

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF BUFFALO-NIAGARA-CATTARAUGUS NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JULY 2008

Workers in the Buffalo-Niagara-Cattaraugus metropolitan area earned an average of \$18.79 per hour in July 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 Michael L. Dolfman noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$24.89 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$17.44 for production occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$14.87. The NCS data available for the Buffalo area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Registered nurses, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$27.07 per hour. Within the production occupational group, machinists averaged \$17.18 per hour. Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks, an occupation within the office and administrative support group, registered an average hourly rate of \$14.65, and insurance claims and policy processing clerks earned \$13.58 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from the NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$19.93 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.59. Union workers earned \$24.21 and non-union workers, \$17.03. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$16.02 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$18.22, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.66.

The occupational wage data available from 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. 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>.



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

The NCS data reported here covered 268 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 552,500 workers in the Buffalo-Niagara-Cattaraugus Combined Statistical Area (CSA) which is comprised of Erie, Niagara, and Cattaraugus Counties in New York.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Buffalo-Niagara-Cattaraugus, NY National Compensation Survey July 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, as well as other Bureau data, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office by calling (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Buffalo-Niagara-Cattaraugus, NY CSA, July 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	\$18.79	2.7	\$19.93	2.9	\$11.59	6.0
Management occupations	34.99	12.3	35.60	12.3	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	24.09	3.7	23.83	3.7	–	–
Accountants and auditors	26.26	8.3	26.76	10.0	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	24.50	7.4	24.57	7.5	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	21.39	17.9	23.00	19.2	–	–
Community and social services occupations	18.42	2.8	17.44	5.8	–	–
Social workers	20.35	2.2	–	–	–	–
Legal occupations	52.71	14.3	–	–	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	32.88	4.7	34.24	6.0	13.78	22.1
Postsecondary teachers	40.40	23.3	43.97	26.1	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	34.28	5.2	34.28	5.2	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	38.06	2.6	38.12	2.8	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	38.16	1.9	38.23	2.1	–	–
Secondary school teachers	34.38	1.2	34.38	1.2	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	34.51	1.4	34.51	1.4	–	–
Teacher assistants	10.01	11.3	–	–	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	21.46	4.5	21.62	4.3	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	24.89	3.7	24.09	4.0	28.61	10.3
Registered nurses	27.07	4.8	26.36	5.5	29.57	7.5
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	16.34	3.0	–	–	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	13.56	5.6	13.61	6.0	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	12.71	10.0	12.70	10.8	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	13.74	12.9	–	–	–	–
Protective service occupations	22.23	10.8	25.20	4.1	10.90	25.7
Police officers	25.66	6.8	25.66	6.8	–	–
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	25.66	6.8	25.66	6.8	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.50	3.5	10.01	10.7	7.25	1.5
Cooks	10.79	5.3	–	–	–	–
Food service, tipped	5.41	9.2	5.38	10.4	5.44	9.3
Bartenders	6.26	4.0	–	–	–	–
Waiters and waitresses	4.39	6.3	–	–	4.68	1.3
Fast food and counter workers	8.31	2.8	–	–	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	11.88	5.5	12.67	6.2	–	–
Building cleaning workers	11.46	4.0	12.15	4.9	–	–
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.44	4.1	12.24	4.9	–	–
Grounds maintenance workers	13.83	21.4	–	–	–	–
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	13.83	21.4	–	–	–	–
Personal care and service occupations	12.05	12.4	13.52	10.0	10.23	14.4
Child care workers	9.62	10.1	–	–	–	–
Recreation and fitness workers	9.67	4.1	–	–	9.25	1.0
Recreation workers	9.67	4.1	–	–	9.25	1.0
Sales and related occupations	13.96	7.4	16.07	7.6	9.17	.9
Retail sales workers	10.30	2.7	11.04	1.5	9.08	2.8
Cashiers, all workers	9.66	1.7	–	–	9.25	1.8
Cashiers	9.66	1.7	–	–	9.25	1.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Buffalo-Niagara-Cattaraugus, NY CSA, July 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)
Sales and related occupations —Continued						
Retail salespersons	\$10.57	5.1	\$11.38	5.5	\$8.20	1.0
Office and administrative support occupations	14.87	3.7	15.27	4.1	11.52	4.1
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	23.76	13.5	24.91	12.0	—	—
Financial clerks	14.31	2.8	14.62	3.2	12.07	5.1
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	14.65	5.6	14.86	6.1	—	—
Tellers	12.46	3.4	13.52	8.9	—	—
Customer service representatives	13.86	12.4	13.96	12.7	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	10.62	5.8	—	—	—	—
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	13.00	2.3	13.00	2.3	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	18.30	7.9	18.62	8.6	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	20.78	15.4	20.78	15.4	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	17.24	12.0	17.04	13.1	—	—
Data entry and information processing workers	13.47	6.9	13.65	11.5	—	—
Word processors and typists	15.67	6.8	—	—	—	—
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	13.58	3.9	13.58	3.9	—	—
Office clerks, general	13.78	5.4	13.99	6.0	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	23.42	11.8	23.55	12.0	—	—
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	22.80	12.9	22.80	12.9	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	22.80	12.9	22.80	12.9	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	20.27	12.8	20.27	12.8	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	23.67	17.0	23.67	17.0	—	—
Production occupations	17.44	4.1	17.76	3.6	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	15.54	.9	15.54	.9	—	—
Machinists	17.18	7.0	—	—	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	18.22	10.3	18.22	10.3	—	—
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	12.69	14.8	14.36	1.2	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	12.42	5.1	12.46	5.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	15.77	10.0	15.95	9.9	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	17.37	11.9	17.37	11.9	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	16.26	2.7	16.26	2.7	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	14.24	25.3	14.24	25.3	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	12.53	14.8	12.69	15.2	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	11.75	23.5	11.75	23.5	—	—

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.

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.