

ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE

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HIGHLIGHTS OF CHARLESTON-NORTH CHARLESTON-SUMMERVILLE, S.C. NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY – MAY 2009

Workers in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$17.20 per hour in May 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS). 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 \$29.54 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$13.85 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, transportation and material moving occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$13.47. The NCS data available for the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville area include earnings for 19 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 \$33.28 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupations, executive secretaries and administrative assistants averaged \$16.00 per hour, while general office clerks earned \$12.81. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand, an occupation within the transportation and material moving occupation group, averaged \$11.60 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$18.07 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.02. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.10 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$15.08, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.20.

The occupational wage data available from NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant location, 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 218 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

264,300 workers in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties in South Carolina.

Survey availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC National Compensation Survey May 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 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, Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC, May 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	\$17.20	4.5	\$18.07	4.8	\$11.02	6.8
Management occupations	31.08	6.7	31.08	6.7	—	—
General and operations managers	45.33	17.6	45.33	17.6	—	—
Financial managers	33.16	11.3	33.16	11.3	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	23.02	13.1	23.02	13.1	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	37.45	13.2	37.45	13.2	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	35.89	3.2	35.89	3.2	—	—
Engineers	40.47	3.6	40.47	3.6	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	27.69	11.3	27.69	11.3	—	—
Community and social services occupations	16.15	12.3	16.15	12.3	—	—
Counselors	20.05	9.8	20.05	9.8	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	27.51	7.5	27.97	7.2	—	—
Postsecondary teachers	39.52	8.8	39.50	8.8	—	—
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	40.69	8.7	—	—	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	30.52	.0	30.52	.0	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	29.54	7.6	30.66	10.9	26.59	3.4
Registered nurses	33.28	6.7	36.71	13.0	27.81	4.2
Healthcare support occupations	10.55	4.6	11.35	3.8	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.55	4.1	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	9.55	4.1	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	11.65	2.9	11.65	2.9	—	—
Protective service occupations	14.77	5.6	14.77	5.6	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.38	5.2	7.76	8.1	6.74	1.9
Cooks	9.92	.9	10.29	5.8	—	—
Food service, tipped	4.12	10.7	4.26	6.2	3.73	27.1
Waiters and waitresses	2.54	3.9	2.31	1.0	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	7.74	3.1	8.45	8.5	7.19	1.6
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.73	3.1	8.43	8.7	7.19	1.6
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.66	2.4	10.95	2.3	8.37	2.6
Building cleaning workers	10.39	5.4	11.15	6.0	8.37	2.6
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.12	5.9	12.57	6.1	8.40	2.6
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	8.03	2.4	—	—	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	7.96	2.7	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	15.90	8.2	17.64	8.6	8.73	3.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	18.98	10.3	18.98	10.3	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	16.44	4.1	16.44	4.1	—	—
Retail sales workers	11.77	10.1	13.20	12.0	8.45	2.7
Cashiers, all workers	8.86	2.1	9.51	3.5	8.06	.5
Cashiers	8.86	2.1	9.51	3.5	8.06	.5
Retail salespersons	14.87	15.3	15.58	15.3	9.86	4.4
Office and administrative support occupations	13.85	2.1	14.19	2.0	10.93	11.1
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	17.26	9.3	17.26	9.3	—	—
Financial clerks	13.86	6.3	14.19	6.2	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	13.17	10.1	13.17	10.1	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	11.99	7.3	13.16	7.2	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	9.10	5.2	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	15.84	6.3	15.58	6.4	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC, May 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)
Office and administrative support occupations						
—Continued						
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	\$16.00	8.9	\$16.00	8.9	—	—
Office clerks, general	12.81	4.0	12.81	4.0	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	16.54	14.3	16.54	14.3	—	—
Electricians	18.72	16.6	18.72	16.6	—	—
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	13.76	7.7	13.76	7.7	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	13.76	7.7	13.76	7.7	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	18.13	7.8	18.13	7.8	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	17.04	7.3	17.04	7.3	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	15.62	12.7	15.62	12.7	—	—
Production occupations	18.01	13.4	18.31	13.5	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	16.79	11.3	16.79	11.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	13.47	5.9	14.27	6.2	\$9.88	8.1
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	17.04	17.9	18.09	21.7	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.71	7.0	12.45	13.5	10.11	9.7
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	11.60	4.6	11.39	5.6	—	—

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.

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.