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HIGHLIGHTS OF HUNTSVILLE, AL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JUNE 2003

Workers in the Huntsville metropolitan area averaged \$20.07 per hour during June 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 \$24.22 per hour and accounted for 54 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$17.33 per hour and represented 33 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.54 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 184 firms representing 74,700 workers in the Huntsville metropolitan area, which includes Limestone and Madison Counties in Alabama. Seventy-nine percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Huntsville metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 48 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, aerospace engineers averaged \$35.68 per hour; licensed practical nurses, \$14.00; and general office clerks, \$10.19. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$22.01 per hour, production supervisors at \$19.56, and stock handlers and baggers at \$8.71. In the service occupations, cooks averaged \$9.33 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$8.72; and maids and housemen, \$6.33.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Huntsville area averaged \$20.79 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.58. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$23.41 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.05. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$13.57 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.57.

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 Huntsville, AL National Compensation Survey June 2003 (Bulletin 3120-54). 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 9470.

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. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 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	\$20.07	3.0	\$20.00	3.4	\$20.36	5.7
All excluding sales	20.58	3.0	20.60	3.4	20.51	5.9
White collar	24.22	3.2	24.18	3.6	24.33	6.9
White collar excluding sales	25.75	2.7	26.11	2.6	24.67	7.4
Professional specialty and technical	29.28	3.2	29.99	2.7	27.38	8.6
Professional specialty	31.20	3.1	32.62	1.9	27.98	8.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	35.55	2.6	35.85	2.3	—	—
Aerospace engineers	35.68	3.8	35.68	3.8	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	36.26	4.9	36.59	4.5	—	—
Industrial engineers	33.43	3.2	33.43	3.2	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	35.84	3.3	35.84	3.3	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	32.01	5.3	32.05	5.4	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	31.88	5.6	31.91	5.8	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	31.33	15.6	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	25.71	11.9	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	27.63	1.9	18.12	18.6	—	—
Elementary school teachers	27.12	1.8	—	—	—	—
Secondary school teachers	27.75	3.3	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	18.00	19.4	22.23	11.9	—	—
Technical	19.20	2.9	19.36	3.3	17.78	4.4
Licensed practical nurses	14.00	2.2	13.93	2.4	—	—
Electrical and electronic technicians	17.28	7.7	17.18	8.0	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	22.57	3.3	22.57	3.3	—	—
Computer programmers	23.89	15.3	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	32.92	3.2	32.95	2.9	32.81	10.7
Executives, administrators, and managers	36.30	4.0	37.32	4.5	33.97	10.4
Administrators and officials, public administration	23.44	5.4	—	—	23.44	5.4
Administrators, education and related fields	39.04	7.0	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	39.72	4.2	39.67	4.4	—	—
Management related	27.04	4.8	27.25	5.2	—	—
Accountants and auditors	27.48	8.4	29.11	8.8	—	—
Management analysts	31.54	4.7	—	—	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	28.39	14.7	28.39	14.7	—	—
Sales	12.39	12.3	12.39	13.0	—	—
Supervisors, sales	14.24	9.6	14.24	9.6	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	12.03	4.1	—	—	—	—
Cashiers	8.30	4.4	8.19	4.2	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.60	5.3	13.78	6.8	13.02	4.1
Secretaries	16.28	11.3	17.83	15.4	14.46	6.7
Receptionists	9.30	5.5	9.30	5.5	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	14.72	5.9	14.25	9.8	—	—
Production coordinators	16.16	15.6	16.28	16.6	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	12.56	6.6	12.56	6.6	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	13.38	6.3	13.38	6.3	—	—
General office clerks	10.19	2.8	10.42	4.5	—	—
Data entry keyers	10.29	7.3	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	16.90	21.3	16.90	21.3	—	—
Blue collar	17.33	3.5	17.51	3.7	15.54	3.6
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.57	4.3	17.49	4.6	18.18	11.7
Industrial machinery repairers	22.01	7.9	22.01	7.9	—	—
Electricians	24.12	12.2	24.12	12.2	—	—
Supervisors, production	19.56	2.1	19.56	2.1	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	19.26	4.9	19.30	4.9	—	—

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, Huntsville, AL, June 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						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Packaging and filling machine operators	\$10.32	0.6	\$10.32	0.6	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	15.36	4.7	15.36	4.7	—	—
Welders and cutters	19.72	17.5	19.72	17.5	—	—
Assemblers	22.28	7.1	22.28	7.1	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	17.02	13.8	17.02	13.8	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.90	8.3	15.18	11.1	\$14.20	4.2
Truck drivers	16.26	11.0	17.39	14.0	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	11.22	9.0	11.22	9.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.47	2.9	10.02	3.2	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.71	2.4	8.71	2.4	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	10.04	5.8	10.04	5.8	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.27	4.2	9.27	4.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	10.30	5.3	10.30	5.3	—	—
Service	8.54	5.7	7.30	4.1	11.02	9.5
Protective service	12.51	12.4	—	—	14.34	7.5
Food service	7.52	8.0	6.73	10.5	9.29	4.6
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	8.68	8.0	—	—	9.33	4.8
Cooks	9.33	7.9	—	—	—	—
Health service	8.98	3.1	8.72	3.5	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	8.72	2.7	8.35	2.3	—	—
Cleaning and building service	7.14	8.6	6.71	7.8	—	—
Maids and housemen	6.33	2.5	—	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	7.08	8.1	6.59	6.3	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—

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, Huntsville, AL, June 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	\$20.79	\$9.58	\$23.75	\$19.37	\$19.96	–
All excluding sales	21.15	10.08	23.88	19.91	20.53	–
White collar	24.83	12.89	26.51	24.14	24.05	–
White-collar excluding sales	25.91	19.39	28.23	25.67	25.66	–
Professional specialty and technical	29.30	28.55	–	29.21	29.28	–
Professional specialty	31.14	34.45	–	31.09	31.20	–
Technical	19.44	–	–	19.00	19.20	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.09	–	–	32.97	32.57	–
Sales	13.89	8.05	–	12.26	11.00	–
Administrative support, including clerical	13.78	9.39	–	13.36	13.60	–
Blue collar	17.56	9.68	23.41	13.05	17.34	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.74	–	26.22	14.04	17.57	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	19.35	–	23.68	13.32	19.26	–
Transportation and material moving	14.91	–	–	13.16	14.88	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.77	8.18	12.02	10.12	10.47	–
Service	9.30	6.07	–	8.53	8.54	–
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.8	14.4	2.8	3.4	3.1	–
All excluding sales	2.9	19.9	2.8	3.3	3.0	–
White collar	2.8	23.5	12.8	3.0	3.1	–
White-collar excluding sales	2.7	28.9	13.2	2.5	2.7	–
Professional specialty and technical	3.1	30.8	–	3.1	3.2	–
Professional specialty	3.1	28.7	–	3.0	3.1	–
Technical	2.7	–	–	3.0	2.9	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.2	–	–	3.2	3.8	–
Sales	13.2	4.0	–	12.9	3.9	–
Administrative support, including clerical	5.4	9.2	–	4.4	5.3	–
Blue collar	3.5	12.9	2.1	4.0	3.5	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.2	–	4.1	2.9	4.3	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.9	–	.3	9.9	4.9	–
Transportation and material moving	8.8	–	–	4.8	8.4	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.4	15.1	6.4	3.6	2.9	–
Service	6.8	3.2	–	5.7	5.7	–

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.

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.

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Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 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	\$20.00	\$13.57	\$21.63	\$18.72	\$24.57
All excluding sales	20.60	13.81	22.32	19.91	24.46
White collar	24.18	18.97	25.01	21.84	28.99
White-collar excluding sales	26.11	21.08	26.85	24.84	28.87
Professional specialty and technical	29.99	23.44	30.60	29.30	31.94
Professional specialty	32.62	26.87	33.07	32.10	34.01
Technical	19.36	15.79	19.91	19.08	21.04
Executive, administrative, and managerial	32.95	32.56	33.02	29.55	35.27
Sales	12.39	10.48	12.86	11.01	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.78	12.03	14.18	13.63	14.89
Blue collar	17.51	12.69	18.90	15.59	20.91
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.49	17.41	17.52	18.02	17.33
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	19.30	10.14	20.41	15.41	22.95
Transportation and material moving	15.18	13.15	17.70	17.94	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.02	8.53	11.51	11.34	—
Service	7.30	6.50	7.98	8.18	7.24
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	3.4	4.0	3.3	7.4	2.3
All excluding sales	3.4	3.8	3.2	7.3	1.8
White collar	3.6	9.4	4.2	7.7	4.0
White-collar excluding sales	2.6	11.1	3.2	5.9	3.3
Professional specialty and technical	2.7	17.0	2.7	5.5	2.8
Professional specialty	1.9	14.7	2.1	2.0	4.4
Technical	3.3	5.8	4.4	6.2	4.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial	2.9	16.8	2.5	4.9	2.0
Sales	13.0	11.8	15.5	3.8	—
Administrative support, including clerical	6.8	10.8	7.6	4.9	16.9
Blue collar	3.7	7.0	3.3	5.7	1.8
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.6	9.0	4.5	4.7	7.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.9	7.1	3.8	12.5	1.1
Transportation and material moving	11.1	6.2	17.9	17.5	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.2	5.0	2.9	4.2	—
Service	4.1	9.1	2.1	2.3	2.6

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.

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