

Rankings of Full-Time Occupations, by Annual Earnings, July 2004

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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When occupations in the BLS National Compensation Survey are ranked by annual earnings, most of the highest paid occupations are found in the professional and executive occupational groups. The lowest paid occupations are found mostly in the service, administrative support, machine operators, and handlers groups.

In July 2004, annual pay averaged \$38,494 for full-time workers in private industry and State and local governments, according to data from the BLS [National Compensation Survey \(NCS\)](#). Physicians and airplane pilots and navigators topped the list of 427 occupations ranked by earnings, with average earnings of \$128,689 and \$128,406, respectively. The average annual earnings of these two occupations were not significantly different from those of the next three highest paid occupations--medical science teachers, judges, and optometrists. Due to the relatively high standard errors for these five occupations, users should exercise caution when making direct salary comparisons. (See table 1.)

These NCS results are based on findings of establishment-based surveys in a sample of 152 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The sample represents the Nation's 326 metropolitan statistical areas (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget in 1994) and the remaining portions of the 50 States. Agricultural, private household, and Federal Government workers are not included in the National Compensation Survey.¹

High-paying Occupations

Top 10 percent. Of the 43 occupations with annual earnings in the top 10 percent, 32 were in the professional major occupational group, 8 were in the executive group, 2 were in sales (securities and financial services sales occupations and sales engineers), and 1 was in the service group (firefighting supervisors). Of the 32 professional occupations, 10 were college or university teachers, with average annual earnings ranging from \$121,230 for medical science teachers to \$68,694 for English teachers. Workers in 5 of these 10 teaching positions had average annual earnings of at least \$77,509. (Table 2 shows the highest and lowest paying occupations within each major occupational group.)

Top 20 percent. The 86 occupations in the top 20 percent of the earnings array were dominated by positions in the professional and executive major occupational groups. (See table 1.) However, workers from other major groups begin to appear in these high-earnings deciles. For example, the precision production major group had 5 occupations ranked in the top 20 percent, with oil well drillers taking the 62nd spot and supervisory electricians and power transmission installers ranked 66th. Real estate sales workers and mining, manufacturing, and wholesale sales representatives also were in the top 20 percent (ranked 57th and 86th, respectively), as were police and detective supervisors (58th) from the service group. (See appendix A for an alphabetical index of the 427 occupations in table 1.)

Low-paying Occupations

Bottom 10 percent. Average annual earnings ranged from \$22,317 to \$8,789 for full-time workers in occupations at the bottom 10 percent of the wage ladder. About one-third of these 43 lowest paying positions were in the service major occupational group. The remaining two-thirds were mostly accounted for by the following major groups: administrative support, machine operators, handlers, and sales occupations. The low annual earnings for waiters and waitresses (\$8,789) in the service group may be misleading because the NCS does not include tips as part of wages. As a result, earnings for waiters and waitresses may be understated. Assistants to waiters and waitresses were ranked 426th, with average annual earnings of \$12,432. (Rates for some other low-ranked occupations, such as bartenders, baggage porters and bellhops, parking lot attendants, and taxicab drivers and chauffeurs, were similarly affected by the absence of information on tips.)

Earnings Dispersion

Average annual earnings varied considerably within and among major occupational groups. The following tabulation highlights the percentage spreads within each of the nine major occupational groups.²

Major occupational group	Percent by which highest paid occupation exceeds the lowest paid occupation within each of the nine major occupational groups
Professional and technical	767
Executive	418
Sales	387
Administrative support	193
Precision production	161
Machine operators	121
Transportation	194
Handlers	101
Service	681

The large spreads for professional and service jobs reflect the disparate jobs classified within these two major occupational groups. Substitute teachers, for example, are professional workers, but their average earnings are among the lowest, regardless of occupational group. When their earnings are compared with those of the highest ranked professional job (physicians) a wide gap is produced. Similarly, the large gap for the service group results when earnings of high-paid firefighting supervisors are compared with those of the lowest paid service occupation, waiters and waitresses. As noted previously, earnings for wait staff do not include tips. If the data for waiters and waitresses are excluded from the calculations, the earnings spread for the service group drops from 681 percent to 452 percent.

When the earnings estimates for the other (nonservice) occupational groups were recalculated to compare the average earnings of the highest paid occupation with the average earnings of the *second* lowest paid occupation in the group, the gap narrowed dramatically for the professional category (from 767 to 353 percent) and in the executive group (from 418 to 136 percent). Gaps for the remaining groups narrowed more moderately.

In addition to publishing *annual* salaries, the NCS publishes *hourly* wage rates for the occupations presented in this article. Ranking occupations by hourly rates produces some rather significant positional changes from the annual earnings rankings. Table 3 shows the rankings for the 25 highest paid occupations, in terms of both annual and hourly earnings. Physicians, who were ranked first in annual earnings, drop to 6th position when ranked on an hourly basis, which is below airplane pilots and navigators, economics teachers, law teachers, optometrists, and judges.

The annual-versus-hourly rankings particularly affect teaching occupations, where salaries are based on a contract year that generally requires several hundred fewer work hours annually than most full-time workers. Five teaching occupations are in the top 25 in terms of annual earnings positions. When the same occupations are ranked by hourly earnings, 12 appear in the top 25. Among the more noticeable shifts were theology teachers, moving from 67th place in the annual earnings ranking to 22nd place in the hourly ranking; computer science teachers (51st to 20th); and business, commerce, and marketing teachers (50th to 21st). All of the 12 high-paid college level teaching occupations moved up in rank when the hourly scale is used, with the exception of medical science teachers, who dropped from 3rd place in the annual array to 9th place in the hourly array. This drop reflects the 2,276 average annual hours reported for medical science teachers.

The average weekly work hours (39.3) of full-time college teachers are close to the average for all full-time workers (39.6). The shorter average annual work hours (1,602) for this group reflect a shorter work year (about 41 weeks). The work year for teachers below the college level (1,438 hours) reflects a combination of shorter average workweek (36.7 hours) and shorter work year (39 weeks).

The NCS classifies employees 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 workweek might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but a part-time employee in another firm, where a 40-hour workweek is the minimum full-time schedule.

BLS collects data on earnings and associated hours directly from employers—either through a personal interview or by telephone. Employers provide the appropriate hours information by accounting for all the duties of the occupation. The collection of hours data is more difficult for some occupations than for others, and in some cases an estimate must be accepted. In addition to flight hours, which are highly regulated and carefully recorded, airline pilots spend time preparing for flights. In the case of elementary and secondary school teachers, hours of work include preparation time, administrative time, and professional days. For college and university professors, research time and office hours are included with class time in the total number of hours worked.

Reliability Of The Data

The data in this article are estimates from a scientifically selected, probability sample. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey, sampling and nonsampling.

Sampling errors occur because observations come only from a sample and not from an entire population. The sample used for the National Compensation Survey is one of a number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the sample design. Estimates derived from different samples yield different results.

A measure of the variation among these differing estimates is called the standard error or sampling error. The standard error indicates the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The *relative* standard error is the standard error divided by the estimate. Table 1 includes the relative standard errors for all of the occupations in the table.

The standard error can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. As an example, the mean annual earnings for physicians were \$128,689, with a relative standard error of 12.5 percent. At the 90-percent level, the confidence interval for this estimate is \$102,227 to \$155,151.³ If all possible samples were selected to estimate the population value, the interval from each sample would include the true population value approximately 90 percent of the time. Because of the substantial sizes of the relative standard errors of some of the earnings estimates presented in this article, readers are advised to view the rankings with caution.

Nonsampling errors also affect survey results. They can stem from many sources, such as inability to obtain information for some establishments, difficulties with survey definitions, inability of the respondents to provide correct information, or mistakes in recording or coding the data obtained. In addition, estimates are accepted when exact data elements are not available and the respondent is confident that the estimates are reasonable (hours worked by teachers, for example). Although the nonsampling errors are not specifically measured, they are expected to be minimal due to the extensive training of the field economists who gather the survey data by personal visit or by telephone, computer edits of the data, and detailed data review.

The Major Occupational Groups

The NCS classifies workers according to the [Occupation Classification System](#), which is based on the 1990 Census of Population. BLS is in the process of switching to the 2000 [Standard Occupational Classification \(SOC\)](#) system, and the NCS expects to publish SOC-based data in 2006.

Following is a brief description of the nine major occupational groups, the types of occupations included in each group, and a general description of the duties and skills required to fill the positions:

Professional specialty and technical occupations. This major occupational group includes occupations concerned with the study, application, and/or administration of physical, mathematical, scientific, engineering, architectural, social, medical, legal statute, biological, behavioral, library, and/or religious laws, principles, practices, or theories. Some occupations are concerned with interpreting, informing, expressing, or promoting ideas, products, and so forth by written, artistic, sound, or physical mediums. Certain occupations that provide support in these fields are included in the professional group. Most professional occupations require educational preparation.⁴

Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations. Managers plan, organize, direct, and control the major functions of an industrial, commercial, or governmental establishment or department through subordinates who are at the managerial or supervisory level. Managers make decisions and establish objectives for the department or establishment; they are generally not directly concerned with the fabrication of products or with the provision of services. They possess knowledge of the day-to-day operation of the organization, but do not necessarily have the detailed knowledge required of a first-line supervisor. Most managers are classified in this major occupational group.

In the case of small establishments or departments, employees who plan, organize, direct, or control major functions may also perform functions normally assigned to supervisors, such as supervising lower level employees. These employees are classified as managers. This group also includes management-related workers who implement the establishment functions in support of management at the operational level. Examples of these specialized functions are analyzing financial records and policies, reviewing organizational structures and methods, purchasing goods for internal organizational use, and enforcing standards and regulations.

Sales. The sales major occupational group includes occupations concerned with the selling of goods and services or property, purchasing goods and services for resale, or conducting wholesale and retail business. Sales representatives or agents and sales workers require knowledge of the goods or services sold, along with the ability to demonstrate product or products, receive payments, and perform other sales-related activities. Supervisors who coordinate the activities of workers who buy and sell goods and services are included in this group. Sales clerks and cashiers who are primarily concerned with receiving and disbursing funds and require no special product knowledge are also included in this group.

Administrative support occupations, including clerical. This major occupational group includes all of the broad groups of occupations performing activities relating to preparing, transcribing, systematizing, and preserving written communications and records; collecting accounts; gathering and distributing information; operating office machines and electronic data processing equipment; storing, distributing, and accounting for stores of materials; operating telephone switchboards, distributing mail, and delivering messages; and performing other administrative and clerical support.

Precision production, craft, and repair. This group includes occupations involved in the fabricating, processing, inspecting, or repairing of material, products, or structural units. Incumbents must have a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of processes involved in their work, usually acquired through apprenticeship or intensive training. Workers must exercise considerable independent judgment and must usually display a high degree of manual dexterity. Helpers are excluded from this major occupational group, unless specifically included. However, apprentices who are learning a craft or trade through on-the-job training and a formal apprenticeship training program are included, unless specifically excluded.

Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors. Workers in this major occupational group set up and operate machinery, perform repetitive manual or machine operations, or tend and control machines as part of a fairly well-defined work routine in which some independent judgment or skill may be required.

Transportation and material moving occupations. This major occupational group covers workers concerned with activities that are in immediate support of the operation and performance of transportation vehicles used to transport people or material. It includes workers involved in the operation of material moving equipment that is stationary or has limited range. It also includes the supervisors of these workers.

Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers. Workers in this major occupational group perform unskilled, simple duties, primarily manual, that may be learned within a short period of time and that require little or no independent judgment.

These occupations ordinarily require little or no previous experience. Duties may require moderate to strenuous physical exertion.

Service occupations, except private households. This major occupational group includes occupations concerned with preparing and serving food and drinks in commercial, institutional, or other establishments, providing lodging and related services, providing grooming, cosmetic, and other personal and health care services for children and adults, providing protection for people and property, attending to the comfort or requests of patrons of amusement and recreation facilities, and performing cleaning and maintenance services to interiors of buildings. Workers in these occupations provide personal and protective services to individuals and commercial entities.

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Notes

1 For more information on the scope of the National Compensation Surveys, see the technical note in [National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States, July 2004](#), Bulletin 2576 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2005), Appendix A, pp. 151-54; available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/sp/ncbl0757.pdf>. The NCS website also provides comprehensive results from the 2004 survey.

2 The spreads are calculated by dividing the rate for the highest paying occupation by the lowest paying occupation within a major occupational group, multiplying the result by 100, and subtracting 100. For example, the percent spread for the professional group is calculated as follows: $\$128,689/14,841 = 8.67$; $(8.67 \times 100) - 100 = 767$ percent.

3 The confidence interval for physicians is calculated as follows: $\$128,689$ plus or minus 1.645 times 12.5 percent of the mean [that is, $1.645 \times .125 \times \$128,689 = \$26,462$]; $(\$128,689 + \$26,462 = \$155,151$; $\$128,689 - \$26,462 = \$102,227$).

4 The National Compensation Survey excludes individuals who set their own pay because their pay may not reflect market forces. These individuals may be owners, owner-managers, or bona fide partners. Physicians, lawyers, and accountants who set their own pay, or have a major influence in doing so, are typical examples of excluded individuals.

Table 1. Annual earnings of full-time(1) workers and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, July 2004

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings(2)		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group(3)
		Mean	Relative error (percent)(4)		
1	Physicians	\$128,689	12.5	2243	Professional
2	Airplane pilots and navigators	128,406	7.7	1083	Professional
3	Medical science teachers	121,230	6.6	2276	Professional
4	Judges	118,134	12.9	2058	Professional

Footnotes:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Earnings are straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and 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.
- (3) The National Compensation Survey classifies occupations into nine major groups. The full titles used are: (1) professional specialty and technical; (2) executive, administrative, and managerial; (3) sales; (4) administrative support, including clerical; (5) precision production, craft, and repair; (6) machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors; (7) transportation and material moving; (8) handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers; and (9) service occupations, except private households.
- (4) The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
5	Optometrists	116,403	18.2	1975	Professional
6	Lawyers	105,716	5.2	2174	Professional
7	Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	103,704	9.8	2131	Executive
8	Chief executives and general administrators, public administration	102,405	11.9	2057	Executive
9	Economics teachers	99,516	12.1	1555	Professional
10	Securities and financial services sales occupations	94,005	9.5	2068	Sales
11	Announcers	93,112	35.1	1938	Professional
12	Engineering teachers	92,358	6.3	1618	Professional
13	Petroleum engineers	89,981	8.3	2080	Professional
14	Law teachers	89,947	11.3	1526	Professional
15	Pharmacists	88,168	0.9	2065	Professional
16	Aerospace engineers	85,574	7.9	2083	Professional
17	Dentists	82,437	6.3	2142	Professional
18	Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	80,871	3.5	2142	Executive
19	Physicists and astronomers	80,039	10.2	2072	Professional
20	Electrical and electronic engineers	79,211	2.8	2117	Professional
21	Chemical engineers	78,645	4.4	2071	Professional
22	Financial managers	78,410	4.6	2105	Executive
23	Sales engineers	77,664	7.2	2171	Sales
24	Physics teachers	77,509	10.2	1442	Professional
25	Nuclear engineers	77,225	5.1	2080	Professional
26	Earth, environmental, and marine science teachers	76,353	10.3	1440	Professional
27	Engineers, n.e.c.	76,307	3	2085	Professional

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
28	Operations and systems researchers and analysts	73,460	4.4	2078	Professional
29	Computer systems analysts and scientists	73,327	2.2	2085	Professional
30	Health diagnosing practitioners, n.e.c.	72,453	9.1	2084	Professional
31	Other financial officers	72,319	6.6	2085	Executive
32	Actuaries	72,088	7.3	2179	Professional
33	Biological science teachers	71,935	11.4	1722	Professional
34	Economists	71,672	8.2	2171	Professional
35	Sociology teachers	71,656	14.1	1609	Professional
36	Physicians' assistants	71,297	5	2083	Professional
37	Managers, medicine and health	70,871	3.4	2078	Executive
38	Geologists and geodesists	70,665	7.6	2131	Professional
39	Personnel and labor relations managers	70,283	8.7	2073	Executive
40	Health specialties teachers	70,120	6.8	1720	Professional
41	Administrators, education and related fields	68,765	3.7	1912	Executive
42	English teachers	68,694	10.7	1540	Professional
43	Supervisors, firefighting and fire prevention occupations	68,673	5.5	2533	Service
44	Technical writers	68,601	10.9	2103	Professional
45	Architects	68,315	3.7	2100	Professional
46	Surveyors and mapping scientists	67,437	9.6	2084	Professional
47	Industrial engineers	67,280	2.2	2132	Professional
48	Mechanical engineers	67,143	2.6	2119	Professional
49	Social science teachers, n.e.c.	67,014	5.7	1613	Professional
50	Business, commerce, and marketing teachers	66,743	12.1	1565	Professional

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
51	Computer science teachers	66,340	15.5	1555	Professional
52	Purchasing managers	66,337	6.9	2104	Professional
53	Physical scientists, n.e.c.	66,241	8.3	2138	Professional
54	Professional occupations, n.e.c.	66,129	6.5	2030	Professional
55	Civil engineers	66,085	3.5	2092	Professional
56	Administrators and officials, public administration	65,828	2.6	2045	Executive
57	Real estate sales occupations	65,322	28.9	2073	Sales
58	Supervisors, police and detectives	64,461	3.1	2086	Service
59	Chemists, except biochemists	63,507	6	2073	Professional
60	Metallurgical and materials engineers	63,099	4.2	2094	Professional
61	Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	63,051	12.4	2045	Executive
62	Drillers, oil well	62,409	41.7	2439	Precision production
63	Agriculture and forestry teachers	62,401	22.6	1566	Professional
64	Mathematical science teachers	61,873	10.2	1543	Professional
65	History teachers	61,615	9.1	1616	Professional
66	Supervisors, electricians and power transmission installers	61,591	4.4	2091	Precision production
67	Theology teachers	61,088	6.9	1462	Professional
68	Psychology teachers	60,894	8.8	1629	Professional
69	Management analysts	60,622	4.7	2083	Executive
70	Computer programmers	60,229	6.8	2073	Professional
71	Actors and directors	60,006	15.9	2090	Professional
72	Agricultural and food scientists	58,890	7.1	2019	Professional
73	Education teachers	58,825	7	1534	Professional
74	Chemistry teachers	58,798	8.3	1565	Professional
75	Natural science teachers, n.e.c.	58,352	9.3	1458	Professional

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
76	Musicians and composers	58,337	13	1646	Professional
77	Supervisors, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	58,268	4.2	2032	Precision production
78	Physical therapists	58,201	1.6	2044	Professional
79	Railroad conductors and yardmasters	57,925	14.4	2216	Transportation
80	Public relations specialists	57,499	5.2	2051	Professional
81	Locomotive operating occupations	57,465	11.1	2120	Transportation
82	Biological and life scientists	57,076	14	2032	Professional
83	Power plant operators	56,437	3.4	2079	Precision production
84	Dental hygienists	56,387	4.1	1757	Professional
85	Supervisors, extractive occupations	56,228	18.2	2170	Precision production
86	Sales representative mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	55,982	3.6	2094	Sales
87	Athletes	55,934	13.9	2023	Professional
88	Aircraft engine mechanics	55,515	6.9	2081	Precision production
89	Buyers, wholesale and retail trade, except farm products	55,434	4.3	2083	Executive
90	Electrical power installers and repairers	55,377	2.6	2080	Precision production
91	Political science teachers	55,336	7	1588	Professional
92	Supervisors, carpenters and related workers	55,255	5.8	2110	Precision production
93	Brickmasons and stonemasons	54,980	6.8	2004	Precision production
94	Physical education teachers	54,660	5.9	1546	Professional
95	Urban planners	54,196	4.6	2052	Professional
96	Editors and reporters	54,001	12.3	2029	Professional
97	Mining occupations, n.e.c.	53,869	1.5	2048	Precision production
98	Foreign language teachers	53,763	13.9	1573	Professional
99	Aircraft mechanics, except engines	53,345	6.9	2080	Precision production

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
100	Registered nurses	53,289	1.3	2002	Professional
101	Sales occupations, other business services	52,542	5.8	2103	Sales
102	Art, drama, and music teachers	52,521	9	1498	Professional
103	Funeral directors	52,253	13.2	2303	Executive
104	Management related occupations, n.e.c.	52,188	2.1	2062	Executive
105	Telephone line installers and repairers	52,076	4.2	2064	Precision production
106	Trade and industrial teachers	52,059	9.1	1707	Professional
107	Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	51,957	6.3	2083	Executive
108	Electricians	51,916	2.2	2064	Precision production
109	Statisticians	51,716	10.3	2044	Professional
110	Medical scientists	51,615	4	2056	Professional
111	Underwriters	51,531	7	2026	Executive
112	Psychologists	51,508	6.4	1776	Professional
113	Purchasing agents and buyers, farm products	51,505	15.9	2048	Executive
114	Longshore equipment operators	51,379	11.4	1837	Transportation
115	Accountants and auditors	50,761	1.8	2073	Executive
116	Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	50,754	3.4	2134	Precision production
117	Librarians	50,596	4.3	1777	Professional
118	Sheetmetal duct installers	50,317	12.5	2080	Precision production
119	Occupational therapists	50,169	4.9	1983	Professional
120	Supervisors, agriculture-related workers	50,157	18.1	2110	Handlers
121	Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	50,150	2.8	2100	Executive
122	Police and detectives, public service	50,063	1	2073	Service
123	Social scientists, n.e.c.	49,708	11.6	1989	Professional

Footnotes:

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NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
124	Telephone installers and repairers	49,550	2.9	2079	Precision production
125	Insurance sales occupations	49,363	7.7	2094	Sales
126	Archivists and curators	48,913	9	1913	Professional
127	Mechanical engineering technicians	48,594	3.8	2090	Professional
128	Tool and die makers	48,388	3.5	2085	Precision production
129	Industrial engineering technicians	48,143	5.4	2092	Professional
130	Electrical and electronic technicians	48,119	14.8	2089	Professional
131	Business and promotion agents	48,107	8.9	2066	Executive
132	Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	47,989	3.5	2063	Professional
133	Radiologic technicians	47,653	2.9	2048	Professional
134	Construction inspectors	47,491	4.9	2062	Executive
135	Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	47,389	3.1	2064	Precision production
136	Firefighting occupations	47,364	3	2499	Service
137	Teachers, n.e.c.	47,193	2.4	1470	Professional
138	Vocational and educational counselors	47,124	4	1650	Professional
139	Millwrights	46,958	5.9	2075	Precision production
140	Mechanical controls and valve repairers	46,871	3.7	2080	Precision production
141	Teachers, special education	46,820	2.8	1390	Professional
142	Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	46,679	5.4	2288	Sales
143	Inspectors and compliance officers, except construction	46,667	3	2078	Executive
144	Supervisors, material moving equipment operators	46,578	4.1	2120	Transportation
145	Precision inspectors, testers, and related workers, n.e.c.	46,175	10	2080	Precision production
146	Secondary school teachers	46,038	1.4	1416	Professional
147	Stationary engineers	45,843	4.5	2065	Precision production

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NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
148	Painters, sculptors, craft artists, and artist printmakers	45,804	10.2	2034	Professional
149	Designers	45,756	6.6	2062	Professional
150	Street and door-to-door sales workers	45,485	21.5	2075	Sales
151	Electronic repairers, communications and industrial equipment	45,470	5.4	2077	Precision production
152	Elementary school teachers	45,296	1	1393	Professional
153	Supervisors, brickmasons, stonemasons and tilesetters	45,246	14.3	2080	Precision production
154	Speech therapists	45,197	7.8	1618	Professional
155	Advertising and related sales occupations	45,042	13.1	2038	Sales
156	Rail vehicle operators, n.e.c.	45,022	3.3	2080	Transportation
157	Supervisors, distribution, scheduling, and adjusting clerks	44,840	4.4	2081	Administrative support
158	Drafters	44,817	3.9	2082	Professional
159	Supervisors, painters, paperhangers, and plasterers	44,752	5.6	2100	Precision production
160	Supervisors, production occupations	44,631	2.2	2100	Precision production
161	Managers, food serving and lodging establishments	44,598	6.8	2191	Executive
162	Miscellaneous plant and systems operators, n.e.c.	44,525	6.2	2057	Precision production
163	Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.	44,496	4.9	2064	Precision production
164	Respiratory therapists	44,326	2.7	2019	Professional
165	Managers, properties and real estate	44,013	4.8	2059	Executive
166	Patternmakers and modelmakers, metal	43,616	9.6	2079	Precision production
167	Dietitians	43,603	4.5	2069	Professional

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
168	Chemical technicians	43,548	6.1	2071	Professional
169	Forestry and conservation scientists	43,282	10.1	2072	Professional
170	Supervisors, financial records processing	43,274	3.4	2036	Administrative support
171	Industrial machinery repairers	42,935	2.5	2072	Precision production
172	Chief communications operators	42,644	4.7	2080	Administrative support
173	Supervisors, sales occupations	42,640	3.9	2167	Sales
174	Tool programmers, numerical control	42,638	6.6	2080	Professional
175	Carpet installers	42,584	18.3	2080	Precision production
176	Science technicians, n.e.c.	42,536	10.3	2047	Professional
177	Technical and related occupations, n.e.c.	42,265	6.7	2074	Professional
178	Mining machine operators	42,242	11.2	2080	Precision production
179	Precision assemblers, metal	42,024	6.6	2080	Precision production
180	Data processing equipment repairers	41,987	9.5	2057	Precision production
181	Clergy	41,976	17.9	2395	Professional
182	Structural metal workers	41,975	6.2	2075	Precision production
183	Supervisors, guards	41,767	8.2	2057	Service
184	Ship captains and mates, except fishing boats	41,284	9.3	2319	Transportation
185	Tile setters, hard and soft	40,789	20.4	2071	Precision production
186	Machinists	40,736	2.6	2078	Precision production
187	Fire inspection and fire prevention occupations	40,703	15.9	2171	Service
188	Separating, filtering, and clarifying machine operators	40,659	5.2	2071	Machine operators
189	Legal assistants	40,493	4.9	1987	Professional
190	Water and sewer treatment plant operators	40,323	2.8	2080	Precision production

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NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
191	Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	40,219	2.5	2073	Service
192	Inspectors, testers and graders	40,214	3.2	2092	Precision production
193	Supervisors, general office	39,914	3.8	2050	Administrative support
194	Operating engineers	39,901	6.4	1938	Transportation
195	Supervisors, motor vehicle operators	39,791	6.1	2192	Transportation
196	Carpenters	39,688	4.1	2060	Precision production
197	Layout workers	39,476	17.2	2080	Precision production
198	Therapists, n.e.c.	39,385	12.2	2046	Professional
199	Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c.	39,260	8.1	2038	Handlers
200	Heavy equipment mechanics	39,252	3.3	2078	Precision production
201	Automobile mechanics	38,967	3.1	2097	Precision production
202	Sheetmetal workers	38,680	6.5	2051	Precision production
203	Tool and die maker apprentices	38,457	9.5	2080	Precision production
204	Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	37,935	4.5	2028	Administrative support
205	Supervisors, computer equipment operators	37,880	13.4	2039	Administrative support
206	Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	37,500	2.2	2083	Precision production
207	Patternmakers and modelmakers, wood	37,445	14.6	2080	Precision production
208	Production coordinators	37,378	3.5	2079	Administrative support
209	Marine engineers	37,254	16.5	2056	Transportation
210	Glaziers	37,092	6.9	2080	Precision production
211	Social workers	37,090	2.7	2007	Professional
212	Adjusters and calibrators	36,963	12.3	1967	Precision production
213	Biological technicians	36,884	3.7	2066	Professional
214	Proofreaders	36,686	18.2	2080	Administrative support

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Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
215	Concrete and terrazzo finishers	36,639	10.1	1977	Precision production
216	Meter readers	36,635	4.1	2080	Administrative support
217	Religious workers, n.e.c.	36,584	17.2	1948	Professional
218	Insulation workers	36,542	11.1	2071	Precision production
219	Precision grinders, filers, and tool sharpeners	36,538	7.7	2073	Precision production
220	Patternmakers, layout workers, and cutters	36,294	7	1948	Precision production
221	Sales workers, furniture and home furnishings	36,282	12.2	2181	Sales
222	Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	36,069	3.8	2024	Professional
223	Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics	36,057	3.3	2076	Precision production
224	Photoengravers and lithographers	35,918	4.4	2040	Machine operators
225	Correctional institution officers	35,618	6.4	2075	Service
226	Boilermakers	35,596	7.9	2075	Precision production
227	Stenographers	35,477	6	2003	Administrative support
228	Construction trades, n.e.c.	35,278	5.4	2011	Precision production
229	Dispatchers	35,115	5.7	2103	Administrative support
230	Supervisors, cleaning and building service workers	35,002	5.1	2060	Service
231	Recreation workers	34,998	6.3	1950	Professional
232	Health record technologists and technicians	34,781	7.6	2055	Professional
233	Crane and tower operators	34,762	7.9	2080	Transportation
234	Lathe and turning-machine operators	34,696	5	2078	Machine operators
235	Broadcast equipment operators	34,606	9	2045	Professional
236	Hand engraving and printing occupations	34,605	20.2	1983	Machine operators
237	Roofers	34,514	9.5	1948	Precision production
238	Expeditors	34,358	4.1	2054	Administrative support

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		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
239	Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	34,237	2.1	2067	Professional
240	Office machine repairers	34,193	11.6	2076	Precision production
241	Excavating and loading machine operators	34,184	4.5	2031	Transportation
242	Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	34,164	2.9	2051	Precision production
243	Lathe and turning-machine set-up operators	34,107	4.9	2080	Machine operators
244	Licensed practical nurses	34,073	1.4	2035	Professional
245	Photographers	34,048	11.4	2051	Professional
246	Welders and cutters	33,843	2.4	2073	Machine operators
247	Heat treating equipment operators	33,817	6.5	2066	Machine operators
248	Drywall installers	33,699	4.8	2066	Precision production
249	Grader, dozer, and scraper operators	33,568	5.2	2061	Transportation
250	Prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers	33,487	7.6	1672	Professional
251	Household appliance and power tool repairers	33,469	5.8	2090	Precision production
252	Automobile body and related repairers	33,285	3.7	2080	Precision production
253	Public transportation attendants	33,267	1.8	1030	Service
254	Printing press operators	33,251	2.2	2055	Machine operators
255	Surveying and mapping technicians	33,217	6.9	2067	Professional
256	Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	33,184	3.6	2074	Machine operators
257	Supervisors, personal service occupations	33,141	8.2	2095	Service
258	Material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	33,127	4.2	2069	Transportation
259	Payroll and timekeeping clerks	33,110	3.1	2061	Administrative support
260	Personnel clerks, except payroll and timekeeping	32,898	2.8	2068	Administrative support
261	Machinery maintenance occupations	32,891	4.6	2066	Precision production
262	Numerical control machine operators	32,849	3.8	2078	Machine operators

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		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
263	Weighers, measurers, checkers and samplers	32,729	6.9	2073	Administrative support
264	Computer operators	32,716	3.2	2063	Administrative support
265	Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	32,549	2.3	2066	Administrative support
266	Carpenter apprentices	32,542	7.9	2080	Precision production
267	Locksmiths and safe repairers	32,434	8.8	2149	Precision production
268	Truck drivers	32,395	2.2	2161	Transportation
269	Mixing and blending machine operators	32,358	5	2043	Machine operators
270	Secretaries	32,349	1	1994	Administrative support
271	Hand molders and shapers, except jewelers	32,285	13.1	2080	Precision production
272	Dental laboratory and medical appliance technicians	31,979	3.1	2059	Precision production
273	Miscellaneous precision workers, n.e.c.	31,693	8.1	2069	Precision production
274	Furnace, kiln and oven operators, except food	31,443	6.8	2068	Machine operators
275	Farm equipment mechanics	31,315	5.3	2154	Precision production
276	Electrician apprentices	31,292	3.9	2067	Precision production
277	Garbage collectors	31,284	8.2	2172	Handlers
278	Driver-sales workers	31,263	6.4	2104	Transportation
279	Sales workers, parts	31,069	5.9	2113	Sales
280	Small engine repairers	31,036	8.3	2062	Precision production
281	Sales support occupations, n.e.c.	30,999	6.5	2040	Sales
282	Statistical clerks	30,586	4.5	2041	Administrative support
283	Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	30,488	2.7	2048	Administrative support
284	Upholsterers	30,474	16.2	2080	Precision production
285	Eligibility clerks, social welfare	30,467	2.1	2021	Administrative support
286	Plasterers	30,396	8.7	2048	Precision production
287	Painting and paint spraying machine operators	30,374	3.4	2081	Machine operators
288	Order clerks	30,315	3.1	2069	Administrative support

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		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
289	Typesetters and compositors	30,179	6.5	2011	Machine operators
290	Plumber, pipefitter and steamfitter apprentices	30,166	4.5	2078	Precision production
291	Sales workers, hardware and building supplies	30,104	5.4	2109	Sales
292	Transportation ticket and reservation agents	30,044	6	2054	Administrative support
293	Typists	29,900	2.3	1991	Administrative support
294	Machine operators, n.e.c.	29,736	2.8	2060	Machine operators
295	Precious stones and metals workers	29,727	14.8	2067	Precision production
296	Assemblers	29,698	2.7	2074	Machine operators
297	Tailors	29,674	13.3	2040	Precision production
298	Administrative support occupations, n.e.c.	29,653	1.7	2035	Administrative support
299	Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	29,642	2.6	2066	Transportation
300	Paving, surfacing and tamping equipment operators	29,623	19.7	1865	Precision production
301	Milling and planing machine operators	29,593	5.1	2080	Machine operators
302	Rolling machine operators	29,568	10.4	2080	Machine operators
303	Guides	29,523	8.3	2026	Service
304	Folding machine operators	29,485	10.1	2080	Machine operators
305	Painters, construction and maintenance	29,466	4.6	2025	Precision production
306	Correspondence clerks	29,459	3.6	2080	Administrative support
307	Peripheral equipment operators	29,368	8.2	2053	Administrative support
308	Automobile mechanic apprentices	29,318	12	2124	Precision production
309	Bill and account collectors	29,144	6.7	2048	Administrative support
310	Slicing and cutting machine operators	29,056	3.3	2074	Machine operators
311	Bookbinders	29,055	10.7	2071	Precision production

Footnotes:

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- (2) Earnings are straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and 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.
- (3) The National Compensation Survey classifies occupations into nine major groups. The full titles used are: (1) professional specialty and technical; (2) executive, administrative, and managerial; (3) sales; (4) administrative support, including clerical; (5) precision production, craft, and repair; (6) machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors; (7) transportation and material moving; (8) handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers; and (9) service occupations, except private households.
- (4) The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
312	Dental assistants	28,842	3.9	1889	Service
313	Washing, cleaning, and pickling machine operators	28,783	10.7	2080	Machine operators
314	Metal plating machine operators	28,562	6.3	2074	Machine operators
315	Production inspectors, checkers, and examiners	28,558	4.4	2067	Machine operators
316	Crushing and grinding machine operators	28,524	7.6	2034	Machine operators
317	Billing, posting, and calculating machine operators	28,494	5.5	2029	Administrative support
318	Forging machine operators	28,405	9.5	2065	Machine operators
319	Extruding and forming machine operators	28,398	4.5	2055	Machine operators
320	Artists, performers, and related workers, n.e.c.	28,388	6.3	1993	Professional
321	Telephone operators	28,381	7.2	2017	Administrative support
322	Sailors and deckhands	28,350	4.6	2393	Transportation
323	Construction laborers	28,263	3.4	1994	Handlers
324	Records clerks, n.e.c.	28,225	1.9	2036	Administrative support
325	Sales workers, other commodities	28,137	4.6	2042	Sales
326	Punching and stamping press operators	28,132	7.7	2080	Machine operators
327	Traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks	28,030	2.6	2072	Administrative support
328	Bus drivers	28,017	2.8	1728	Transportation
329	Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	28,008	2.6	2076	Machine operators
330	Information clerks, n.e.c.	27,978	2.2	2057	Administrative support
331	Supervisors, food preparation and service occupations	27,856	2.9	2060	Service
332	Packaging and filling machine operators	27,668	3.9	2067	Machine operators
333	Winding and twisting machine operators	27,619	8.9	2068	Machine operators

Footnotes:

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- (2) Earnings are straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and 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.
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- (4) The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
334	General office clerks	27,459	1.1	2025	Administrative support
335	Furniture and wood finishers	27,412	7	2080	Precision production
336	Hairdressers and cosmetologists	27,331	11.4	1973	Service
337	Billing clerks	27,240	2.6	2064	Administrative support
338	Cabinet makers and bench carpenters	27,141	6.1	2079	Precision production
339	Production samplers and weighers	27,075	14.8	2080	Machine operators
340	Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	26,987	4	2076	Precision production
341	Production testers	26,972	8	2073	Machine operators
342	Drilling and boring machine operators	26,970	11.1	2075	Machine operators
343	Roasting and baking machine operators, food	26,799	9.8	2080	Machine operators
344	Shaping and joining machine operators	26,775	2.9	2079	Machine operators
345	Stock and inventory clerks	26,642	2.5	2062	Administrative support
346	Molding and casting machine operators	26,516	3.8	2064	Machine operators
347	Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	26,460	2.7	2069	Handlers
348	Protective service occupations, n.e.c.	26,413	10.6	1908	Service
349	Motor transport occupations, n.e.c.	26,141	5.9	2035	Transportation
350	Hand working occupations, n.e.c.	26,102	6.4	2057	Machine operators
351	Classified ad clerks	25,846	7.4	2017	Administrative support
352	Mail preparing and paper handling machine operators	25,816	6.9	2057	Administrative support
353	Mail clerks, except postal service	25,799	6.7	2016	Administrative support
354	Cost and rate clerks	25,738	12.6	2097	Administrative support
355	Data entry keyers	25,621	2.4	2049	Administrative support
356	Interviewers	25,278	4.1	2054	Administrative support
357	Food batchmakers	25,247	9.7	2090	Precision production
358	Helpers, construction trades	25,180	4.1	2035	Handlers

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- (4) The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
359	Duplicating machine operators	25,128	9.1	2043	Administrative support
360	Cementing and gluing machine operators	24,965	9.8	2080	Machine operators
361	Photographic process machine operators	24,842	5.4	2021	Machine operators
362	Compressing and compacting machine operators	24,713	4.4	2075	Machine operators
363	Material recording, scheduling, and distribution clerks, n.e.c.	24,672	4.5	2070	Administrative support
364	Service occupations, n.e.c.	24,519	5.9	2032	Service
365	Wood lathe, routing, and planing machine operators	24,498	7.3	2080	Machine operators
366	Helpers, mechanics and repairers	24,399	6.1	2059	Handlers
367	Sawing machine operators	24,379	4.8	2072	Machine operators
368	Health aides, except nursing	24,374	2.8	2041	Service
369	Butchers and meat cutters	24,356	4.2	2060	Precision production
370	Animal caretakers, except farm	24,327	8	2056	Handlers
371	Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	23,968	2.9	2057	Handlers
372	Library clerks	23,920	3.2	1817	Administrative support
373	Bakers	23,913	4.6	2045	Precision production
374	Knitting, looping, taping and weaving machine operators	23,886	1.9	2077	Machine operators
375	Production helpers	23,841	3.2	2067	Handlers
376	Hand inspectors, n.e.c.	23,730	7.7	2076	Machine operators
377	Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	23,691	4	1962	Handlers
378	Receptionists	23,589	2	2048	Administrative support
379	Communications equipment operators, n.e.c.	23,324	11.7	1912	Administrative support
380	Janitors and cleaners	23,310	2	2041	Service

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NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
381	Solderers and braziers	23,189	10.9	2080	Machine operators
382	Stock handlers and baggers	23,078	1.9	2058	Handlers
383	File clerks	23,038	2.9	2031	Administrative support
384	Hand painting, coating, and decorating occupations	22,489	12.2	2070	Machine operators
385	Bank tellers	22,317	1.8	2049	Administrative support
386	Welfare service aides	22,161	4.2	2002	Service
387	Hand molding, casting, and forming occupations	22,100	12.1	2080	Machine operators
388	Machine feeders and offbearers	22,095	3.8	2068	Handlers
389	Nursery workers	21,671	9.5	1937	Handlers
390	Sales workers, apparel	21,510	9.7	1933	Sales
391	Sales workers, shoes	21,466	11.5	1957	Sales
392	Surveyor helpers	21,429	5.8	2056	Handlers
393	Graders and sorters, except agricultural	21,398	5.7	2032	Machine operators
394	Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	21,156	3.7	2079	Handlers
395	Inspectors, agricultural products	21,113	17.5	2053	Handlers
396	Sales workers, radio, tv, hi-fi, and appliances	21,082	9.5	2058	Sales
397	Sales counter clerks	21,062	4.9	2014	Sales
398	Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	20,959	1.1	2015	Service
399	Textile cutting machine operators	20,896	5	2010	Machine operators
400	Office machine operators, n.e.c.	20,771	6.4	2060	Administrative support
401	Parking lot attendants	20,629	10.7	2080	Transportation
402	Guards and police, except public service	20,612	2.2	2052	Service
403	Messengers	20,594	10.7	2045	Administrative support

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NOTE: The n.e.c. reference after some occupational titles means "not elsewhere classified."

Rank	Occupation	Annual earnings ⁽²⁾		Mean annual hours	Major occupational group ⁽³⁾
		Mean	Relative error (percent) ⁽⁴⁾		
404	Hand packers and packagers	20,419	4.5	2038	Handlers
405	Hand cutting and trimming occupations	20,098	12	2075	Machine operators
406	Legislators	20,013	30.7	1300	Executive
407	Cooks	19,818	1.5	1980	Service
408	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	19,677	6.8	2015	Transportation
409	Garage and service station related occupations	19,527	6.7	2068	Handlers
410	Helpers, extractive occupations	19,513	16.2	1898	Handlers
411	Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators	19,417	6.6	2048	Machine operators
412	Cashiers	19,305	1.8	2033	Sales
413	Pressing machine operators	19,056	5	2065	Machine operators
414	Textile sewing machine operators	18,385	6.1	2035	Machine operators
415	Child care workers, n.e.c.	18,325	5	1945	Service
416	Hotel clerks	18,255	2.4	2022	Administrative support
417	Kitchen workers, food preparation	17,001	2.6	1933	Service
418	Maids and housemen	16,646	1.8	1997	Service
419	Early childhood teachers' assistants	16,138	5	1813	Service
420	Food preparation occupations, n.e.c.	16,109	1.4	1937	Service
421	Teachers aides	15,284	1.6	1376	Administrative support
422	Baggage porters and bellhops	14,970	6	1993	Service
423	Substitute teachers	14,841	15.2	1237	Professional
424	Attendants, amusement and recreation facilities	14,637	4.6	2021	Service
425	Bartenders	13,284	6.2	1944	Service
426	Waiters/waitresses' assistants	12,432	6.3	1966	Service
427	Waiters and waitresses	8,789	5.3	1906	Service

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Table 2. Highest and lowest paying occupations within each major occupational group of the National Compensation Survey, July 2004

Major occupational group	Highest-paying occupation			Lowest-paying occupation		
	Occupation	Mean annual earnings	Rank	Occupation	Mean annual earnings	Rank
Professional and technical	Physicians	\$128,689	1	Substitute teachers	\$14,841	423
Executive	Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	103,704	7	Legislators	20,013	406
Sales occupations	Security and financial services sales occupations	94,005	10	Cashiers	19,305	412
Administrative support	Supervisors, distribution, scheduling, and adjusting clerks	44,840	157	Teachers' aides	15,284	421
Precision production	Drillers, oil well	62,409	62	Bakers	23,913	373
Machine operators	Separating, filtering, and clarifying machine operators	40,659	188	Textile sewing machine operators	18,385	414
Transportation	Railroad conductors and yard masters	57,925	79	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	19,677	408
Handlers	Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c.	39,260	199	Helpers, extractive occupations	19,513	410
Service occupations	Supervisors, firefighting and fire prevention occupations	68,673	43	Waiters and waitresses	8,789	427

Table 3. Comparison of 25 top ranked occupations by average annual and hourly earnings, full-time workers, National Compensation Survey, July 2004

Occupation	Ranked by annual rates	Ranked by hourly rates
Physicians	1	6
Airplane pilots and navigators	2	1
Medical science teachers	3	9
Judges	4	5
Optometrists	5	4
Lawyers	6	13
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	7	12
Chief executives and general administrators, public administration	8	11
Economics teachers	9	2
Securities and financial services sales occupations	10	15
Announcers	11	14
Engineering teachers	12	7
Petroleum engineers	13	18
Law teachers	14	3
Pharmacists	15	19
Aerospace engineers	16	25

NOTE: Earth, environmental, and marine science teachers ranked 26th on an annual earnings basis and 10th on the hourly scale.

Occupation	Ranked by annual rates	Ranked by hourly rates
Dentists	17	31
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	18	35
Physicists and astronomers	19	30
Electrical and electronic engineers	20	37
Chemical engineers	21	34
Financial managers	22	39
Sales engineers	23	43
Physics teachers	24	8
Nuclear engineers	25	40
Occupations whose ranking entered or left the top 25 positions when annual and hourly earnings were compared		
Business, commerce, and marketing teachers	50	21
Biological science teachers	33	23
Social science teachers, n.e.c.	49	24
English teachers	42	16
Sociology teachers	35	17
Computer science teachers	51	20
Theology teachers	67	22

NOTE: Earth, environmental, and marine science teachers ranked 26th on an annual earnings basis and 10th on the hourly scale.

Appendix A. Alphabetical index of occupations from the July, 2004 National Compensation Survey

Rank	Occupation
115	Accountants and auditors
71	Actors and directors
32	Actuaries
212	Adjusters and calibrators
298	Administrative support occupations, n.e.c.
56	Administrators and officials, public administration
41	Administrators, education and related fields
155	Advertising and related sales occupations
16	Aerospace engineers
72	Agricultural and food scientists
63	Agriculture and forestry teachers
88	Aircraft engine mechanics
99	Aircraft mechanics, except engines
2	Airplane pilots and navigators
370	Animal caretakers, except farm
11	Announcers
45	Architects
126	Archivists and curators
102	Art, drama, and music teachers
320	Artists, performers, and related workers, n.e.c.
296	Assemblers

Rank	Occupation
87	Athletes
424	Attendants, amusement and recreation facilities
252	Automobile body and related repairers
308	Automobile mechanic apprentices
201	Automobile mechanics
422	Baggage porters and bellhops
373	Bakers
385	Bank tellers
425	Bartenders
309	Bill and account collectors
337	Billing clerks
317	Billing, posting, and calculating machine operators
82	Biological and life scientists
33	Biological science teachers
213	Biological technicians
226	Boilermakers
311	Bookbinders
283	Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks
93	Brickmasons and stonemasons
235	Broadcast equipment operators
328	Bus drivers
206	Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics
131	Business and promotion agents
50	Business, commerce, and marketing teachers
369	Butchers and meat cutters
89	Buyers, wholesale and retail trade, except farm products
338	Cabinet makers and bench carpenters
266	Carpenter apprentices
196	Carpenters
175	Carpet installers
412	Cashiers
360	Cementing and gluing machine operators
21	Chemical engineers
168	Chemical technicians
74	Chemistry teachers
59	Chemists, except biochemists
172	Chief communications operators
8	Chief executives and general administrators, public administration
415	Child care workers, n.e.c.
55	Civil engineers
351	Classified ad clerks
181	Clergy
222	Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians
379	Communications equipment operators, n.e.c.

Rank	Occupation
362	Compressing and compacting machine operators
264	Computer operators
70	Computer programmers
51	Computer science teachers
29	Computer systems analysts and scientists
215	Concrete and terrazzo finishers
134	Construction inspectors
323	Construction laborers
228	Construction trades, n.e.c.
407	Cooks
225	Correctional institution officers
306	Correspondence clerks
354	Cost and rate clerks
233	Crane and tower operators
316	Crushing and grinding machine operators
355	Data entry keyers
180	Data processing equipment repairers
312	Dental assistants
84	Dental hygienists
272	Dental laboratory and medical appliance technicians
17	Dentists
149	Designers
167	Dietitians
229	Dispatchers
158	Drafters
62	Drillers, oil well
342	Drilling and boring machine operators
278	Driver-sales workers
248	Drywall installers
359	Duplicating machine operators
419	Early childhood teachers' assistants
26	Earth, environmental, and marine science teachers
9	Economics teachers
34	Economists
96	Editors and reporters
73	Education teachers
20	Electrical and electronic engineers
340	Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers
130	Electrical and electronic technicians
90	Electrical power installers and repairers
276	Electrician apprentices
108	Electricians
151	Electronic repairers, communications and industrial equipment
152	Elementary school teachers

Rank	Occupation
285	Eligibility clerks, social welfare
12	Engineering teachers
132	Engineering technicians, n.e.c.
27	Engineers, n.e.c.
42	English teachers
241	Excavating and loading machine operators
238	Expeditors
319	Extruding and forming machine operators
256	Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.
275	Farm equipment mechanics
383	File clerks
22	Financial managers
187	Fire inspection and fire prevention occupations
136	Firefighting occupations
304	Folding machine operators
357	Food batchmakers
420	Food preparation occupations, n.e.c.
98	Foreign language teachers
169	Forestry and conservation scientists
318	Forging machine operators
347	Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.
103	Funeral directors
274	Furnace, kiln and oven operators, except food
335	Furniture and wood finishers
409	Garage and service station related occupations
277	Garbage collectors
334	General office clerks
38	Geologists and geodesists
210	Glaziers
249	Grader, dozer, and scraper operators
393	Graders and sorters, except agricultural
329	Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators
377	Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm
402	Guards and police, except public service
303	Guides
336	Hairdressers and cosmetologists
405	Hand cutting and trimming occupations
236	Hand engraving and printing occupations
376	Hand inspectors, n.e.c.
271	Hand molders and shapers, except jewelers
387	Hand molding, casting, and forming occupations
404	Hand packers and packagers
384	Hand painting, coating, and decorating occupations
350	Hand working occupations, n.e.c.

Rank	Occupation
368	Health aides, except nursing
30	Health diagnosing practitioners, n.e.c.
232	Health record technologists and technicians
40	Health specialties teachers
239	Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.
247	Heat treating equipment operators
223	Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics
200	Heavy equipment mechanics
358	Helpers, construction trades
410	Helpers, extractive occupations
366	Helpers, mechanics and repairers
65	History teachers
416	Hotel clerks
251	Household appliance and power tool repairers
129	Industrial engineering technicians
47	Industrial engineers
171	Industrial machinery repairers
299	Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators
330	Information clerks, n.e.c.
143	Inspectors and compliance officers, except construction
395	Inspectors, agricultural products
192	Inspectors, testers and graders
218	Insulation workers
204	Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators
125	Insurance sales occupations
356	Interviewers
265	Investigators and adjusters, except insurance
380	Janitors and cleaners
4	Judges
417	Kitchen workers, food preparation
374	Knitting, looping, taping and weaving machine operators
371	Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.
234	Lathe and turning-machine operators
243	Lathe and turning-machine set-up operators
411	Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators
14	Law teachers
6	Lawyers
197	Layout workers
189	Legal assistants
406	Legislators
117	Librarians
372	Library clerks
244	Licensed practical nurses
267	Locksmiths and safe repairers

Rank	Occupation
81	Locomotive operating occupations
114	Longshore equipment operators
388	Machine feeders and offbearers
294	Machine operators, n.e.c.
261	Machinery maintenance occupations
186	Machinists
418	Maids and housemen
353	Mail clerks, except postal service
352	Mail preparing and paper handling machine operators
69	Management analysts
104	Management related occupations, n.e.c.
18	Managers and administrators, n.e.c.
161	Managers, food serving and lodging establishments
7	Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations
37	Managers, medicine and health
165	Managers, properties and real estate
61	Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.
209	Marine engineers
258	Material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.
363	Material recording, scheduling, and distribution clerks, n.e.c.
64	Mathematical science teachers
140	Mechanical controls and valve repairers
127	Mechanical engineering technicians
48	Mechanical engineers
242	Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.
3	Medical science teachers
110	Medical scientists
403	Messengers
314	Metal plating machine operators
60	Metallurgical and materials engineers
216	Meter readers
301	Milling and planing machine operators
139	Millwrights
178	Mining machine operators
97	Mining occupations, n.e.c.
162	Miscellaneous plant and systems operators, n.e.c.
273	Miscellaneous precision workers, n.e.c.
269	Mixing and blending machine operators
346	Molding and casting machine operators
349	Motor transport occupations, n.e.c.
76	Musicians and composers
75	Natural science teachers, n.e.c.
25	Nuclear engineers
262	Numerical control machine operators

Rank	Occupation
389	Nursery workers
398	Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants
119	Occupational therapists
400	Office machine operators, n.e.c.
240	Office machine repairers
194	Operating engineers
28	Operations and systems researchers and analysts
5	Optometrists
288	Order clerks
31	Other financial officers
332	Packaging and filling machine operators
305	Painters, construction and maintenance
148	Painters, sculptors, craft artists, and artist printmakers
287	Painting and paint spraying machine operators
401	Parking lot attendants
166	Patternmakers and modelmakers, metal
207	Patternmakers and modelmakers, wood
220	Patternmakers, layout workers, and cutters
300	Paving, surfacing and tamping equipment operators
259	Payroll and timekeeping clerks
307	Peripheral equipment operators
39	Personnel and labor relations managers
260	Personnel clerks, except payroll and timekeeping
121	Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists
13	Petroleum engineers
15	Pharmacists
224	Photoengravers and lithographers
245	Photographers
361	Photographic process machine operators
94	Physical education teachers
53	Physical scientists, n.e.c.
78	Physical therapists
1	Physicians
36	Physicians' assistants
19	Physicists and astronomers
24	Physics teachers
286	Plasterers
290	Plumber, pipefitter and steamfitter apprentices
135	Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters
122	Police and detectives, public service
91	Political science teachers
83	Power plant operators
295	Precious stones and metals workers
179	Precision assemblers, metal

Rank	Occupation
219	Precision grinders, filers, and tool sharpeners
145	Precision inspectors, testers, and related workers, n.e.c.
250	Prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers
413	Pressing machine operators
254	Printing press operators
208	Production coordinators
375	Production helpers
315	Production inspectors, checkers, and examiners
339	Production samplers and weighers
341	Production testers
54	Professional occupations, n.e.c.
214	Proofreaders
348	Protective service occupations, n.e.c.
112	Psychologists
68	Psychology teachers
80	Public relations specialists
253	Public transportation attendants
326	Punching and stamping press operators
113	Purchasing agents and buyers, farm products
107	Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.
52	Purchasing managers
133	Radiologic technicians
156	Rail vehicle operators, n.e.c.
79	Railroad conductors and yardmasters
57	Real estate sales occupations
378	Receptionists
324	Records clerks, n.e.c.
231	Recreation workers
100	Registered nurses
217	Religious workers, n.e.c.
164	Respiratory therapists
343	Roasting and baking machine operators, food
302	Rolling machine operators
237	Roofers
322	Sailors and deckhands
397	Sales counter clerks
23	Sales engineers
101	Sales occupations, other business services
86	Sales representative mining, manufacturing, and wholesale
281	Sales support occupations, n.e.c.
390	Sales workers, apparel
221	Sales workers, furniture and home furnishings
291	Sales workers, hardware and building supplies
142	Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats

Rank	Occupation
325	Sales workers, other commodities
279	Sales workers, parts
396	Sales workers, radio, tv, hi-fi, and appliances
391	Sales workers, shoes
367	Sawing machine operators
176	Science technicians, n.e.c.
146	Secondary school teachers
270	Secretaries
10	Securities and financial services sales occupations
188	Separating, filtering, and clarifying machine operators
364	Service occupations, n.e.c.
344	Shaping and joining machine operators
118	Sheetmetal duct installers
202	Sheetmetal workers
191	Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers
184	Ship captains and mates, except fishing boats
310	Slicing and cutting machine operators
280	Small engine repairers
49	Social science teachers, n.e.c.
123	Social scientists, n.e.c.
211	Social workers
35	Sociology teachers
381	Solderers and braziers
154	Speech therapists
147	Stationary engineers
282	Statistical clerks
109	Statisticians
227	Stenographers
345	Stock and inventory clerks
382	Stock handlers and baggers
150	Street and door-to-door sales workers
182	Structural metal workers
423	Substitute teachers
120	Supervisors, agriculture-related workers
153	Supervisors, brickmasons, stonemasons and tilesetters
92	Supervisors, carpenters and related workers
230	Supervisors, cleaning and building service workers
205	Supervisors, computer equipment operators
163	Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.
157	Supervisors, distribution, scheduling, and adjusting clerks
66	Supervisors, electricians and power transmission installers
85	Supervisors, extractive occupations
170	Supervisors, financial records processing
43	Supervisors, firefighting and fire prevention occupations

Rank	Occupation
331	Supervisors, food preparation and service occupations
193	Supervisors, general office
183	Supervisors, guards
199	Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c.
144	Supervisors, material moving equipment operators
116	Supervisors, mechanics and repairers
195	Supervisors, motor vehicle operators
159	Supervisors, painters, paperhangers, and plasterers
257	Supervisors, personal service occupations
77	Supervisors, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters
58	Supervisors, police and detectives
160	Supervisors, production occupations
173	Supervisors, sales occupations
255	Surveying and mapping technicians
392	Surveyor helpers
46	Surveyors and mapping scientists
297	Tailors
408	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs
421	Teachers aides
137	Teachers, n.e.c.
141	Teachers, special education
177	Technical and related occupations, n.e.c.
44	Technical writers
124	Telephone installers and repairers
105	Telephone line installers and repairers
321	Telephone operators
399	Textile cutting machine operators
414	Textile sewing machine operators
67	Theology teachers
198	Therapists, n.e.c.
185	Tile setters, hard and soft
203	Tool and die maker apprentices
128	Tool and die makers
174	Tool programmers, numerical control
106	Trade and industrial teachers
327	Traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks
292	Transportation ticket and reservation agents
268	Truck drivers
289	Typesetters and compositors
293	Typists
111	Underwriters
284	Upholsterers
95	Urban planners
394	Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners

Rank	Occupation
138	Vocational and educational counselors
427	Waiters and waitresses
426	Waiters'/waitresses' assistants
313	Washing, cleaning, and pickling machine operators
190	Water and sewer treatment plant operators
263	Weighers, measurers, checkers and samplers
246	Welders and cutters
386	Welfare service aides
333	Winding and twisting machine operators
365	Wood lathe, routing, and planing machine operators

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