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## USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS SECOND QUARTER 2011

**Median weekly earnings** of the nation's 100.6 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$753 in the second quarter of 2011 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 1.8 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 3.4 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 \$756 in the second quarter of 2011, little changed from the previous quarter (\$749). (See table 1.)
- On a not seasonally adjusted basis, **median weekly earnings** were \$753 in the second quarter of 2011. **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$689, or 83.5 percent of the \$825 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **female-to-male earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 82.9 percent of their male counterparts, compared with black (88.0 percent), Asian (77.0 percent), and Hispanic women (89.4 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$673 per week, 79.2 percent of the median for white men (\$850). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$592) were 84.0 percent of those for white women (\$705). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$565) were lower than those of blacks (\$623), whites (\$770), and Asians (\$872). (See table 2.)
- Usual weekly earnings of full-time workers varied by **age**. Among men, those age 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 had the highest median weekly earnings, \$974 and \$1,001, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64; weekly earnings were \$742 for women age 35 to 44, \$734 for women age 45 to 54, and \$753 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$433. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,268 for men and \$931 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$544 and \$439, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By **educational attainment**, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$458, compared with \$643 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,141 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 \$3,144 or more per week, compared with \$2,368 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](http://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](http://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**

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 \$
<b>2002</b>									
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
<b>2003</b>									
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
<b>2004</b>									
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
<b>2005</b>									
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
<b>2006</b>									
1st Quarter.....	104,708	58,960	45,748	662	737	594	332	370	298
2nd Quarter.....	105,798	59,831	45,966	663	732	597	329	364	296
3rd Quarter.....	107,041	60,060	46,981	678	755	603	334	372	297
4th Quarter.....	106,847	60,140	46,707	681	748	607	337	370	300
<b>2007</b>									
1st Quarter.....	107,134	60,063	47,072	687	751	609	336	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	106,819	60,346	46,473	693	765	610	335	370	295
3rd Quarter.....	107,156	60,220	46,936	698	774	620	336	372	298
4th Quarter.....	108,251	60,571	47,680	700	774	614	332	368	292
<b>2008</b>									
1st Quarter.....	107,740	60,328	47,412	712	782	633	335	368	297
2nd Quarter.....	107,061	59,588	47,473	723	801	637	335	372	296
3rd Quarter.....	106,088	59,246	46,841	724	803	636	331	367	291
4th Quarter.....	105,711	58,601	47,109	727	807	646	340	378	302
<b>2009</b>									
1st Quarter.....	101,612	56,231	45,381	731	814	645	344	383	304
2nd Quarter.....	100,033	55,246	44,787	737	817	655	345	383	307
3rd Quarter.....	98,949	54,425	44,525	742	820	663	345	381	308
4th Quarter.....	98,702	54,534	44,168	747	825	665	345	380	307
<b>2010</b>									
1st Quarter.....	98,071	54,026	44,044	747	834	662	343	383	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,674	55,062	44,612	744	813	674	342	374	310
3rd Quarter.....	100,242	55,524	44,718	745	822	668	342	377	306
4th Quarter.....	100,132	55,620	44,512	751	829	675	342	378	307
<b>2011</b>									
1st Quarter.....	99,698	55,312	44,385	749	820	679	337	369	306
2nd Quarter.....	100,397	55,845	44,552	756	828	689	337	369	307

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 2010	2nd 2011	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars	
			2nd 2010	2nd 2011	2nd 2010	2nd 2011
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>						
Total, 16 years and over.....	99,798	100,593	\$740	\$753	\$340	\$334
Men, 16 years and over.....	55,235	56,053	810	825	372	366
16 to 24 years.....	4,765	5,009	442	446	203	198
25 years and over.....	50,470	51,045	861	884	395	392
Women, 16 years and over.....	44,562	44,539	672	689	308	305
16 to 24 years.....	3,784	3,661	417	417	191	185
25 years and over.....	40,778	40,878	704	720	323	319
<b>RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX</b>						
White.....	80,890	81,516	756	770	347	341
Men.....	45,771	46,572	838	850	384	377
Women.....	35,119	34,944	682	705	313	312
Black or African American.....	11,659	11,612	607	623	278	276
Men.....	5,431	5,376	632	673	290	298
Women.....	6,228	6,236	585	592	268	263
Asian.....	5,032	5,181	873	872	400	387
Men.....	2,836	2,872	901	972	413	431
Women.....	2,196	2,308	854	748	392	332
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	14,908	15,472	529	565	243	251
Men.....	9,275	9,649	542	586	249	260
Women.....	5,633	5,823	514	524	236	233

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 2011 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
<b>TOTAL</b>						
16 years and over.....	100,593	\$753	56,053	\$ 825	44,539	\$689
16 to 24 years.....	8,670	433	5,009	446	3,661	417
16 to 19 years.....	968	349	602	370	366	321
20 to 24 years.....	7,702	451	4,407	460	3,295	432
25 years and over.....	91,923	794	51,045	884	40,878	720
25 to 54 years.....	73,568	780	41,136	863	32,433	714
25 to 34 years.....	24,309	704	13,863	730	10,446	675
35 to 44 years.....	23,838	837	13,564	926	10,274	742
45 to 54 years.....	25,421	859	13,709	974	11,712	734
55 years and over.....	18,355	854	9,909	965	8,446	744
55 to 64 years.....	15,563	887	8,318	1,001	7,246	753
65 years and over.....	2,791	709	1,591	725	1,200	692
<b>White</b>						
16 years and over.....	81,516	770	46,572	850	34,944	705
16 to 24 years.....	7,180	439	4,271	450	2,909	419
25 years and over.....	74,336	822	42,302	909	32,034	735
25 to 54 years.....	58,984	806	33,833	887	25,151	728
55 years and over.....	15,352	888	8,469	996	6,883	762
<b>Black or African American</b>						
16 years and over.....	11,612	623	5,376	673	6,236	592
16 to 24 years.....	930	405	450	398	480	412
25 years and over.....	10,682	650	4,926	698	5,756	610
25 to 54 years.....	8,870	643	4,106	689	4,763	609
55 years and over.....	1,813	694	820	751	992	615
<b>Asian</b>						
16 years and over.....	5,181	872	2,872	972	2,308	748
16 to 24 years.....	306	504	146	564	160	473
25 years and over.....	4,874	909	2,726	992	2,148	768
25 to 54 years.....	4,007	933	2,257	1,018	1,750	789
55 years and over.....	867	807	469	903	399	713
<b>Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>						
16 years and over.....	15,472	565	9,649	586	5,823	524
16 to 24 years.....	1,866	412	1,231	416	635	404
25 years and over.....	13,606	597	8,418	615	5,188	557
25 to 54 years.....	11,995	598	7,464	617	4,531	551
55 years and over.....	1,611	585	954	578	657	590

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 2010	2nd 2011	2nd 2010	2nd 2011
<b>TOTAL</b>				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	38,759	39,877	\$1,050	\$1,069
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	15,501	16,122	1,141	1,149
Professional and related occupations.....	23,257	23,754	999	1,019
Service occupations.....	14,870	14,233	486	489
Sales and office occupations.....	23,406	23,070	623	645
Sales and related occupations.....	9,080	9,235	662	674
Office and administrative support occupations.....	14,326	13,835	612	629
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,120	10,015	712	725
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	777	743	410	438
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,141	5,169	694	719
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,202	4,104	791	796
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	12,644	13,398	612	610
Production occupations.....	6,639	7,011	608	617
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,005	6,387	618	601
<b>Men</b>				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	18,920	19,209	1,229	1,268
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	8,484	8,775	1,334	1,371
Professional and related occupations.....	10,436	10,434	1,164	1,199
Service occupations.....	7,709	7,430	533	544
Sales and office occupations.....	8,802	8,940	720	739
Sales and related occupations.....	4,947	5,099	826	770
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3,856	3,841	616	693
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	9,712	9,650	722	729
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	610	622	425	445
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,035	5,095	698	721
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,066	3,933	795	796
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	10,092	10,824	656	652
Production occupations.....	4,910	5,258	673	674
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5,182	5,566	643	626
<b>Women</b>				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	19,838	20,667	920	931
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	7,017	7,347	958	961
Professional and related occupations.....	12,821	13,320	902	908
Service occupations.....	7,161	6,803	433	439
Sales and office occupations.....	14,604	14,130	595	606
Sales and related occupations.....	4,133	4,137	521	576
Office and administrative support occupations.....	10,470	9,994	611	615
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	408	365	540	636
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	167	121	372	385
Construction and extraction occupations.....	106	74	587	688
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	135	171	697	775
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	2,551	2,574	465	484
Production occupations.....	1,729	1,753	469	494
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	822	820	451	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 2011 averages, not seasonally adjusted**

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)	Upper limit of:				
		First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
<b>SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY</b>						
Total, 16 years and over.....	100,593	\$361	\$ 498	\$ 753	\$1,160	\$1,774
Men.....	56,053	379	523	825	1,294	1,915
Women.....	44,539	345	472	689	1,013	1,495
White.....	81,516	366	508	770	1,184	1,840
Men.....	46,572	382	537	850	1,336	1,964
Women.....	34,944	348	482	705	1,030	1,527
Black or African American.....	11,612	332	421	623	918	1,300
Men.....	5,376	332	448	673	958	1,348
Women.....	6,236	332	409	592	866	1,232
Asian.....	5,181	376	531	872	1,378	2,024
Men.....	2,872	402	595	972	1,537	2,305
Women.....	2,308	347	497	748	1,183	1,751
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	15,472	310	392	565	854	1,275
Men.....	9,649	316	400	586	899	1,368
Women.....	5,823	299	378	524	776	1,168
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>						
Total, 25 years and over.....	91,923	383	528	794	1,210	1,855
Less than a high school diploma.....	7,153	290	348	458	637	873
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	25,478	355	465	643	928	1,272
Some college or associate degree.....	25,266	388	516	743	1,054	1,472
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	34,026	571	772	1,141	1,733	2,476
Bachelor's degree only.....	21,810	520	730	1,043	1,548	2,204
Advanced degree.....	12,215	651	906	1,344	1,923	2,886
Men, 25 years and over.....	51,045	401	579	884	1,359	1,999
Less than a high school diploma.....	4,937	299	371	496	681	957
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	15,140	386	510	721	1,029	1,428
Some college or associate degree.....	13,054	418	585	838	1,190	1,650
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	17,914	597	878	1,314	1,905	2,843
Bachelor's degree only.....	11,692	562	800	1,169	1,758	2,490
Advanced degree.....	6,222	714	1,021	1,572	2,244	3,144
Women, 25 years and over.....	40,878	362	493	720	1,056	1,541
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,216	275	322	393	518	688
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	10,338	327	410	557	754	1,009
Some college or associate degree.....	12,213	363	478	656	924	1,218
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	16,112	537	725	988	1,432	2,016
Bachelor's degree only.....	10,119	497	677	924	1,318	1,880
Advanced degree.....	5,993	616	826	1,146	1,639	2,368

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 2010	2nd 2011	2nd 2010	2nd 2011
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>				
Total, 16 years and over.....	24,348	24,307	\$227	\$226
Men, 16 years and over.....	8,410	8,345	223	219
16 to 24 years.....	3,623	3,560	177	177
25 years and over.....	4,787	4,785	277	263
Women, 16 years and over.....	15,938	15,962	228	231
16 to 24 years.....	4,555	4,624	162	166
25 years and over.....	11,382	11,338	263	271
<b>RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX</b>				
White.....	20,174	20,163	229	229
Men.....	6,857	6,712	225	221
Women.....	13,317	13,451	230	235
Black or African American.....	2,595	2,487	211	206
Men.....	934	979	213	207
Women.....	1,661	1,508	211	206
Asian.....	922	1,027	253	260
Men.....	362	380	242	254
Women.....	560	647	260	264
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	3,333	3,317	233	229
Men.....	1,346	1,433	250	247
Women.....	1,987	1,883	223	218

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.