



Technical information: (202) 691-6378
<http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

USDL 07-0560

For release: 10:00 A.M. EDT
Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Media contact: 691-5902

USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS: FIRST QUARTER 2007

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 105.9 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$693 in the first quarter of 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. This was 3.7 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 2.4 percent in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

Data on usual 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.) Highlights from the first-quarter data are:

- Women who usually worked full time had median earnings of \$615 per week, or 81.0 percent of the \$759 median for men. The female-to-male earnings ratios were higher among blacks (92.3 percent), Hispanics or Latinos (90.6 percent), and Asians (86.0 percent) than among whites (79.8 percent). (See table 1.)
- Median earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$585 per week, 74.7 percent of the median for white men (\$783). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$540) were 86.4 percent of those for their white counterparts (\$625). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics or Latinos who worked full time (\$502) were lower than those of blacks (\$561), whites (\$714), and Asians (\$798). (See table 1.)
- Among men, those age 55 to 64 years old had the highest median weekly earnings (\$933). Among women, earnings were highest for those age 55 to 64 (\$685) and age 45 to 54 (\$680). (See table 2.)
- Among the major occupational groups, persons employed full time in managerial, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,162 for men and \$846 for women. Men and women in service jobs earned the least. (See table 3.)
- Full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$429, compared with \$602 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,030 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 \$2,924 or more per week, compared with \$1,980 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 4.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides the 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 wages and salaries. 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; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

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 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.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the "Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error" section of *Employment and Earnings*.

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 estimating 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, e.g., \$250, \$300, \$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) dollars.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This 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 and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 1. 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			
	I 2006	I 2007	In current dollars		In constant (1982) dollars	
			I 2006	I 2007	I 2006	I 2007
SEX AND AGE						
Total, 16 years and over	103,469	105,888	\$668	\$693	\$324	\$328
Men, 16 years and over	57,950	59,052	744	759	361	359
16 to 24 years	5,886	6,102	417	451	202	214
25 years and over	52,065	52,951	793	811	385	384
Women, 16 years and over	45,519	46,836	600	615	291	291
16 to 24 years	4,492	4,632	388	414	188	196
25 years and over	41,027	42,203	624	646	303	306
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX						
White	83,710	85,359	688	714	334	338
Men	48,039	48,802	763	783	370	371
Women	35,670	36,557	607	625	295	296
Black or African American	12,536	13,007	560	561	272	266
Men	5,920	6,135	577	585	280	277
Women	6,616	6,872	542	540	263	256
Asian	4,849	5,146	766	798	371	378
Men	2,695	2,845	932	864	452	409
Women	2,154	2,301	663	743	322	352
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	15,285	16,037	487	502	237	238
Men	9,701	10,092	506	520	246	246
Women	5,584	5,946	438	471	213	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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Beginning in January 2007, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table 2. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, first quarter 2007 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	105,888	\$693	59,052	\$759	46,836	\$615
16 to 24 years	10,734	430	6,102	451	4,632	414
16 to 19 years	1,405	357	839	384	566	324
20 to 24 years	9,330	453	5,263	475	4,067	431
25 years and over	95,154	733	52,951	811	42,203	646
25 to 54 years	79,065	726	44,297	795	34,768	645
25 to 34 years	25,323	646	14,467	688	10,856	607
35 to 44 years	27,088	757	15,456	865	11,632	659
45 to 54 years	26,654	777	14,374	884	12,281	680
55 years and over	16,089	767	8,654	901	7,435	654
55 to 64 years	13,895	802	7,341	933	6,554	685
65 years and over	2,194	575	1,312	655	882	503
White						
16 years and over	85,359	714	48,802	783	36,557	625
16 to 24 years	8,774	432	5,104	457	3,670	412
25 years and over	76,585	754	43,699	843	32,886	664
25 to 54 years	62,931	748	36,225	826	26,706	662
55 years and over	13,654	799	7,474	936	6,181	673
Black or African American						
16 years and over	13,007	561	6,135	585	6,872	540
16 to 24 years	1,336	402	680	404	656	398
25 years and over	11,672	587	5,455	614	6,216	563
25 to 54 years	10,136	586	4,766	613	5,370	560
55 years and over	1,536	591	689	624	847	575
Asian						
16 years and over	5,146	798	2,845	864	2,301	743
16 to 24 years	302	574	146	578	156	570
25 years and over	4,844	827	2,698	896	2,145	757
25 to 54 years	4,192	836	2,334	898	1,858	763
55 years and over	652	767	364	856	288	689
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over	16,037	502	10,092	520	5,946	471
16 to 24 years	2,416	393	1,569	403	847	367
25 years and over	13,622	525	8,523	565	5,099	494
25 to 54 years	12,263	530	7,710	566	4,553	496
55 years and over	1,359	505	812	530	546	472

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Beginning in January 2007, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table 3. 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	
	I 2006	I 2007	I 2006	I 2007
TOTAL				
Management, professional, and related occupations	37,912	39,139	\$954	\$976
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	15,591	16,389	1,029	1,042
Professional and related occupations	22,321	22,750	911	936
Service occupations	13,981	14,050	419	451
Sales and office occupations	25,048	25,748	588	597
Sales and related occupations	10,005	10,717	635	645
Office and administrative support occupations	15,043	15,031	565	577
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11,739	12,180	650	672
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	611	657	405	341
Construction and extraction occupations	6,813	7,164	618	659
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,315	4,359	746	730
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	14,790	14,772	552	563
Production occupations	8,252	7,933	545	568
Transportation and material moving occupations	6,538	6,839	562	558
Men				
Management, professional, and related occupations	18,683	18,855	1,160	1,162
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	8,591	8,829	1,242	1,244
Professional and related occupations	10,092	10,026	1,119	1,135
Service occupations	6,963	7,054	500	516
Sales and office occupations	9,379	9,946	696	715
Sales and related occupations	5,631	6,025	758	769
Office and administrative support occupations	3,748	3,921	620	635
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11,287	11,741	656	677
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	515	548	422	340
Construction and extraction occupations	6,641	7,028	618	662
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,131	4,165	750	732
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11,639	11,457	591	606
Production occupations	5,904	5,627	601	630
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,735	5,830	580	584
Women				
Management, professional, and related occupations	19,229	20,284	816	846
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	7,000	7,561	851	872
Professional and related occupations	12,229	12,724	795	832
Service occupations	7,019	6,996	382	395
Sales and office occupations	15,669	15,802	532	539
Sales and related occupations	4,373	4,692	492	494
Office and administrative support occupations	11,296	11,110	546	557
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	452	439	514	512
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	96	109	(¹)	346
Construction and extraction occupations	172	136	588	497
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	184	194	653	708
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	3,151	3,315	426	431
Production occupations	2,348	2,306	423	434
Transportation and material moving occupations	803	1,009	436	423

¹ Data not shown where base is less than 100,000.

NOTE: Beginning in January 2007, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table 4. Quartiles and selected deciles of usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, first quarter 2007 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	105,888	\$327	\$462	\$693	\$1,055	\$1,585
Men	59,052	358	500	759	1,176	1,832
Women	46,836	304	416	615	926	1,328
White	85,359	336	477	714	1,087	1,629
Men	48,802	371	515	783	1,214	1,869
Women	36,557	308	422	625	938	1,338
Black or African American	13,007	297	392	561	828	1,210
Men	6,135	307	406	585	874	1,257
Women	6,872	290	377	540	782	1,175
Asian	5,146	349	501	798	1,325	1,896
Men	2,845	366	518	864	1,487	2,114
Women	2,301	335	484	743	1,111	1,591
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	16,037	285	359	502	756	1,134
Men	10,092	296	381	520	781	1,164
Women	5,946	266	322	471	707	1,052
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Total, 25 years and over	95,154	346	491	733	1,123	1,651
Less than a high school diploma	9,017	269	327	429	607	833
High school graduates, no college ¹	27,686	316	425	602	866	1,182
Some college or associate degree	25,457	364	497	710	1,006	1,403
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	32,994	509	724	1,030	1,549	2,215
Bachelor's degree only	21,649	486	671	956	1,419	1,978
Advanced degree	11,344	613	843	1,206	1,831	2,521
Men, 25 years and over	52,951	383	539	811	1,244	1,882
Less than a high school diploma	6,082	289	363	480	659	890
High school graduates, no college ¹	15,898	362	491	684	972	1,305
Some college or associate degree	13,384	408	583	806	1,157	1,547
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	17,586	577	807	1,200	1,838	2,508
Bachelor's degree only	11,548	523	750	1,108	1,647	2,296
Advanced degree	6,039	663	941	1,429	2,078	2,924
Women, 25 years and over	42,203	315	440	646	958	1,370
Less than a high school diploma	2,935	233	290	368	491	684
High school graduates, no college ¹	11,787	290	379	511	708	964
Some college or associate degree	12,073	326	442	612	863	1,154
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	15,407	481	652	908	1,263	1,753
Bachelor's degree only	10,102	447	608	842	1,171	1,602
Advanced degree	5,305	587	762	1,043	1,449	1,980

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Beginning in January 2007, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.

Table 5. 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	
	I 2006	I 2007	I 2006	I 2007
SEX AND AGE				
Total, 16 years and over	22,375	22,369	\$200	\$211
Men, 16 years and over	7,241	7,172	188	199
16 to 24 years	3,731	3,572	147	150
25 years and over	3,509	3,600	253	273
Women, 16 years and over	15,134	15,197	208	216
16 to 24 years	4,572	4,637	136	152
25 years and over	10,562	10,560	250	259
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX				
White	19,044	18,896	204	211
Men	6,099	5,987	191	198
Women	12,944	12,909	211	217
Black or African American	2,032	2,071	173	206
Men	692	685	170	199
Women	1,340	1,386	175	209
Asian	783	815	219	237
Men	248	281	205	233
Women	535	534	225	240
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2,590	2,581	197	203
Men	1,042	954	195	221
Women	1,548	1,627	198	195

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Beginning in January 2007, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.