For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Wednesday, October 16, 2019

USDL-19-1818

Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS THIRD QUARTER 2019

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 118.4 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$919 in the third quarter of 2019 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 3.6 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 in this news release.) Data shown in this news release are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.

Highlights from the third-quarter data:

- **Median weekly earnings** of full-time workers were \$919 in the third quarter of 2019. **Women** had median weekly earnings of \$825, or 82.3 percent of the \$1,002 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **women's-to-men's earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 82.2 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with 88.9 percent for Black women, 83.7 percent for Asian women, and 87.3 percent for Hispanic women. (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings of Blacks (\$727) and Hispanics (\$718) working at full-time jobs were lower than those of Whites (\$943) and Asians (\$1,247). By sex, median weekly earnings for Black men were \$768, or 74.9 percent of the median for White men (\$1,025). Median earnings for Hispanic men were \$757, or 73.9 percent of the median for White men. The difference was less among women, as Black women's median earnings were \$683, or 81.0 percent of those for White women (\$843), and earnings for Hispanic women were \$661, or 78.4 percent of those for White women. Earnings of Asian men (\$1,360) and women (\$1,138) were higher than those of their White counterparts. (See table 2.)
- By **age**, median weekly earnings were highest for men ages 35 to 64: weekly earnings were \$1,143 for men ages 35 to 44, \$1,184 for men ages 45 to 54, and \$1,153 for men ages 55 to 64. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women ages 35 to 54: median weekly earnings were

\$925 for women ages 35 to 44, and \$926 for women ages 45 to 54. Men and women ages 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, \$601 and \$538, respectively. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,533 for men and \$1,143 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$658 and \$552, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By educational attainment, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$606, compared with \$749 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,383 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (master's, professional, and doctoral degrees), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,922 or more per week, compared with \$2,892 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)
- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** edged up to \$923 in the third quarter of 2019. (See table 1.)

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Usual Weekly Earnings Data

The Usual Weekly Earnings news release for the fourth quarter of 2019, scheduled for release in January 2020, will incorporate annual revisions to seasonally adjusted data for the number of full-time wage and salary workers and median weekly earnings in current dollars. (See table 1.) Estimates for constant (1982-84) dollar median weekly earnings also will be affected by revisions to the current dollar series. Seasonally adjusted estimates back to the first quarter of 2015 will be subject to revision.

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 (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau using a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 eligible households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-fourth of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers, both incorporated and unincorporated, are excluded from CPS earnings estimates.

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Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings data in this news release 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, or 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 determined by each respondent's own understanding of the term. 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 midpoint in a given earnings distribution, with half of workers having earnings above the median and the other half 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 BLS procedure for estimating the median of an earnings distribution places each reported or calculated weekly earnings value into a \$50-wide interval that is centered around a multiple of \$50. The median is calculated through the linear interpolation of the interval in which the median lies.

Changes over time 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 as follows: (1) there could be a change in the relative weights of the subgroups. For example, the median of 16- to 24-year-olds and the median earnings of those 25 years and over may rise, but if the lower earning 16to-24 age 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 change could be caused by survey observations that are clustered at rounded values, such as \$400 or \$500. 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.

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

Wage and salary workers. These are 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, it excludes all self-employed persons, both those with incorporated businesses and those with unincorporated businesses.

Full-time workers. For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working full time.

Part-time workers. For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working part time.

Race. In the survey process, race is determined by the household respondent. In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidelines, White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are terms used to describe a person's race. Estimates for the latter two race groups and persons who selected more than one race are not included in this release due to insufficient sample size.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This refers to people who identified themselves in the survey process as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

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 component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and its 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 error 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, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

Additional information about the reliability of data from the CPS is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

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 website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#sa.

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

	Number of workers (in thousands)			Median weekly earnings					
Year and quarter				In current dollars			In constant (1982-84) dollars		
	Total	Men	Women	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
2010									
3rd quarter	100,412	55,620	44,792	746	821	670	342	377	308
4th quarter	99,958	55,486	44,472	750	826	676	341	376	308
2011									
1st quarter	99,670	55,337	44,333	750	821	679	338	370	306
2nd quarter	1	55,821	44,526	754	830	687	336	370	306
3rd quarter	1	56,046	44,449	760	836	681	336	370	301
4th quarter	101,337	56,687	44,650	760	838	686	335	369	302
2012									
1st quarter	102,161	57,110	45,051	764	841	693	335	368	303
2nd quarter	1 '	57,079	45,447	772	870	687	337	380	300
3rd quarter	1 '	57,207	45,380	766	836	693	333	364	302
4th quarter	103,748	57,772	45,977	771	868	690	333	375	298
2013		_ ,							
	103,928	57,884	46,044	768	860	699	331	370	301
1st quarter	1	57,884	46,044	777	863	706	335	370	304
3rd quarter	1 '	58,082	46,318	779	855	705	334	367	302
4th quarter	1	58,095	46,669	782	865	712	334	369	304
·	104,704	30,033	40,000	702	003	712	334	303	304
2014	405.000	50.000	40.054	700	005	740	005	007	004
1st quarter	1	58,682	46,951	790	865	716	335	367	304
2nd quarter	1	59,486	46,855	781	860	715	330	363	302
3rd quarter		59,543	47,183	798	878	721	336	370	304
4th quarter	107,436	60,123	47,313	795	878	724	336	371	306
2015									
1st quarter		60,364	48,122	801	886	724	341	377	307
2nd quarter		60,400	48,144	803	890	726	339	376	306
3rd quarter		60,977	48,292	810	896	727	341	377	306
4th quarter	110,049	61,273	48,776	822	904	730	345	380	307
2016									
1st quarter	1 '	61,627	48,799	823	903	743	346	380	312
2nd quarter		61,787	49,142	827	914	744	345	382	311
3rd quarter		62,082	49,483	833	917	750	346	381	312
4th quarter	111,463	62,249	49,214	846	924	760	349	382	314
2017									
1st quarter	1	62,462	49,516	857	940	759	351	385	311
2nd quarter		62,942	50,176	862	939	780	353	385	320
3rd quarter	1	63,155	50,468	865	943	771	353	385	314
4th quarter	114,372	63,377	50,996	854	943	771	345	381	312
2018									
1st quarter	114,678	64,007	50,671	874	955	776	350	383	311
2nd quarter		64,136	51,345	880	964	780	351	385	312
3rd quarter	1	64,198	51,747	893	980	801	355	389	318
4th quarter	116,160	64,237	51,923	897	991	796	355	392	315
2019									
1st quarter	117,327	64,964	52,362	898	994	800	355	392	316
2nd quarter	1	65,033	52,245	911	1,005	812	357	394	318
3rd quarter	117,230	64,748	52,482	923	1,010	827	360	394	323

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

		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings				
Characteristic	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84 dollars		
			3rd 2018	3rd 2019	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	
SEX AND AGE							
otal, 16 years and over	117,184	118,358	\$887	\$919	\$352	\$358	
Men, 16 years and over	65,216	65,655	973	1,002	386	391	
16 to 24 years	6,363	6,493	575	601	228	234	
25 years and over	58,853	59,162	1,033	1,070	410	417	
Women, 16 years and over	51,968	52,703	796	825	316	322	
16 to 24 years	5,034	5,231	515	538	204	210	
25 years and over	46,934	47,472	841	877	333	342	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX							
White	90,067	90,557	915	943	363	368	
Men	51,339	51,479	1,004	1,025	398	399	
Women	38,728	39,078	825	843	327	328	
Black or African American	15,338	15,843	686	727	272	283	
Men	7,461	7,552	726	768	288	299	
Women	7,877	8,291	631	683	250	266	
Asian	7,757	7,773	1,128	1,247	447	486	
Men	4,281	4,356	1,252	1,360	497	530	
Women	3,477	3,417	965	1,138	382	443	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	20,501	21,472	689	718	273	280	
Men	12,407	12,783	722	757	286	295	
Women	8,093	8,688	621	661	246	258	

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, 3rd quarter 2019 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	То	tal	Men		Women	
Age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	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	118,358	\$919	65,655	\$1,002	52,703	\$825
16 to 24 years	11,724	572	6,493	601	5,231	538
16 to 19 years	1,768	487	1,012	507	756	439
20 to 24 years	9,956	592	5,481	619	4,475	559
25 years and over	106,634	975	59,162	1,070	47,472	877
25 to 54 years	81,493	969	45,317	1,047	36,177	883
25 to 34 years	29,538	858	16,476	899	13,062	806
35 to 44 years	27,001	1,039	15,210	1,143	11,791	925
45 to 54 years	24,954	1,058	13,630	1,184	11,323	926
55 years and over	25,141	991	13,846	1,143	11,295	854
55 to 64 years	19,997	999	10,853	1,153	9,145	855
65 years and over	5,144	966	2,993	1,079	2,151	846
White						
16 years and over	90,557	943	51,479	1,025	39,078	843
16 to 24 years	8,940	580	5,060	609	3,880	541
25 years and over	81,617	998	46,419	1,104	35,198	895
25 to 54 years	61,309	988	34,962	1,070	26,347	901
55 years and over	20,309	1,030	11,457	1,183	8,851	877
Black or African American						
16 years and over	15,843	727	7,552	768	8,291	683
16 to 24 years	1,650	527	811	577	839	512
25 years and over	14,193	758	6,741	817	7,452	707
25 to 54 years	11,227	756	5,357	824	5,871	702
55 years and over	2,965	771	1,384	798	1,581	723
Asian						
16 years and over	7,773	1,247	4,356	1,360	3,417	1,138
16 to 24 years	512	683	274	710	238	652
25 years and over	7,261	1,299	4,082	1,440	3,179	1,158
25 to 54 years	5,944	1,356	3,372	1,479	2,572	1,230
55 years and over	1,318	991	711	1,237	607	865
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over	21,472	718	12,783	757	8,688	661
16 to 24 years	2,757	546	1,596	578	1,161	519
25 years and over	18,715	749	11,187	785	7,528	697
25 to 54 years	15,692	745	9,436	783	6,256	694
55 years and over	3,022	762	1,751	797	1,271	708
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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

Opportunities and according		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Occupation and sex	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	
TOTAL					
Management, professional, and related occupations	48,739	50,175	\$1,243	\$1,322	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	19,658	20,550	1,348	1,421	
Professional and related occupations	29,081	29,624	1,184	1,246	
Service occupations	16,969	17,195	573	595	
Sales and office occupations	24,265	23,661	757	764	
Sales and related occupations	10,467	9,883	828	824	
Office and administrative support occupations	13,798	13,778	726	741	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11,806	11,789	813	875	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations		879	578	576	
Construction and extraction occupations		6,476	811	879	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,351	4,434	900	933	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	15,406	15,539	700	724	
Production occupations		7,862	705	738	
Transportation and material moving occupations		7,677	695	710	
Men	,	,			
Management, professional, and related occupations	23,792	24,327	1,460	1,533	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1	11,074	1,530	1,570	
Professional and related occupations	· ·	13,253	1,412	1,495	
Service occupations		8,297	642	658	
Sales and office occupations.		9,640	869	854	
Sales and related occupations.		5,481	960	955	
Office and administrative support occupations		4,159	758	764	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	· ·	11,250	821	883	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations		683	595	595	
Construction and extraction occupations		6,294	813	881	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		4,273	903	933	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	1	12,141	756	774	
Production occupations.		5,685	768	804	
Transportation and material moving occupations		6,456	741	745	
Women	3,	0,100			
Women Management, professional, and related occupations	24.947	25,847	1,084	1,143	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations		9,477	1,146	1,230	
			· ·		
Professional and related occupations		16,371 8,898	1,044 514	1,092 552	
Service occupations		14,021	710	716	
Sales and office occupations		4,402	692	671	
Office and administrative support occupations.	1	9,619	714	731	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations		539	616	667	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.		196	482	504	
Construction and extraction occupations.		182	723	708	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.		161	843	927	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		3,398	545	597	
Production occupations.		2,177	554	593	
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,293	1,221	525	603	

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, 3rd quarter 2019 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	Number of	Upper limit of:						
Characteristic	workers (in thousands)	First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile		
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY								
Total, 16 years and over	118,358	\$461	\$611	\$919	\$1,462	\$2,275		
Men	65,655	491	662	1,002	1,609	2,481		
Women	52,703	419	574	825	1,275	1,903		
White	90,557	475	626	943	1,488	2,285		
Men	51,479	499	683	1,025	1,642	2,490		
Women	39,078	424	581	843	1,311	1,913		
Black or African American	15,843	401	535	727	1,116	1,641		
Men	7,552	415	571	768	1,157	1,848		
Women	8,291	390	514	683	1,056	1,524		
Asian	7,773	516	761	1,247	1,942	2,908		
Men	4,356	546	824	1,360	2,277	3,120		
Women	3,417	496	691	1,138	1,745	2,382		
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	21,472	408	526	718	1,064	1,631		
Men	12,783	449	558	757	1,133	1,740		
Women	8,688	380	498	661	964	1,473		
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT								
Total, 25 years and over		488	651	975	1,533	2,308		
Less than a high school diploma	1	367	476	606	783	1,076		
High school graduates, no college ¹	1	422	548	749	1,090	1,535		
Some college or associate degree		486	619	874	1,258	1,764		
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	1	658	919	1,383	2,064	2,977		
Bachelor's degree only	1	615	849	1,281	1,900	2,768		
Advanced degree	17,008	769	1,057	1,559	2,307	3,454		
Men, 25 years and over	59,162	516	706	1,070	1,707	2,526		
Less than a high school diploma	4,962	404	515	654	855	1,180		
High school graduates, no college ¹	16,262	484	604	857	1,230	1,738		
Some college or associate degree	14,586	527	707	997	1,426	1,924		
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	23,353	699	1,005	1,573	2,352	3,484		
Bachelor's degree only	1 '	656	931	1,456	2,194	3,121		
Advanced degree	8,290	836	1,194	1,875	2,739	3,922		
Women, 25 years and over	1 '	448	601	877	1,352	1,970		
Less than a high school diploma		312	392	501	642	797		
High school graduates, no college ¹		383	491	629	861	1,167		
Some college or associate degree	l l	444	574	755	1,058	1,476		
Bachelor's degree and higher ²		625	853	1,227	1,765	2,476		
Bachelor's degree only	1	589	780	1,136	1,634	2,287		
Advanced degree	8,718	736	975	1,350	1,910	2,892		

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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 language data.

of January data.

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

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

Characteristic		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Characteristic	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	3rd 2018	3rd 2019	
SEX AND AGE					
Total, 16 years and over	23,327	23,637	\$281	\$285	
Men, 16 years and over	7,871	8,266	270	268	
16 to 24 years	3,223	3,405	216	216	
25 years and over	4,649	4,861	321	309	
Women, 16 years and over	15,456	15,371	287	296	
16 to 24 years	4,464	4,428	210	225	
25 years and over	10,992	10,943	326	339	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX					
White	18,313	18,684	283	289	
Men	6,092	6,440	268	272	
Women	12,221	12,245	292	299	
Black or African American	2,703	2,492	259	261	
Men	944	1,014	272	252	
Women	1,759	1,478	252	267	
Asian	1,262	1,436	305	315	
Men	439	449	313	269	
Women	823	987	302	345	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,251	4,107	276	286	
Men	1,438	1,362	272	278	
Women	2,813	2,745	278	289	

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.