



**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, ROOM 7T50
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
TELEPHONE: (404) 893-4222**

Media Contact: Karen Ransom
(404) 893-4220

Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm

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HIGHLIGHTS OF HUNTSVILLE-DECATUR, AL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MAY 2008

Workers in the Huntsville-Decatur Combined Statistical Area (CSA) earned an average of \$20.38 per hour in May 2008, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$38.17 for architecture and engineering occupations and \$15.22 for production occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$14.50. The NCS data available for the Huntsville area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Aerospace engineers, part of the architecture and engineering occupational group, earned \$47.77 per hour. Within production occupations, machinists averaged \$18.58 per hour and electrical and electronic equipment assemblers, \$10.38. Executive secretaries and administrative assistants, an occupation within the office and administrative support occupational group, averaged \$18.23 per hour, and tellers earned \$11.46. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$21.54 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.19. Union workers earned \$22.86 and non-union workers, \$20.25. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$16.35 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$19.63, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$26.92.

The occupational wage data available from 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. NCS results also include the work level and respective earnings for occupations determined by a point factor leveling process. The four occupational leveling factors are: knowledge, job controls and complexity, contacts, and physical environment. Details on the NCS are available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>.

The NCS data reported here covered 340 establishments with one or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. Agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government were excluded from the survey. This sample of establishments represented 238,900 workers in the Huntsville-Decatur, AL Combined Statistical Area (CSA) which is comprised of Lawrence, Limestone, Madison and Morgan Counties in Alabama.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Huntsville-Decatur, AL National Compensation Survey May 2008 which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Southeast Information Office by calling (404) 893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Huntsville-Decatur, AL CSA, May 2008**

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All workers	\$20.38	2.4	\$21.54	3.0	\$11.19	14.0
Management occupations	38.86	8.9	38.86	8.9	—	—
General and operations managers	58.99	11.1	58.99	11.1	—	—
Marketing and sales managers	30.91	25.7	30.91	25.7	—	—
Financial managers	23.93	6.1	23.93	6.1	—	—
Industrial production managers	35.26	9.8	35.26	9.8	—	—
Education administrators	34.16	3.2	34.16	3.2	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	32.75	4.2	32.78	4.2	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	22.89	3.6	22.89	3.6	—	—
Management analysts	40.40	9.6	40.40	9.6	—	—
Accountants and auditors	34.41	12.6	34.41	12.6	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	37.45	5.3	37.19	5.0	—	—
Computer software engineers	41.77	2.3	42.49	2.9	—	—
Computer software engineers, applications	39.30	9.6	40.71	7.6	—	—
Computer software engineers, systems software	43.97	8.7	44.01	9.3	—	—
Computer systems analysts	37.72	18.3	35.19	21.7	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	38.17	1.2	37.77	1.2	—	—
Engineers	43.84	1.7	43.28	3.2	—	—
Aerospace engineers	47.77	5.2	45.57	8.5	—	—
Electrical and electronics engineers	46.86	5.9	46.86	5.9	—	—
Industrial engineers, including health and safety	40.09	6.1	40.09	6.1	—	—
Industrial engineers	40.09	6.1	40.09	6.1	—	—
Drafters	28.55	8.9	—	—	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	24.96	9.9	24.96	9.9	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	25.95	15.5	25.95	15.5	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	32.55	13.6	32.55	13.6	—	—
Physical scientists	31.15	20.4	31.15	20.4	—	—
Community and social services occupations	19.56	8.6	—	—	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	28.99	2.8	28.99	2.8	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	30.69	3.0	30.69	3.0	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	28.68	9.3	28.68	9.3	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	24.27	8.5	24.27	8.5	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	33.11	1.4	33.11	1.4	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	23.77	17.5	24.47	17.9	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	25.91	4.6	26.37	4.9	21.09	13.2
Registered nurses	25.99	7.0	25.93	7.5	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	16.00	1.8	15.80	1.7	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	11.34	10.1	11.98	6.5	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.93	5.4	10.52	1.4	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.31	1.3	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	12.07	11.9	—	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	17.23	11.3	17.49	11.1	—	—
Police officers	20.71	8.8	20.71	8.8	—	—
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	20.71	8.8	20.71	8.8	—	—
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	10.29	15.2	10.22	16.4	—	—
Security guards	10.29	15.2	10.22	16.4	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.05	1.5	9.28	5.4	6.67	2.4
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	14.56	9.3	14.56	9.3	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	15.08	13.6	15.08	13.6	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Huntsville-Decatur, AL CSA, May 2008** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Food preparation and serving related occupations						
—Continued						
Cooks	\$8.66	5.6	\$9.67	6.6	—	—
Food service, tipped	4.21	26.2	—	—	\$5.71	15.3
Waiters and waitresses	3.56	39.6	—	—	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	7.14	1.3	—	—	7.09	1.7
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.15	1.5	—	—	7.10	1.8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.39	9.0	10.78	6.4	—	—
Building cleaning workers	9.64	4.6	9.98	3.9	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.02	4.9	10.54	2.6	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	11.28	32.6	10.58	21.8	12.41	46.4
Sales and related occupations	15.79	4.9	17.43	5.2	8.86	3.4
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	21.51	19.3	21.51	19.3	—	—
Retail sales workers	11.20	3.7	12.06	3.9	8.60	1.7
Cashiers, all workers	9.20	1.6	9.95	2.6	7.70	4.6
Cashiers	9.20	1.6	9.95	2.6	7.70	4.6
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	13.14	15.5	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	11.63	4.0	12.46	5.4	8.99	.7
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	32.53	15.7	32.53	15.7	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	21.43	27.4	21.43	27.4	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	14.50	3.1	14.74	3.3	10.96	8.6
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	24.66	23.3	24.66	23.3	—	—
Financial clerks	13.26	6.1	13.47	6.1	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	13.64	10.6	14.63	10.3	—	—
Tellers	11.46	.2	11.46	.2	—	—
Customer service representatives	15.94	9.4	15.98	9.5	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	15.83	6.9	15.96	6.7	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	18.23	6.7	18.23	6.7	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	13.27	7.9	13.48	7.9	—	—
Office clerks, general	11.87	7.4	11.95	7.6	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	16.58	7.6	16.79	7.2	—	—
Electricians	21.74	9.7	21.74	9.7	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	18.34	8.5	18.37	8.4	—	—
Automotive technicians and repairers	17.48	14.7	17.48	14.7	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	16.66	9.6	16.66	9.6	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	18.77	.5	18.77	.5	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	15.25	14.8	15.25	14.8	—	—
Production occupations	15.22	4.1	15.89	5.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	24.23	10.2	24.23	10.2	—	—
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	10.88	5.0	12.21	4.1	—	—
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	10.38	4.5	11.47	2.5	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	17.15	6.8	17.15	6.8	—	—
Machine tool cutting setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	17.55	16.6	17.55	16.6	—	—
Machinists	18.58	.5	18.58	.5	—	—
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	12.36	16.4	12.36	16.4	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	16.26	5.8	16.43	6.3	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	14.23	8.8	14.32	9.0	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	13.79	9.3	14.49	9.3	8.62	10.7
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	15.84	12.6	16.66	9.2	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Huntsville-Decatur, AL CSA, May 2008** — Continued

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	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Transportation and material moving occupations —Continued						
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	\$16.44	6.3	\$16.43	6.3	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	11.26	3.9	11.63	2.6	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	10.26	6.8	10.41	7.8	\$9.45	7.4
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	10.48	7.9	10.56	9.3	—	—

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 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.

³ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

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.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.