

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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Technical information: (415) 625-2283
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

• BLInfoSF@bls.gov

• www.bls.gov/ro9

HIGHLIGHTS OF PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO, OR-WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY – SEPTEMBER 2009

Workers in the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$21.11 per hour in September 2009, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that wages were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$29.82 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$17.34 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$9.90. The NCS data available for the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro area include earnings for 21 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Medical and clinical laboratory technicians, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$19.52 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, customer service representatives averaged \$15.56 per hour and receptionists and information clerks earned \$13.42 per hour. Combined food preparation and serving workers, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, earned \$9.04 per hour and waiters and waitresses earned \$8.43 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$22.13 per hour, while their part-time counterparts earned \$12.61. Union workers earned \$25.59 and non-union workers earned \$19.81. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$17.78 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$21.52, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$27.57.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm.

The NCS data reported here covered 378 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 911,400 workers in the in Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is

comprised of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Oregon and Clark and Skamania Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA, National Compensation Survey September 2009, which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau data, contact the West Information Office by calling (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA, September 2009**

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	\$21.11	3.0	\$22.13	3.0	\$12.61	6.3
Management occupations	37.52	5.4	37.66	5.5	–	–
Education administrators	33.94	15.1	33.94	15.1	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	30.88	4.2	30.88	4.2	–	–
Accountants and auditors	27.10	8.0	27.10	8.0	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	29.42	10.4	29.70	10.7	–	–
Computer software engineers	37.25	3.6	37.25	3.6	–	–
Computer support specialists	17.35	24.6	17.12	27.2	–	–
Computer systems analysts	34.48	3.1	34.48	3.1	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	29.13	1.5	29.13	1.5	–	–
Architects, except naval	29.54	3.1	29.54	3.1	–	–
Engineers	33.47	9.0	33.47	9.0	–	–
Industrial engineers, including health and safety	34.45	3.3	34.45	3.3	–	–
Industrial engineers	33.30	1.9	33.30	1.9	–	–
Engineering technicians, except drafters	25.68	5.2	25.68	5.2	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	24.58	14.2	24.38	14.6	–	–
Community and social services occupations	20.79	10.8	22.06	12.2	–	–
Legal occupations	57.79	25.5	57.79	25.5	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	31.64	6.1	32.16	6.5	–	–
Postsecondary teachers	40.97	11.3	44.62	9.6	–	–
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	37.14	16.4	–	–	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	33.20	6.2	33.20	6.2	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	36.50	1.6	36.50	1.6	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	36.36	3.0	36.36	3.0	–	–
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	36.70	.0	36.70	.0	–	–
Secondary school teachers	35.30	6.2	35.30	6.2	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	35.30	6.2	35.30	6.2	–	–
Teacher assistants	15.16	7.2	15.13	8.2	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	22.38	7.7	22.66	8.8	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	29.82	2.5	29.85	2.6	29.40	6.0
Registered nurses	36.75	2.9	36.59	3.0	–	–
Therapists	30.69	3.9	31.43	3.2	–	–
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	19.81	4.2	19.88	4.7	–	–
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	19.52	2.8	19.52	3.1	–	–
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	31.03	18.7	31.03	18.7	–	–
Radiologic technologists and technicians	31.03	18.7	31.03	18.7	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	13.39	9.9	14.31	11.0	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	11.38	4.6	–	–	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	17.55	2.7	–	–	–	–
Protective service occupations	17.06	19.0	17.68	20.0	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	9.90	5.0	10.72	2.9	8.89	3.8
Cooks	10.73	4.5	11.34	2.9	–	–
Food service, tipped	8.56	.3	–	–	8.48	1.0
Waiters and waitresses	8.43	.2	–	–	8.43	.3
Fast food and counter workers	9.04	2.1	–	–	8.67	1.6
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	9.04	2.1	–	–	8.67	1.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA, September 2009** — 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)
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	\$12.83	4.5	\$13.04	4.7	\$11.74	2.0
Building cleaning workers	12.63	4.9	12.83	5.4	11.74	2.0
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	12.91	6.1	13.21	6.1	10.22	3.2
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	12.07	5.6	11.78	8.2	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	10.54	5.9	11.27	10.3	9.03	2.5
Child care workers	8.74	2.2	—	—	8.50	.5
Sales and related occupations	16.13	11.1	16.71	11.3	9.84	4.2
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	17.41	5.7	17.41	5.7	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	17.41	5.7	17.41	5.7	—	—
Retail sales workers	11.83	5.8	12.17	6.0	9.77	4.5
Cashiers, all workers	11.17	5.6	11.50	5.5	8.87	6.6
Cashiers	11.17	5.6	11.50	5.5	8.87	6.6
Retail salespersons	12.14	6.8	12.46	8.7	10.59	6.3
Office and administrative support occupations	17.34	2.7	17.37	2.7	17.04	9.7
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	24.16	10.3	24.16	10.3	—	—
Financial clerks	16.90	2.1	17.14	2.4	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	17.29	1.7	17.39	1.7	—	—
Customer service representatives	15.56	7.2	15.68	6.8	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.42	6.7	—	—	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	15.44	2.5	17.15	1.5	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	20.55	3.9	19.30	5.4	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	21.27	8.4	21.27	8.4	—	—
Office clerks, general	15.90	5.6	16.82	6.3	10.61	9.0
Construction and extraction occupations	27.30	7.9	27.30	7.9	—	—
Carpenters	18.49	11.8	18.49	11.8	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	25.04	9.3	25.04	9.3	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	20.97	16.3	20.97	16.3	—	—
Production occupations	18.41	3.7	18.46	3.7	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	16.16	9.4	16.16	9.4	—	—
Printers	19.05	23.6	19.05	23.6	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	15.33	6.9	16.17	6.6	10.71	8.3
First-line supervisors/managers of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	25.26	11.7	25.26	11.7	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	16.29	14.9	17.28	13.2	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	20.59	6.3	20.59	6.3	—	—
Service station attendants	8.64	1.8	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	14.59	9.7	14.53	10.5	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	12.56	6.8	12.77	7.9	11.68	3.1
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	12.36	5.3	12.47	7.2	—	—
Packers and packagers, hand	12.36	21.6	—	—	—	—

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. See appendix A for more information.

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. See appendix B for more information.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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.