

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE-KENNER, LA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY APRIL 2008

Workers in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner metropolitan area earned an average of \$20.79 per hour in April 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 Stanley W. Suchman noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$27.07 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$16.61 for transportation and material moving occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support, had an average hourly wage rate of \$15.96. The NCS data available for the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner 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 \$32.13 per hour. Within the transportation and material moving occupational group, sailors and marine oilers averaged \$13.36 per hour and hand laborers and freight, stock and material movers, \$11.97. Executive secretaries and administrative assistants, an occupation within the office and administrative support group, registered an average hourly rate of \$20.91, and general office clerks earned \$14.07 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$22.23 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$9.30. Union workers earned \$23.14 and non-union workers, \$20.57. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$17.09 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$23.60, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$26.09.

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 <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>.

The NCS data reported here covered 228 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 475,600 workers in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner metropolitan area which is comprised of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA National Compensation Survey April 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 Southwest Information Office by calling (214) 767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, April 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	\$20.79	5.4	\$22.23	5.5	\$9.30	4.6
Management occupations	43.72	10.5	43.72	10.5	–	–
Engineering managers	65.86	11.7	65.86	11.7	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	30.00	11.1	30.00	11.1	–	–
Accountants and auditors	30.31	21.0	30.31	21.0	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	27.30	7.8	27.30	7.8	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	36.11	12.0	36.11	12.0	–	–
Engineers	38.07	13.1	38.07	13.1	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	36.92	6.6	36.92	6.6	–	–
Community and social services occupations	20.26	14.2	20.17	14.4	–	–
Social workers	20.45	5.1	20.45	5.1	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	33.40	1.9	34.14	2.7	10.83	29.9
Postsecondary teachers	40.03	7.1	40.88	8.2	–	–
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	29.65	7.4	29.90	6.6	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	36.54	2.4	36.54	2.4	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	34.70	1.8	34.70	1.8	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	34.70	1.9	34.70	1.9	–	–
Teacher assistants	16.35	4.2	16.34	4.2	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	27.07	3.4	27.24	3.7	22.81	17.2
Registered nurses	32.13	3.1	31.96	3.4	–	–
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	18.41	3.6	18.41	3.6	–	–
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	15.36	7.4	–	–	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	19.50	10.1	19.52	10.5	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	18.18	28.0	18.52	28.5	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.85	4.0	9.88	3.5	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	9.83	3.4	–	–	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	12.98	10.2	12.98	10.2	–	–
Protective service occupations	15.68	7.7	15.21	6.4	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.29	9.5	8.87	13.9	7.31	10.4
Cooks	11.25	8.8	10.58	11.1	–	–
Food service, tipped	4.72	2.3	4.45	18.9	5.00	13.3
Bartenders	6.18	1.5	–	–	–	–
Waiters and waitresses	3.49	10.7	–	–	3.95	25.3
Fast food and counter workers	8.35	4.6	–	–	–	–
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8.35	4.6	–	–	–	–
Food servers, nonrestaurant	8.20	5.7	–	–	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.17	1.9	10.29	2.8	–	–
Building cleaning workers	9.91	3.2	10.28	2.8	–	–
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	–	–	10.46	5.4	–	–
Personal care and service occupations	9.94	6.3	10.62	10.1	8.68	2.9
Sales and related occupations	17.04	25.2	20.12	25.9	8.07	6.0
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	25.43	28.7	25.74	29.8	–	–
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	17.45	20.1	17.58	21.6	–	–
Retail sales workers	9.75	9.5	11.15	4.2	7.93	4.3
Cashiers, all workers	8.11	5.3	–	–	7.68	3.3
Cashiers	8.11	5.3	–	–	7.68	3.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, April 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)
Office and administrative support occupations	\$15.96	4.8	\$16.35	5.0	\$10.69	8.3
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	19.68	2.9	19.68	2.9	—	—
Financial clerks	12.70	8.5	13.22	9.8	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	12.86	6.1	13.32	4.7	—	—
Tellers	11.21	.8	11.26	1.9	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	8.95	6.6	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	18.78	3.7	18.96	3.6	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	20.91	6.1	20.91	6.1	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	14.87	11.1	14.84	13.7	—	—
Office clerks, general	14.07	5.9	14.07	5.9	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	19.34	1.1	19.22	1.4	—	—
Electricians	19.56	1.0	19.16	1.6	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	18.95	7.7	19.03	7.7	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	16.47	8.5	16.47	8.5	—	—
Production occupations	21.56	31.9	22.06	31.9	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	35.11	34.3	35.11	34.3	—	—
Miscellaneous plant and system operators	29.77	.0	29.77	.0	—	—
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	29.77	.0	29.77	.0	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	12.57	2.5	12.57	2.5	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	16.61	6.1	17.53	4.9	8.90	7.8
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	15.65	18.6	16.89	17.7	—	—
Driver/sales workers	14.98	23.4	—	—	—	—
Sailors and marine oilers	13.36	5.0	13.36	5.0	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.81	8.7	—	—	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	11.97	8.5	—	—	—	—

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. For more information see full publication.

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. For more information about RSEs, see full publication.

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.