



NEWS RELEASE



SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE
Atlanta, Ga.

For release: Thursday, March 31, 2011

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro4
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

HIGHLIGHTS OF HUNTSVILLE-DECATUR, ALA. NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY – MAY 2010

Workers in the Huntsville-Decatur metropolitan area earned an average of \$22.06 per hour in May 2010, 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 \$42.86 for computer and mathematical science occupations and \$34.32 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$14.35. The NCS data available for the Huntsville area include earnings for 19 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Computer software engineers for systems software, part of the computer and mathematical science occupational group, earned \$51.23 per hour, while computer systems analysts earned \$48.30 per hour. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, an occupation within the healthcare practitioner and technical occupations group, averaged \$17.66 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, general office clerks registered an average hourly rate of \$11.90, and stock clerks and order fillers earned \$10.23 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$23.77 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.48. Union workers earned \$21.90 and non-union workers, \$22.07. Workers in establishments with 1-99 employees averaged \$19.29 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 employees earned \$20.74 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees averaged \$27.67.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm.

The NCS data reported here covered 318 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 226,300 workers in the Huntsville-Decatur Combined Statistical Area (CSA), which is comprised of Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in Alabama.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Huntsville-Decatur, AL National Compensation Survey, May 2010, 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. EDT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Huntsville-Decatur, AL CSA, May 2010**

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	\$22.06	3.3	\$23.77	3.9	\$10.48	4.8
Management occupations	43.62	10.1	43.62	10.1	—	—
Education administrators	38.10	5.8	38.10	5.8	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	36.39	4.7	36.39	4.7	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	25.42	5.8	25.42	5.8	—	—
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	25.16	6.5	25.16	6.5	—	—
Management analysts	41.22	5.0	41.22	5.0	—	—
Accountants and auditors	30.96	12.5	30.96	12.5	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	42.86	2.8	43.00	2.9	—	—
Computer programmers	30.37	8.8	—	—	—	—
Computer software engineers	47.48	3.2	48.14	2.4	—	—
Computer software engineers, applications	40.32	6.1	41.68	5.4	—	—
Computer software engineers, systems software	51.23	1.2	51.32	1.4	—	—
Computer systems analysts	48.30	2.3	—	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	42.90	2.3	42.90	2.3	—	—
Engineers	50.08	1.3	50.08	1.3	—	—
Aerospace engineers	52.58	6.9	52.58	6.9	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	25.23	4.3	25.23	4.3	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	25.70	12.6	25.70	12.6	—	—
Community and social services occupations	19.06	5.2	—	—	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	29.91	1.8	29.91	1.8	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	34.54	.2	34.54	.2	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	33.34	.8	33.34	.8	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	25.69	11.8	26.18	11.3	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	34.32	18.1	35.23	18.7	22.78	9.3
Registered nurses	28.79	6.0	28.95	6.3	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.66	1.9	17.59	2.4	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	11.59	7.0	12.08	4.9	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.32	3.9	10.81	2.2	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.55	2.6	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	12.63	7.8	12.93	7.0	—	—
Protective service occupations	18.33	12.3	18.47	12.0	—	—
Police officers	21.53	9.1	21.53	9.1	—	—
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	21.53	9.1	21.53	9.1	—	—
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	10.01	12.2	—	—	—	—
Security guards	10.01	12.2	—	—	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.97	2.2	8.55	2.3	7.35	1.0
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	14.96	6.4	14.96	6.4	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	14.96	6.4	14.96	6.4	—	—
Cooks	9.75	3.7	10.33	4.9	—	—
Food service, tipped	4.32	15.9	2.93	22.7	6.41	7.1
Waiters and waitresses	3.42	29.3	2.21	.7	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	7.75	1.1	—	—	7.64	.8
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.76	1.0	—	—	7.65	.8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.82	4.1	10.97	4.1	—	—
Building cleaning workers	10.53	4.6	10.67	4.5	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.76	4.4	10.94	4.1	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Huntsville-Decatur, AL CSA, May 2010** — 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)
Personal care and service occupations	\$12.04	24.1	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	15.82	6.4	\$17.71	7.0	\$9.39	8.1
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	20.31	8.7	20.31	8.7	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	20.31	8.7	20.31	8.7	—	—
Retail sales workers	11.52	6.5	12.50	6.8	9.10	7.7
Cashiers, all workers	10.39	4.3	11.40	8.0	8.22	1.2
Cashiers	10.39	4.3	11.40	8.0	8.22	1.2
Retail salespersons	11.85	7.4	12.81	9.5	9.55	7.6
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	30.40	29.2	30.40	29.2	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	14.35	3.3	14.87	3.4	10.74	5.6
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	21.93	14.0	21.93	14.0	—	—
Financial clerks	12.75	5.1	13.26	5.0	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	12.30	9.5	13.84	7.2	—	—
Customer service representatives	16.14	11.1	16.20	11.3	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.31	8.7	—	—	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	10.23	1.2	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	16.23	6.2	16.58	6.3	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	18.10	9.0	18.10	9.0	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	14.61	7.7	15.05	6.6	—	—
Office clerks, general	11.90	3.4	12.05	4.7	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	16.98	6.7	17.23	7.6	—	—
Electricians	21.88	9.7	21.88	9.7	—	—
Helpers, construction trades	11.32	1.3	—	—	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	19.08	8.6	19.08	8.6	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	18.01	9.4	18.01	9.4	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	21.93	7.8	21.93	7.8	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	16.38	12.3	16.38	12.3	—	—
Production occupations	15.42	2.9	16.42	3.1	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	24.88	5.0	24.88	5.0	—	—
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	11.96	5.0	13.16	7.6	—	—
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	—	—	11.61	4.0	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	16.13	7.0	17.64	7.7	—	—
Team assemblers	19.85	13.5	19.85	13.5	—	—
Machine tool cutting setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	14.48	16.2	14.48	16.2	—	—
Miscellaneous metalworkers and plastic workers	13.65	11.6	13.65	11.6	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	18.05	4.8	18.23	4.8	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	11.97	6.3	12.00	6.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	12.89	5.7	13.56	5.1	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	12.56	10.4	13.72	8.9	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	14.10	9.3	14.40	10.8	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	13.65	3.6	14.27	4.8	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.27	9.4	11.56	8.2	—	—

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.