	6.3	31.26	3.3	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c. ....	30.95	4.3	30.95	4.3	—	—
Management related .....	31.17	16.8	30.65	18.5	—	—
<b>Sales</b> .....	16.92	22.9	16.92	22.9	—	—
<b>Administrative support, including clerical</b> .....	12.11	1.5	12.33	2.0	—	—
Order clerks .....	12.16	2.9	12.16	2.9	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks .....	11.02	6.2	10.74	7.3	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks .....	12.12	7.0	12.12	7.0	—	—
General office clerks .....	12.12	1.5	11.38	.9	—	—
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	13.41	3.6	13.40	3.7	—	—
<b>Precision production, craft, and repair</b> .....	17.72	4.5	17.86	4.7	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers .....	14.48	2.0	14.48	2.0	—	—
Machinery maintenance .....	12.08	2.2	12.08	2.2	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c. ....	19.96	3.6	19.96	3.6	—	—
Supervisors, production .....	17.11	3.5	17.11	3.5	—	—
Upholsterers .....	20.01	4.5	20.01	4.5	—	—
<b>Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors</b> .....	12.09	1.2	12.09	1.2	—	—
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators .....	11.43	2.7	11.43	2.7	—	—
Numerical control machine operators .....	13.99	9.9	13.99	9.9	—	—
Sawing machine operators .....	12.53	.8	12.53	.8	—	—
Shaping and jointing machine operators .....	12.84	9.7	12.84	9.7	—	—
Winding and twisting machine operators .....	10.82	.0	10.82	.0	—	—
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators .....	11.78	2.3	11.78	2.3	—	—
Textile sewing machine operators .....	12.51	7.7	12.51	7.7	—	—
Packaging and filling machine operators .....	10.17	8.1	10.17	8.1	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators .....	13.18	6.1	13.18	6.1	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators .....	11.79	4.9	11.79	4.9	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators .....	13.21	.5	13.21	.5	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c. ....	12.97	.9	12.97	.9	—	—
Assemblers .....	10.70	1.7	10.70	1.7	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming .....	12.07	7.4	12.07	7.4	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c. ....	13.68	17.6	13.68	17.6	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	10.65	3.9	10.65	3.9	—	—
<b>Transportation and material moving</b> .....	18.68	6.9	18.68	6.9	—	—
Truck drivers .....	20.10	4.6	20.10	4.6	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	12.29	4.3	12.29	4.3	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2004 — Continued**

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>Blue collar</b> —Continued						
<b>Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers</b>	\$10.26	6.0	\$10.26	6.0	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers .....	10.14	13.3	10.14	13.3	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers .....	10.00	2.0	10.00	2.0	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c. ....	9.74	2.5	9.74	2.5	—	—
Hand packers and packagers .....	9.64	3.6	9.64	3.6	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c. ....	8.99	9.5	8.99	9.5	—	—
<b>Service</b> .....	12.35	20.6	8.97	5.7	\$16.05	26.6
Protective service .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service .....	8.74	5.5	8.35	6.4	—	—
Other food service .....	8.74	5.5	8.35	6.4	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c. ....	8.23	12.3	—	—	—	—
Health service .....	10.31	2.4	10.46	7.1	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants .....	10.33	2.6	10.46	7.1	—	—
Cleaning and building service .....	19.87	32.5	11.46	28.8	—	—
Janitors and cleaners .....	8.66	1.6	8.92	3.0	—	—
Personal service .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

<sup>3</sup> A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

<sup>4</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2004**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Part-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Union <sup>4</sup>	Nonunion <sup>4</sup>	Time <sup>5</sup>	Incentive <sup>5</sup>
	Mean					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	\$15.18	\$9.23	–	\$14.73	\$14.36	\$18.53
All excluding sales .....	15.04	9.76	–	14.65	14.47	17.46
<b>White collar</b> .....	19.76	11.42	–	19.33	18.56	30.49
White-collar excluding sales .....	19.69	19.02	–	19.68	19.31	–
Professional specialty and technical .....	22.67	21.33	–	22.61	22.61	–
Professional specialty .....	23.55	21.91	–	23.47	23.47	–
Technical .....	19.21	–	–	19.16	19.16	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	31.45	–	–	31.45	29.75	–
Sales .....	20.40	6.89	–	16.92	8.70	26.28
Administrative support, including clerical .....	12.13	–	–	12.11	12.11	–
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	13.53	8.72	–	13.09	12.71	16.66
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	17.72	–	–	17.72	16.29	23.17
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	12.11	–	–	12.09	11.61	14.00
Transportation and material moving .....	18.73	–	–	16.21	18.52	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	10.45	8.60	–	10.23	10.24	–
<b>Service</b> .....	13.29	8.00	–	12.35	12.35	–
	Relative error <sup>6</sup> (percent)					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	3.8	9.1	–	3.9	4.2	8.2
All excluding sales .....	3.9	9.7	–	3.9	4.2	9.1
<b>White collar</b> .....	4.2	16.5	–	4.4	3.6	21.3
White-collar excluding sales .....	4.0	15.0	–	3.8	3.3	–
Professional specialty and technical .....	4.3	14.7	–	4.1	4.1	–
Professional specialty .....	5.8	16.3	–	5.6	5.6	–
Technical .....	3.7	–	–	3.4	3.4	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	7.4	–	–	7.4	5.8	–
Sales .....	20.4	7.1	–	22.9	9.4	30.3
Administrative support, including clerical .....	1.5	–	–	1.5	1.5	–
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	3.6	11.0	–	2.5	4.4	6.1
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	4.5	–	–	4.5	2.3	10.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	1.2	–	–	1.2	.8	2.9
Transportation and material moving .....	6.8	–	–	5.1	14.9	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	6.0	12.2	–	5.9	6.6	–
<b>Service</b> .....	22.0	7.0	–	20.6	20.6	–

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> private industry, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2004**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers <sup>3</sup>	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
Mean					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	\$14.22	\$12.54	\$14.82	\$14.97	\$14.32
All excluding sales .....	14.11	12.43	14.64	14.74	14.32
<b>White collar</b> .....	18.81	16.25	19.97	19.94	20.03
White-collar excluding sales .....	19.27	18.93	19.35	19.07	20.03
Professional specialty and technical .....	22.93	—	23.05	24.04	22.19
Professional specialty .....	25.03	—	25.03	24.78	25.33
Technical .....	19.29	—	19.41	21.69	18.37
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	31.02	34.83	29.87	28.68	—
Sales .....	16.92	13.35	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical .....	12.33	12.97	12.09	12.03	12.29
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	13.40	12.04	13.79	14.08	12.74
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	17.86	20.53	17.33	17.86	15.39
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	12.09	10.61	12.46	12.43	12.58
Transportation and material moving .....	18.68	16.33	19.47	20.25	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	10.26	8.59	10.99	11.23	10.18
<b>Service</b> .....	8.97	8.14	10.00	9.11	11.77
Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	3.8	14.3	2.3	2.9	2.8
All excluding sales .....	3.5	12.7	2.6	3.2	2.8
<b>White collar</b> .....	5.8	19.4	4.7	6.4	8.2
White-collar excluding sales .....	4.5	20.3	2.8	2.5	8.2
Professional specialty and technical .....	5.3	—	5.2	7.1	8.7
Professional specialty .....	5.0	—	5.0	7.4	9.3
Technical .....	4.5	—	4.6	10.4	3.7
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	7.7	24.4	7.4	8.6	—
Sales .....	22.9	28.0	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical .....	2.0	6.9	1.2	1.6	2.2
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	3.7	9.8	3.2	3.9	3.3
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	4.7	20.8	1.9	2.2	6.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	1.2	.6	.9	1.1	1.3
Transportation and material moving .....	6.9	9.4	8.3	8.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	6.0	11.2	5.9	7.6	3.1
<b>Service</b> .....	5.7	2.4	9.8	1.3	19.7

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

<sup>3</sup> Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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