

Table 5. Standard errors for defined benefit retirement plans: Open, soft and hard freeze plans, civilian workers,¹ National Compensation Survey, March 2015

(All workers participating in defined benefit plans = 100 percent)

Characteristics	Open plans ²	Soft freeze ³		Hard freeze ⁴
		All participants still accruing benefits	Some participants still accruing benefits	
All workers	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.5
Worker characteristics				
Management, professional, and related	1.4	1.3	0.4	0.4
Management, business, and financial	2.5	2.2	0.6	1.0
Professional and related	1.6	1.6	0.4	0.4
Teachers	1.9	1.9	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	1.9	2.0	–	–
Registered nurses	5.2	3.8	–	–
Service	2.1	2.1	–	–
Protective service	2.3	2.3	–	–
Sales and office	1.8	1.5	0.4	0.9
Sales and related	3.7	2.7	1.4	2.1
Office and administrative support	1.8	1.6	0.3	1.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry	2.2	1.9	–	–
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.0	1.9	–	–
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.1	3.1	–	–
Production, transportation, and material moving ...	2.7	2.1	0.7	2.1
Production	5.1	3.9	–	–
Transportation and material moving	2.4	2.0	0.5	1.7
Full time	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.5
Part time	2.3	2.1	0.3	0.5
Union	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.3
Nonunion	1.4	1.3	0.5	0.7
Average wage within the following categories: ⁵				
Lowest 25 percent	2.8	2.8	0.2	1.0
Lowest 10 percent	4.2	4.0	–	–
Second 25 percent	1.7	1.6	0.3	0.9
Third 25 percent	1.5	1.4	0.3	0.8
Highest 25 percent	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.4
Highest 10 percent	2.1	2.1	0.9	0.8
Establishment characteristics				
Goods-producing industries	3.0	2.5	0.8	1.9
Service-providing industries	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.4
Education and health services	1.8	1.7	0.1	0.5
Educational services	1.6	1.5	0.1	0.1
Elementary and secondary schools	1.6	1.6	–	–
Junior colleges, colleges, and universities	2.3	2.3	–	–
Health care and social assistance	4.5	3.7	–	–
Hospitals	3.5	3.1	–	–
Public administration	1.8	1.8	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Standard errors for defined benefit retirement plans: Open, soft and hard freeze plans, civilian workers,¹ National Compensation Survey, March 2015—continued

(All workers participating in defined benefit plans = 100 percent)

Characteristics	Open plans ²	Soft freeze ³		Hard freeze ⁴
		All participants still accruing benefits	Some participants still accruing benefits	
1 to 99 workers	2.2	1.9	0.5	1.1
1 to 49 workers	2.8	2.3	0.8	1.6
50 to 99 workers	3.1	2.9	—	—
100 workers or more	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.5
100 to 499 workers	2.2	1.9	0.9	1.1
500 workers or more	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.5
Geographic areas				
Northeast	2.5	2.0	0.6	1.0
New England	4.8	3.9	0.5	1.8
Middle Atlantic	2.8	2.1	0.7	1.2
South	1.9	1.9	0.2	0.6
South Atlantic	2.9	2.8	0.3	1.0
East South Central	3.9	4.1	—	—
West South Central	2.2	2.4	0.5	0.9
Midwest	1.9	1.6	0.4	1.3
East North Central	2.4	1.8	0.4	1.5
West North Central	2.8	3.2	—	—
West	2.4	2.3	—	—
Mountain	4.0	4.2	—	—
Pacific	2.9	2.7	—	—

¹ Includes workers in the private nonfarm economy except those in private households, and workers in the public sector, except the federal government. See Technical Note for further explanation.

² Plans open to new participants.

³ New employees are not allowed in the plan. Benefit accruals may continue for existing participants.

⁴ Participants in these plans stop accruing benefits on the date the plan is frozen. The benefit the employee receives is calculated as of the day the plan was frozen.

⁵ Surveyed occupations are classified into wage categories based on the average wage for the occupation, which may include workers with earnings both above and below the threshold. The categories were formed using percentile estimates generated using wage data for March 2015.

Note: Dash indicates no workers in this category or data did not meet publication criteria. For definitions of major plans, key provisions, and related terms, see the "Glossary of Employee Benefit Terms" at www.bls.gov/ncs/ebs/glossary20142015.htm.