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HIGHLIGHTS OF MOBILE, AL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY AUGUST 2003

Workers in the Mobile, Alabama metropolitan area averaged \$14.41 per hour during August 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 \$16.29 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$13.82 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.88 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 124 firms representing 94,400 workers in the Mobile metropolitan area, which includes Baldwin and Mobile Counties in Alabama. Seventy-two percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Mobile metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 27 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$21.92 per hour; general office clerks, \$10.03; and library clerks, \$8.04. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$20.39 per hour, welders and cutters at \$16.20, and industrial truck and tractor equipment operators at \$13.80. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$15.28 per hour; firefighting, \$9.98; and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$8.53.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Mobile area averaged \$14.95 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.65. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.56 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$12.98. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$11.75 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$14.12.

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 Mobile, AL National Compensation Survey August 2003 (Bulletin 3120-19). 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 9525.

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, Mobile, AL, August 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	\$14.41	3.5	\$13.47	4.8	\$17.09	3.3
All excluding sales	14.65	3.6	13.67	5.0	17.18	3.0
White collar	16.29	5.5	14.78	7.9	19.64	4.1
White collar excluding sales	17.18	5.7	15.64	8.8	19.86	3.8
Professional specialty and technical	22.82	3.9	20.55	6.9	24.80	3.5
Professional specialty	24.13	4.2	21.49	9.2	25.92	2.5
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	31.76	7.6	34.17	2.2	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	22.67	3.2	21.28	4.7	24.27	4.5
Registered nurses	21.92	2.4	21.84	4.0	—	—
Teachers, college and university	31.21	2.5	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	26.27	2.3	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	27.12	14.5	—	—	—	—
Librarians	27.20	14.4	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	13.81	9.6	—	—	17.75	5.0
Social workers	15.33	7.7	—	—	17.75	5.0
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	19.43	25.9	19.43	25.9	—	—
Technical	17.39	3.7	18.39	3.7	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	13.05	2.1	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.72	9.5	30.39	7.9	23.86	21.0
Executives, administrators, and managers	30.34	9.5	31.61	9.3	28.42	22.3
Administrators and officials, public administration	26.37	37.1	—	—	26.37	37.1
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	36.79	9.0	37.73	12.5	—	—
Management related	21.62	20.5	27.39	17.1	14.02	4.8
Sales	12.08	15.3	12.06	16.1	—	—
Supervisors, sales	12.59	23.5	—	—	—	—
Cashiers	7.96	6.9	7.73	7.3	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.73	8.2	11.86	10.7	11.31	3.3
Secretaries	11.48	12.0	10.73	17.7	13.01	6.2
Library clerks	8.04	2.9	—	—	8.04	2.9
Records clerks, n.e.c.	12.03	14.4	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	14.23	10.0	14.27	10.5	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	12.04	20.1	14.22	21.5	—	—
General office clerks	10.03	2.7	—	—	10.15	3.3
Blue collar	13.82	3.0	13.86	3.3	13.47	2.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.58	3.4	17.90	4.1	14.78	4.9
Industrial machinery repairers	20.39	4.1	20.39	4.1	—	—
Supervisors, production	16.48	11.0	16.48	11.0	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.11	4.7	13.11	4.7	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	17.41	3.3	17.41	3.3	—	—
Welders and cutters	16.20	.7	16.20	.7	—	—
Transportation and material moving	12.68	9.1	12.54	10.1	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.80	3.2	13.29	2.7	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.31	3.7	8.86	4.9	11.70	4.3
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.93	9.8	—	—	11.05	.7
Service	8.88	3.6	7.23	5.9	11.52	1.8
Protective service	13.13	2.2	—	—	13.32	1.9
Supervisors, police and detectives	17.54	8.4	—	—	17.54	8.4
Firefighting	9.98	4.3	—	—	9.98	4.3
Police and detectives, public service	15.28	5.2	—	—	15.28	5.2
Food service	6.62	10.6	6.35	11.8	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.73	14.0	3.73	14.0	—	—

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, Mobile, AL, August 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						
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders—Continued						
Waiters and waitresses	\$2.96	5.4	\$2.96	5.4	—	—
Other food service	7.88	10.3	7.69	11.9	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.43	6.3	6.43	6.3	—	—
Health service	8.54	3.6	8.35	3.9	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	8.53	4.1	8.32	4.4	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.34	8.1	7.68	9.5	\$9.66	5.4
Janitors and cleaners	8.64	10.9	—	—	9.66	5.4
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, Mobile, AL, August 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	\$14.95	\$7.65	\$18.30	\$13.74	\$14.14	\$19.21
All excluding sales	15.17	7.65	18.30	13.95	14.52	—
White collar	16.63	9.26	22.38	15.53	15.92	—
White-collar excluding sales	17.37	10.68	22.38	16.37	17.01	—
Professional specialty and technical	23.03	13.63	—	21.34	22.82	—
Professional specialty	24.43	13.63	—	22.69	24.13	—
Technical	17.39	—	—	17.39	17.39	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.74	—	—	27.72	27.72	—
Sales	12.71	7.68	—	12.08	10.16	22.84
Administrative support, including clerical	11.82	9.39	11.85	11.72	10.75	—
Blue collar	14.09	7.76	16.56	12.98	13.86	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.58	—	19.03	17.10	17.60	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.29	—	15.94	11.99	13.11	—
Transportation and material moving	13.07	—	17.37	11.19	12.68	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.52	6.95	9.39	9.30	9.02	—
Service	9.61	6.52	10.41	8.71	8.88	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.9	5.0	2.1	4.3	3.4	7.5
All excluding sales	3.7	5.7	2.1	4.4	3.8	—
White collar	6.0	8.8	6.6	6.2	5.7	—
White-collar excluding sales	5.9	10.6	6.6	6.5	6.1	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.0	23.8	—	5.2	3.9	—
Professional specialty	4.3	23.8	—	6.1	4.2	—
Technical	3.7	—	—	3.7	3.7	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9.5	—	—	9.5	9.5	—
Sales	18.1	11.9	—	15.3	10.1	5.1
Administrative support, including clerical	8.5	1.9	8.9	8.9	3.5	—
Blue collar	2.4	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.1	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.4	—	5.1	3.2	3.6	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.4	—	3.9	6.5	4.7	—
Transportation and material moving	7.4	—	6.2	10.1	9.1	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.9	4.3	8.1	4.4	2.9	—
Service	3.5	10.6	4.7	3.8	3.6	—

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 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, Mobile, AL, August 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	\$13.47	\$11.75	\$14.21	\$14.25	\$14.12
All excluding sales	13.67	12.12	14.26	13.93	15.05
White collar	14.78	13.41	15.22	15.80	14.12
White-collar excluding sales	15.64	16.13	15.54	15.39	15.86
Professional specialty and technical	20.55	20.81	20.52	20.84	20.27
Professional specialty	21.49	23.45	21.23	20.80	21.56
Technical	18.39	–	18.89	20.92	17.11
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.39	–	31.97	31.36	–
Sales	12.06	10.16	13.66	18.43	–
Administrative support, including clerical	11.86	11.26	11.98	12.46	10.37
Blue collar	13.86	12.13	14.89	14.68	15.40
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.90	16.68	18.68	18.64	18.85
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.11	10.54	13.68	12.51	16.02
Transportation and material moving	12.54	10.19	15.42	15.95	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	8.86	7.99	9.46	8.80	–
Service	7.23	5.59	7.99	7.30	10.13
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	4.8	7.5	6.1	7.0	11.7
All excluding sales	5.0	9.0	5.8	7.4	9.0
White collar	7.9	9.9	9.5	10.8	16.8
White-collar excluding sales	8.8	17.5	9.2	12.6	10.3
Professional specialty and technical	6.9	17.6	7.3	13.4	7.3
Professional specialty	9.2	19.1	9.6	17.2	11.3
Technical	3.7	–	4.0	10.1	3.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.9	–	13.5	14.9	–
Sales	16.1	15.7	24.2	11.5	–
Administrative support, including clerical	10.7	5.4	12.6	15.6	7.2
Blue collar	3.3	10.0	2.8	3.1	6.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.8	7.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.7	12.2	4.9	7.7	1.3
Transportation and material moving	10.1	12.3	4.2	2.9	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.9	4.4	6.7	6.5	–
Service	5.9	5.6	6.1	8.9	10.9

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.

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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