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USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS SECOND QUARTER 2010

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 99.8 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$740 in the second quarter of 2010 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 0.8 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 1.8 percent in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

Data on usual weekly earnings are collected as part of the Current Population Survey, a nationwide sample survey of households in which respondents are asked, among other things, how much each wage and salary worker usually earns. (See the Technical Note.) Data shown in this release are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Highlights from the second-quarter data are:

- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$744 in the second quarter of 2010, little changed from the previous quarter, \$748. (See table 1.)
- **Median weekly earnings** were \$740 in the second quarter of 2010 (not seasonally adjusted). **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$672, or 83.0 percent of the \$810 median for **men**. (See table 2.)

Changes to the Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers News Release

Seasonally adjusted usual weekly earnings data are being introduced with this news release. Table 1 contains seasonally adjusted data for the number of full-time wage and salary workers, median weekly earnings in current dollars, and median weekly earnings in constant (1982-84) dollars. These data are available for total (both sexes), men, and women. All other data presented in this release are available on a not seasonally adjusted basis only. With the addition of seasonally adjusted data in a new table 1, unadjusted data previously presented in tables numbered 1-5 now are contained in tables 2-6. (Note that the base period for all constant dollar series presented in this release has changed from 1982 to 1982-84.)

- The **female-to-male earnings ratio** was lowest among whites (81.4 percent), compared with blacks (92.6 percent), Hispanics (94.8 percent), and Asians (94.8 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$632 per week, 75.4 percent of the median for white men, \$838. The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$585) were 85.8 percent of those for white women (\$682). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$529) were lower than those of blacks (\$607), whites (\$756), and Asians (\$873). (See table 2.)
- Usual weekly earnings of full-time workers varied by **age**. Among men, those age 45 to 54 and age 55 to 64 had the highest median weekly earnings, \$948 and \$953, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women from age 35 to 64; median weekly earnings were \$731 for women age 35 to 44 and age 45 to 54, essentially the same as the \$730 median for women age 55 to 64. (See table 3.)
- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,229 for men and \$920 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least. (See table 4.)
- By **educational attainment**, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$440, compared with \$629 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,138 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (professional or master's degree and above), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,297 or more per week, compared with \$2,178 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides basic information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau from a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-quarter of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers (both incorporated and unincorporated self-employed are excluded). The data, therefore, exclude self-employment income.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Reliability

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling errors can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

A full discussion of the reliability of data from the Current Population Survey and information on estimating standard errors is available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series are described briefly below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders). Prior to 1994, respondents were asked how much they usually earned per week. Since January 1994, respondents have been asked to identify the easiest way for them to report earnings (hourly, weekly, biweekly, twice monthly, monthly, annually, other) and how much they usually earn in the reported time period.

Earnings reported on a basis other than weekly are converted to a weekly equivalent. The term "usual" is as perceived by the respondent. If the respondent asks for a definition of usual, interviewers are instructed to define the term as more than half the weeks worked during the past 4 or 5 months.

Medians (and other quantiles) of weekly earnings. The median (or upper limit of the second quartile) is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median. Ten percent of a given distribution have earnings below the upper limit of the first decile (90 percent have higher earnings); 25 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the first quartile (75 percent have higher earnings); 75 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the third quartile (25 percent have higher earnings); and 90 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the ninth decile (10 percent have higher earnings).

The estimation procedure places each reported or calculated weekly earnings value into \$50-wide intervals which are centered around multiples of \$50. The actual value is estimated through the linear interpolation of the interval in which the quantile boundary lies.

Over-the-year changes in the medians (and other quantile boundaries) for specific groups may not necessarily be consistent with the movements estimated for the overall quantile boundary. The most common reasons for this possible anomaly are: (1) There could be a change in the relative weights of the subgroups. For example, the medians of both 16-to-24 year olds and those 25 years and over may rise; but if the lower-earning 16-to-24 group accounts for a greatly increased share of the total, the overall median could actually fall. (2) There could be a large change in the shape of the distribution of reported earnings, particularly near a quantile boundary. This could be caused by survey observations that are clustered at

rounded values, such as \$250, \$300, or \$400. An estimate lying in a \$50-wide centered interval containing such a cluster or "spike" tends to change more slowly than one in other intervals.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Full-time workers. Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

Part-time workers. Workers who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week at their sole or principal job.

Constant dollars. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is used to convert current dollars to constant (1982-84) dollars.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Refers to persons who identified themselves in the enumeration process as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. Persons whose ethnicity is

identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and other measures of labor market activity undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These recurring events include seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variations can be very large.

Because seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments easier to spot. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in quarter-to-quarter activity.

At the end of each calendar year, the seasonally adjusted data are revised for the past 5 years when the seasonal adjustment factors are updated. More information on seasonal adjustment is available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#sa.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted

Year and quarter	Number of workers (in thousands)			Median weekly earnings					
	Total	Men	Women	In current dollars			In constant (1982-84) dollars		
				Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
2001									
2nd Quarter.....	101,167	56,731	44,435	594	665	515	336	375	291
3rd Quarter.....	101,096	56,910	44,186	601	685	510	338	386	287
4th Quarter.....	100,343	56,541	43,802	603	677	519	340	382	292
2002									
1st Quarter.....	99,924	56,096	43,829	607	677	525	341	380	295
2nd Quarter.....	100,286	56,640	43,646	608	678	524	339	378	292
3rd Quarter.....	100,183	56,390	43,793	608	679	531	337	376	294
4th Quarter.....	99,895	56,224	43,670	610	683	540	336	376	298
2003									
1st Quarter.....	100,136	56,079	44,057	615	689	546	335	376	297
2nd Quarter.....	100,255	56,013	44,242	619	692	551	338	378	301
3rd Quarter.....	100,139	56,178	43,961	621	697	554	337	378	300
4th Quarter.....	100,628	56,607	44,021	623	702	560	337	379	302
2004									
1st Quarter.....	100,905	56,848	44,057	629	705	562	337	378	301
2nd Quarter.....	101,135	56,914	44,221	642	715	576	341	380	306
3rd Quarter.....	101,148	56,931	44,217	635	712	574	335	376	303
4th Quarter.....	101,658	57,289	44,369	646	720	577	337	376	302
2005									
1st Quarter.....	102,091	57,710	44,381	647	723	580	336	376	302
2nd Quarter.....	103,201	58,099	45,101	647	714	584	334	369	301
3rd Quarter.....	104,310	58,843	45,467	651	723	588	331	368	299
4th Quarter.....	104,605	58,967	45,638	658	730	588	332	368	296
2006									
1st Quarter.....	104,664	58,943	45,722	662	737	594	332	370	298
2nd Quarter.....	105,801	59,834	45,967	663	732	597	329	364	296
3rd Quarter.....	107,108	60,090	47,018	678	755	602	334	371	296
4th Quarter.....	106,835	60,126	46,709	682	749	609	337	370	301
2007									
1st Quarter.....	107,049	60,034	47,015	687	752	609	336	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	106,842	60,354	46,488	693	764	610	335	370	295
3rd Quarter.....	107,257	60,269	46,988	698	773	619	335	372	297
4th Quarter.....	108,228	60,547	47,681	700	775	617	333	368	293
2008									
1st Quarter.....	107,601	60,282	47,319	713	783	632	335	368	297
2nd Quarter.....	107,111	59,602	47,509	722	800	637	335	371	296
3rd Quarter.....	106,229	59,319	46,910	724	802	634	331	366	290
4th Quarter.....	105,677	58,567	47,110	728	808	649	341	378	304
2009									
1st Quarter.....	101,417	56,164	45,253	731	816	644	344	384	303
2nd Quarter.....	100,112	55,268	44,844	736	815	655	345	382	307
3rd Quarter.....	99,125	54,517	44,608	741	819	661	344	380	307
4th Quarter.....	98,659	54,498	44,162	749	826	668	345	381	308
2010									
1st Quarter.....	97,914	53,976	43,939	748	836	662	344	384	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,681	55,073	44,608	744	813	674	343	374	310

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 2. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings			
	2nd 2009	2nd 2010	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars	
			2nd 2009	2nd 2010	2nd 2009	2nd 2010
SEX AND AGE						
Total, 16 years and over.....	100,130	99,798	\$734	\$740	\$342	\$340
Men, 16 years and over.....	55,419	55,235	815	810	380	372
16 to 24 years.....	5,128	4,765	450	442	210	203
25 years and over.....	50,290	50,470	872	861	407	395
Women, 16 years and over.....	44,711	44,562	652	672	304	308
16 to 24 years.....	3,911	3,784	413	417	193	191
25 years and over.....	40,801	40,778	679	704	317	323
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX						
White.....	81,012	80,890	754	756	352	347
Men.....	45,921	45,771	842	838	393	384
Women.....	35,091	35,119	666	682	311	313
Black or African American.....	11,785	11,659	592	607	276	278
Men.....	5,436	5,431	620	632	289	290
Women.....	6,349	6,228	567	585	265	268
Asian.....	4,976	5,032	909	873	424	400
Men.....	2,739	2,836	969	901	452	413
Women.....	2,237	2,196	781	854	364	392
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	14,900	14,908	547	529	255	243
Men.....	9,265	9,275	575	542	268	249
Women.....	5,635	5,633	511	514	239	236

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 3. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2nd quarter 2010 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings
TOTAL						
16 years and over.....	99,798	\$740	55,235	\$810	44,562	\$672
16 to 24 years.....	8,550	430	4,765	442	3,784	417
16 to 19 years.....	1,119	346	659	356	459	333
20 to 24 years.....	7,431	450	4,106	461	3,325	435
25 years and over.....	91,248	774	50,470	861	40,778	704
25 to 54 years.....	73,348	767	40,905	843	32,443	701
25 to 34 years.....	24,085	675	13,600	704	10,485	641
35 to 44 years.....	23,983	816	13,645	904	10,338	731
45 to 54 years.....	25,279	839	13,660	948	11,619	731
55 years and over.....	17,901	821	9,565	937	8,335	712
55 to 64 years.....	15,142	842	7,987	953	7,155	730
65 years and over.....	2,758	681	1,578	796	1,180	599
White						
16 years and over.....	80,890	756	45,771	838	35,119	682
16 to 24 years.....	7,015	436	3,976	449	3,039	421
25 years and over.....	73,874	798	41,795	888	32,079	715
25 to 54 years.....	58,780	785	33,590	869	25,191	711
55 years and over.....	15,094	848	8,206	968	6,888	729
Black or African American						
16 years and over.....	11,659	607	5,431	632	6,228	585
16 to 24 years.....	1,001	402	472	409	529	396
25 years and over.....	10,658	631	4,959	657	5,699	604
25 to 54 years.....	8,884	629	4,168	655	4,716	600
55 years and over.....	1,774	638	792	678	983	617
Asian						
16 years and over.....	5,032	873	2,836	901	2,196	854
16 to 24 years.....	292	459	166	423	126	623
25 years and over.....	4,740	910	2,670	951	2,070	876
25 to 54 years.....	3,997	937	2,230	999	1,767	886
55 years and over.....	744	768	440	768	303	767
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over.....	14,908	529	9,275	542	5,633	514
16 to 24 years.....	1,666	401	1,068	403	599	395
25 years and over.....	13,242	561	8,207	577	5,035	535
25 to 54 years.....	11,669	559	7,302	574	4,367	533
55 years and over.....	1,573	575	906	592	667	545

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 4. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by occupation and sex, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Occupation and sex	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	2nd 2009	2nd 2010	2nd 2009	2nd 2010
TOTAL				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	38,820	38,759	\$1,046	\$1,050
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	15,634	15,501	1,145	1,141
Professional and related occupations.....	23,186	23,257	994	999
Service occupations.....	14,530	14,870	468	486
Sales and office occupations.....	23,747	23,406	622	623
Sales and related occupations.....	9,575	9,080	665	662
Office and administrative support occupations.....	14,172	14,326	607	612
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,469	10,120	707	712
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	736	777	440	410
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,325	5,141	702	694
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,407	4,202	763	791
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	12,564	12,644	611	612
Production occupations.....	6,453	6,639	622	608
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,111	6,005	595	618
Men				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	18,979	18,920	1,250	1,229
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	8,630	8,484	1,342	1,334
Professional and related occupations.....	10,348	10,436	1,188	1,164
Service occupations.....	7,225	7,709	520	533
Sales and office occupations.....	9,078	8,802	726	720
Sales and related occupations.....	5,349	4,947	782	826
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3,729	3,856	638	616
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,021	9,712	716	722
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	589	610	455	425
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,192	5,035	704	698
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,240	4,066	772	795
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	10,115	10,092	656	656
Production occupations.....	4,774	4,910	696	673
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5,341	5,182	616	643
Women				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	19,841	19,838	900	920
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	7,004	7,017	968	958
Professional and related occupations.....	12,838	12,821	862	902
Service occupations.....	7,305	7,161	419	433
Sales and office occupations.....	14,669	14,604	589	595
Sales and related occupations.....	4,226	4,133	541	521
Office and administrative support occupations.....	10,442	10,470	599	611
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	448	408	548	540
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	147	167	394	372
Construction and extraction occupations.....	133	106	629	587
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	167	135	563	697
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	2,448	2,551	478	465
Production occupations.....	1,679	1,729	479	469
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	769	822	476	451

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 5. Quartiles and selected deciles of usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, 2nd quarter 2010 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)	Upper limit of:				
		First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total, 16 years and over.....	99,798	\$353	\$492	\$ 740	\$1,150	\$1,743
Men.....	55,235	377	517	810	1,264	1,910
Women.....	44,562	333	458	672	1,000	1,462
White.....	80,890	358	501	756	1,169	1,774
Men.....	45,771	382	530	838	1,310	1,971
Women.....	35,119	336	468	682	1,012	1,498
Black or African American.....	11,659	317	422	607	907	1,258
Men.....	5,431	324	441	632	946	1,346
Women.....	6,228	312	411	585	863	1,214
Asian.....	5,032	386	554	873	1,438	2,107
Men.....	2,836	398	579	901	1,549	2,307
Women.....	2,196	371	525	854	1,269	1,898
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	14,908	305	387	529	798	1,264
Men.....	9,275	315	397	542	835	1,356
Women.....	5,633	292	365	514	748	1,154
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Total, 25 years and over.....	91,248	378	518	774	1,188	1,792
Less than a high school diploma.....	7,356	280	341	440	603	823
High school graduates, no college ¹	25,885	344	451	629	902	1,216
Some college or associate degree.....	25,030	389	521	737	1,049	1,455
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	32,976	551	763	1,138	1,689	2,424
Bachelor's degree only.....	21,069	511	713	1,032	1,533	2,285
Advanced degree.....	11,907	657	903	1,341	1,909	2,876
Men, 25 years and over.....	50,470	398	568	861	1,338	1,988
Less than a high school diploma.....	5,038	293	371	485	662	903
High school graduates, no college ¹	15,074	381	503	714	998	1,350
Some college or associate degree.....	13,008	423	590	846	1,174	1,622
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	17,350	583	848	1,311	1,914	2,891
Bachelor's degree only.....	11,069	531	771	1,171	1,764	2,681
Advanced degree.....	6,281	687	975	1,546	2,282	3,297
Women, 25 years and over.....	40,778	352	484	704	1,043	1,512
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,319	251	309	377	495	614
High school graduates, no college ¹	10,811	315	401	542	741	992
Some college or associate degree.....	12,022	363	482	645	895	1,221
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	15,626	524	716	993	1,417	1,915
Bachelor's degree only.....	10,000	496	658	920	1,283	1,761
Advanced degree.....	5,627	634	838	1,158	1,622	2,178

1 Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

2 Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Ten percent of all full-time wage and salary workers earn less than the upper limit of the first decile; 25 percent earn less than the upper limit of the first quartile; 50 percent earn less than the upper limit of the second quartile, or median; 75 percent earn less than the upper limit of the third quartile; and 90 percent earn less than the upper limit of the ninth decile. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 6. Median usual weekly earnings of part-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	2nd 2009	2nd 2010	2nd 2009	2nd 2010
SEX AND AGE				
Total, 16 years and over.....	24,705	24,348	\$225	\$227
Men, 16 years and over.....	8,318	8,410	219	223
16 to 24 years.....	3,676	3,623	169	177
25 years and over.....	4,642	4,787	278	277
Women, 16 years and over.....	16,387	15,938	230	228
16 to 24 years.....	4,811	4,555	159	162
25 years and over.....	11,576	11,382	269	263
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX				
White.....	20,785	20,174	226	229
Men.....	6,927	6,857	220	225
Women.....	13,858	13,317	230	230
Black or African American.....	2,401	2,595	213	211
Men.....	809	934	196	213
Women.....	1,592	1,661	223	211
Asian.....	887	922	266	253
Men.....	346	362	289	242
Women.....	542	560	248	260
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	3,332	3,333	224	233
Men.....	1,303	1,346	227	250
Women.....	2,028	1,987	223	223

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.