

# News

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF ROCKFORD, IL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY APRIL 2003

Workers in the Rockford metropolitan area averaged \$17.41 per hour during April 2003, according to a new survey released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Acting Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer reported that white-collar workers averaged \$21.47 per hour and accounted for 37 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$16.44 per hour and represented 46 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 17 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$10.59 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 260 firms representing 88,400 workers in the Rockford metropolitan area, which is comprised of Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago Counties. Eighty-four percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Rockford metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 46 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, mechanical engineers averaged \$28.90 per hour; bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks, \$12.86; and cashiers, \$7.64. Blue-collar occupations included production supervisors earning \$24.55 per hour; bus drivers at \$14.61; and stock handlers and baggers at \$12.27. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants averaged \$10.43 per hour and cooks, \$10.42.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Rockford area averaged \$18.09 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.48. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$20.94 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$13.84. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$12.89 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.59.

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

**Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Rockford, IL National Compensation Survey April 2003 (Bulletin 3120-35). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the BLS Information Office in Chicago by calling 312-353-1880. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at [www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm). Survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau’s fax-on-demand service by dialing (312) 353-1880, menu option 1. Up to five documents at a time may be selected and faxed to you within minutes, 24 hours a day.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880, option 1		
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For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

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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, Rockford, IL, April 2003

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> .....	\$17.41	1.8	\$16.38	2.4	\$24.18	3.1
All excluding sales .....	17.46	1.8	16.38	2.4	24.20	3.1
<b>White collar</b> .....	21.47	3.2	19.47	3.3	28.69	5.3
White collar excluding sales .....	22.20	2.9	20.05	2.9	28.74	5.3
<b>Professional specialty and technical</b> .....	28.17	3.1	24.99	3.6	35.18	2.5
Professional specialty .....	31.12	4.3	27.76	6.4	35.90	2.3
Engineers, architects, and surveyors .....	31.46	6.9	31.42	7.0	—	—
Mechanical engineers .....	28.90	4.7	28.90	4.7	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related .....	29.56	13.6	29.96	14.6	—	—
Teachers, college and university .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university .....	37.39	3.2	—	—	38.44	1.9
Elementary school teachers .....	31.80	3.8	—	—	33.15	.9
Secondary school teachers .....	31.17	2.4	—	—	32.01	.7
Teachers, special education .....	29.75	4.6	—	—	29.75	4.6
Substitute teachers .....	9.78	3.1	—	—	9.78	3.1
Librarians, archivists, and curators .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c. ....	17.62	15.9	16.84	17.1	—	—
Technical .....	20.23	4.9	20.43	4.9	—	—
Licensed practical nurses .....	16.24	7.0	—	—	—	—
<b>Executive, administrative, and managerial</b> .....	29.02	4.2	28.21	5.3	32.42	4.5
Executives, administrators, and managers .....	31.56	5.0	31.25	6.5	32.44	5.2
Administrators and officials, public administration .....	33.01	5.5	—	—	33.01	5.5
Administrators, education and related fields .....	32.01	11.8	—	—	35.57	10.9
Managers and administrators, n.e.c. ....	39.77	5.8	39.82	6.1	—	—
Management related .....	24.35	6.6	23.77	6.9	—	—
Management related, n.e.c. ....	22.42	18.1	22.42	18.1	—	—
<b>Sales</b> .....	16.35	22.3	16.38	22.3	—	—
Cashiers .....	7.64	3.5	7.64	3.6	—	—
<b>Administrative support, including clerical</b> .....	12.55	2.8	12.17	3.3	14.20	1.1
Secretaries .....	13.41	7.0	—	—	14.39	9.7
Receptionists .....	8.29	6.2	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks .....	12.86	1.9	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks .....	12.50	5.1	12.50	5.1	—	—
General office clerks .....	13.71	7.8	13.40	10.3	—	—
Teachers' aides .....	9.66	3.3	—	—	9.66	3.3
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	16.44	4.4	16.41	4.6	17.26	3.2
<b>Precision production, craft, and repair</b> .....	23.29	1.6	23.31	1.7	22.99	3.3
Industrial machinery repairers .....	22.53	8.7	22.53	8.8	—	—
Supervisors, production .....	24.55	2.2	24.55	2.2	—	—
Machinists .....	17.55	8.4	17.55	8.4	—	—
<b>Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors</b> .....	15.74	8.2	15.73	8.2	—	—
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators .....	13.56	10.6	13.56	10.6	—	—
Numerical control machine operators .....	16.61	1.1	16.61	1.1	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c. ....	13.15	13.1	13.15	13.1	—	—
Molding and casting machine operators .....	11.93	7.9	11.93	7.9	—	—
Packaging and filling machine operators .....	12.09	11.6	12.09	11.6	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...	12.07	23.8	12.07	23.8	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c. ....	14.36	6.9	14.27	7.1	—	—
Welders and cutters .....	14.21	10.0	14.21	10.0	—	—
Assemblers .....	18.20	16.4	18.20	16.4	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	11.71	4.1	11.71	4.1	—	—

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, Rockford, IL, April 2003 — 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>Transportation and material moving</b> .....	\$14.15	1.4	\$13.99	1.4	\$14.94	5.1
Truck drivers .....	17.47	11.3	17.49	11.7	—	—
Bus drivers .....	14.61	5.0	—	—	14.61	5.0
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	11.67	4.6	11.67	4.6	—	—
<b>Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers</b>	12.41	6.3	12.41	6.5	12.48	3.2
Stock handlers and baggers .....	12.27	7.8	12.27	7.8	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c. ....	11.52	16.2	11.52	16.2	—	—
Hand packers and packagers .....	9.56	8.8	9.56	8.8	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c. ....	12.27	11.0	11.82	17.1	—	—
<b>Service</b> .....	10.59	3.0	8.13	3.1	17.70	2.8
Protective service .....	20.30	10.5	—	—	23.45	6.5
Supervisors, police and detectives .....	29.78	7.4	—	—	29.78	7.4
Guards and police, except public service .....	10.57	21.7	—	—	—	—
Food service .....	6.95	5.4	6.83	6.0	9.48	7.1
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders .....	4.09	17.2	4.09	17.2	—	—
Waiters and waitresses .....	3.91	17.4	3.91	17.4	—	—
Other food service .....	9.19	12.1	9.16	13.3	9.48	7.1
Cooks .....	10.42	4.7	10.30	5.3	—	—
Food counter, fountain, and related .....	7.10	4.8	7.10	4.8	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c. ....	7.21	4.9	6.81	3.1	—	—
Health service .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants .....	10.43	2.5	10.24	1.4	—	—
Cleaning and building service .....	11.10	7.0	8.06	4.7	13.85	5.5
Janitors and cleaners .....	11.70	7.6	8.64	4.8	13.79	5.2
Personal service .....	10.60	6.0	—	—	10.76	5.6
Child care workers, n.e.c. ....	9.18	6.7	—	—	—	—

<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> 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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-35.

<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, Rockford, IL, April 2003

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> .....	\$18.09	\$9.48	\$22.89	\$15.44	\$17.29	\$22.51
All excluding sales .....	18.05	9.73	22.89	15.38	17.50	13.65
<b>White collar</b> .....	22.04	13.73	30.42	19.76	21.26	26.38
White-collar excluding sales .....	22.34	18.97	30.42	20.35	22.35	—
Professional specialty and technical .....	28.06	31.02	36.18	25.07	28.18	—
Professional specialty .....	30.93	36.22	38.07	27.44	31.14	—
Technical .....	20.31	—	18.22	20.45	20.23	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	29.47	—	—	29.02	29.44	—
Sales .....	19.31	7.99	—	16.35	11.44	32.39
Administrative support, including clerical .....	12.75	8.73	15.11	12.17	12.64	—
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	16.67	10.43	20.94	13.84	16.46	15.15
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	23.38	—	27.77	20.14	23.34	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	15.74	—	21.07	13.14	15.79	—
Transportation and material moving .....	14.94	11.43	15.51	12.86	13.77	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	12.71	—	15.84	10.35	12.41	—
<b>Service</b> .....	12.09	6.11	19.56	8.71	10.59	—
	Relative error <sup>6</sup> (percent)					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	1.9	14.5	3.7	1.7	1.6	20.0
All excluding sales .....	1.9	16.2	3.7	1.8	1.8	12.6
<b>White collar</b> .....	3.5	25.0	7.6	3.2	3.5	18.2
White-collar excluding sales .....	2.8	25.8	7.6	2.7	2.9	—
Professional specialty and technical .....	2.8	22.8	3.4	3.5	3.1	—
Professional specialty .....	4.0	13.5	1.6	5.6	4.4	—
Technical .....	5.0	—	7.6	5.1	4.9	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	4.0	—	—	4.2	4.3	—
Sales .....	29.5	5.7	—	22.3	11.8	9.0
Administrative support, including clerical .....	2.9	5.2	5.6	3.0	2.7	—
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	4.4	5.1	6.1	2.3	4.3	15.7
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	1.6	—	3.5	3.0	1.6	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	8.3	—	10.7	2.4	7.9	—
Transportation and material moving .....	3.2	3.0	8.0	7.9	3.5	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	6.8	—	5.5	7.7	6.3	—
<b>Service</b> .....	2.5	11.2	5.9	3.0	3.0	—

<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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-35.

<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, Rockford, IL, April 2003**

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> .....	\$16.38	\$12.89	\$17.32	\$16.48	\$18.59
All excluding sales .....	16.38	12.22	17.40	16.57	18.59
<b>White collar</b> .....	19.47	17.09	20.15	19.17	22.01
White-collar excluding sales .....	20.05	16.66	20.75	19.97	22.01
Professional specialty and technical .....	24.99	18.17	26.32	26.26	26.38
Professional specialty .....	27.76	19.04	30.50	31.23	29.69
Technical .....	20.43	–	20.88	18.92	22.59
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	28.21	–	28.55	27.79	30.56
Sales .....	16.38	17.88	14.94	14.94	–
Administrative support, including clerical .....	12.17	13.46	11.85	12.11	11.25
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	16.41	14.38	16.69	15.70	18.08
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	23.31	20.18	24.19	26.42	20.48
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	15.73	12.10	16.08	13.08	19.72
Transportation and material moving .....	13.99	–	14.13	12.96	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	12.41	8.49	12.89	13.30	12.09
<b>Service</b> .....	8.13	7.49	9.09	6.99	–
Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)					
<b>All occupations</b> .....	2.4	9.9	3.0	2.9	3.3
All excluding sales .....	2.4	8.0	2.4	1.8	3.3
<b>White collar</b> .....	3.3	11.3	3.7	4.7	5.3
White-collar excluding sales .....	2.9	9.0	3.0	3.9	5.3
Professional specialty and technical .....	3.6	16.6	2.4	3.0	4.6
Professional specialty .....	6.4	15.5	6.8	6.4	12.1
Technical .....	4.9	–	4.1	2.7	5.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial .....	5.3	–	4.8	4.2	8.4
Sales .....	22.3	31.3	37.3	37.3	–
Administrative support, including clerical .....	3.3	11.3	3.0	4.1	5.1
<b>Blue collar</b> .....	4.6	10.8	4.8	3.0	6.8
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	1.7	8.4	2.4	4.9	2.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors .....	8.2	5.1	8.8	5.6	9.0
Transportation and material moving .....	1.4	–	1.4	12.4	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers .....	6.5	12.0	6.0	6.1	10.9
<b>Service</b> .....	3.1	3.0	8.6	7.0	–

<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. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-35.

<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.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.