

Bangor, ME

National Compensation Survey

December 2009



U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
October 2010

This summary provides results of a December 2009 survey of occupational pay in the Bangor, ME, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The MSA consists of Penobscot County.

Data shown in this summary were collected as part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) National Compensation Survey (NCS). The NCS provides comprehensive measures of occupational earnings, compensation cost trends, benefit incidence, and detailed plan provisions. This summary is limited to data on occupational wages and salaries.

Table 1 presents an overview of all tables in this summary. Mean hourly earnings, weekly hours, and relative standard errors are given for all industries, private industry, and State and local government for selected worker and establishment characteristics.

Table 2 presents mean hourly earnings data by work level for occupational major groups and for detailed occupations. Separate data are also shown for full-time and part-time workers. Table 3 provides work level data for private industry workers. Table 4 provides similar data for State and local government workers.

Tables 5 through 7 present hourly wage percentiles that describe the distribution of hourly earnings for individual workers within each published occupation. Data are provided for the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles for detailed occupations within all industries, private industry, and State and local government.

Table 8 presents mean and median hourly, weekly, and annual earnings, and the associated hours, for major occupational groups and detailed occupations for full-time workers. Table 9 provides the same type of information for

private industry workers. Table 10 provides similar data for State and local government workers.

The survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the many government agencies that provided pay data included in this summary. The Bureau thanks these respondents for their cooperation. Field economists of the Bureau of Labor Statistics collected and reviewed the survey data. The Office of Compensation and Working Conditions, in cooperation with the Office of Field Operations and the Office of Technology and Survey Processing in the BLS National Office, designed the survey, processed the data, and prepared the survey for publication.

Where to find more information

The data contained in this summary are available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>, the BLS Internet site. Data are presented in a Portable Document Format (PDF) file and in an ASCII file containing the published table formats.

For additional information regarding this survey, including a list of occupational classifications, please contact any BLS regional office. You may also write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at: Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE., Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212, telephone (202) 691-6199, or send an e-mail to NCSinfo@bls.gov.

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Table 1. Summary: Mean hourly earnings¹ and weekly hours for selected worker and establishment characteristics, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Worker and establishment characteristics	Civilian workers			Private industry workers			State and local government workers		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³
	Mean	Relative error ² (percent)		Mean	Relative error ² (percent)		Mean	Relative error ² (percent)	
All workers	\$17.63	3.7	32.5	\$16.94	4.6	31.8	\$20.62	1.8	35.9
Worker characteristics^{4,5}									
Management, professional, and related	27.03	5.0	33.0	29.48	7.8	31.4	23.56	3.4	35.6
Management, business, and financial	24.96	5.0	39.0	24.82	5.8	38.8	25.39	9.4	39.6
Professional and related	27.77	5.6	31.3	31.86	9.1	28.6	23.22	3.5	35.0
Service	11.24	3.4	27.5	10.69	2.1	26.6	16.15	10.2	38.6
Sales and office	13.02	3.0	34.0	12.64	3.0	33.6	15.78	6.4	37.8
Sales and related	11.90	4.9	32.0	11.44	3.1	31.6	—	—	—
Office and administrative support	14.00	3.1	36.1	13.79	3.5	35.7	15.10	4.4	38.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	19.82	6.9	40.0	19.77	7.3	40.0	—	—	—
Construction and extraction	18.23	4.8	40.0	18.23	4.8	40.0	—	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair	21.73	10.3	40.0	21.89	11.8	40.0	—	—	—
Production, transportation, and material moving	16.79	10.9	35.4	16.99	12.0	36.0	14.76	3.1	30.1
Production	18.54	9.9	40.0	18.64	10.4	40.0	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving	15.36	20.1	32.3	15.49	23.1	33.1	14.51	3.7	28.5
Full time	19.21	3.9	39.3	18.65	5.0	39.6	21.21	1.6	38.3
Part time	11.67	4.5	19.7	11.46	4.8	19.5	14.25	5.7	21.4
Union	20.81	5.1	36.3	19.68	14.0	33.6	21.45	1.5	38.0
Nonunion	16.62	4.6	31.4	16.61	4.8	31.6	16.72	7.0	28.3
Time	17.43	3.5	32.2	16.64	4.3	31.4	20.62	1.8	35.9
Incentive	20.82	6.3	37.4	20.82	6.3	37.4	—	—	—
Establishment characteristics									
Goods producing	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	19.81	5.2	39.8	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Service providing	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	16.39	5.4	30.6	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
1-99 workers	14.43	4.4	31.1	14.14	5.0	31.0	17.35	6.3	33.0
100-499 workers	18.06	7.6	34.5	16.72	10.0	34.2	22.56	4.6	35.5
500 workers or more	27.99	4.9	33.4	33.54	5.5	30.2	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

² The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

³ Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

⁴ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining. Wages of time workers are based solely on

hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁵ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

⁶ Estimates for goods-producing and service-providing industries are published for private industry only. Industries are determined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

Table 2. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers² by work levels³, Bangor, ME, December 2009**

Occupation ⁴ and level	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All workers	\$17.63	3.7	\$19.21	3.9	\$11.67	4.5
Management occupations	26.23	5.9	26.70	6.0	—	—
Level 9	27.17	6.4	28.04	6.1	—	—
Community and social services occupations	19.61	5.6	18.64	4.6	—	—
Level 7	17.91	1.1	17.91	1.1	—	—
Social workers	19.10	6.3	17.65	3.8	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	26.65	7.1	29.09	6.7	13.26	8.9
Level 4	11.99	1.4	12.17	.6	—	—
Level 7	18.53	24.8	—	—	—	—
Level 9	32.99	5.7	32.99	5.7	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	30.65	7.6	34.62	3.4	—	—
Level 9	32.38	3.3	32.38	3.3	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	33.75	5.2	36.89	4.3	—	—
Level 9	32.54	6.5	32.54	6.5	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	33.11	11.2	37.03	.6	—	—
Level 9	33.20	6.0	33.20	6.0	—	—
Teacher assistants	12.16	1.1	12.09	1.3	—	—
Level 4	11.99	1.4	12.17	.6	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	39.27	7.4	—	—	29.12	4.7
Level 7	23.83	9.1	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	29.88	3.9	29.47	3.6	30.94	5.1
Healthcare support occupations	12.02	6.2	13.11	11.8	10.67	3.3
Level 3	10.42	3.1	—	—	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.87	2.3	—	—	10.22	.5
Level 3	10.42	3.1	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	11.37	4.4	—	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	12.38	9.2	13.23	9.9	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	10.57	4.1	12.64	9.5	6.48	14.5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.52	4.6	11.74	6.6	—	—
Level 2	9.22	10.3	—	—	—	—
Building cleaning workers	10.16	3.4	11.11	4.5	—	—
Level 2	9.22	10.3	—	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.13	5.1	11.32	6.2	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	10.29	3.0	—	—	8.79	11.2
Sales and related occupations	11.90	4.9	13.24	6.4	9.51	3.2
Level 2	9.23	5.3	—	—	9.01	2.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.95	4.0	15.95	4.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	15.95	4.0	15.95	4.0	—	—
Retail sales workers	10.15	.6	10.97	1.7	9.31	2.5
Level 2	9.26	5.1	—	—	—	—
Cashiers, all workers	9.49	2.9	—	—	9.13	1.2
Level 2	9.44	3.1	—	—	—	—
Cashiers	9.49	2.9	—	—	9.13	1.2
Level 2	9.44	3.1	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	10.69	2.9	—	—	10.02	5.4
Office and administrative support occupations	14.00	3.1	14.47	4.0	10.51	6.8
Level 3	12.76	6.1	12.81	6.8	—	—
Level 4	14.76	2.5	14.85	2.5	—	—
Not able to be leveled	13.25	1.9	13.61	1.5	—	—
Financial clerks	13.72	8.0	13.72	8.0	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.36	2.0	14.61	2.2	—	—
Level 3	14.11	8.5	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers² by work levels³, Bangor, ME, December 2009** — Continued

Occupation ⁴ and level	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
Office and administrative support occupations —Continued						
Secretaries and administrative assistants —Continued						
Level 4	\$14.80	2.8	\$14.82	2.9	—	—
Medical secretaries	14.43	7.7	14.66	6.7	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	13.68	9.8	—	—	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	18.23	4.8	18.23	4.8	—	—
Level 5	18.58	.0	18.58	.0	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	21.73	10.3	21.73	10.3	—	—
Production occupations	18.54	9.9	18.54	9.9	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	15.36	20.1	16.62	21.5	\$12.09	8.2
Level 4	20.30	11.3	—	—	—	—
Not able to be leveled	10.41	13.7	10.41	13.7	—	—
Bus drivers	13.47	5.6	—	—	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.93	7.3	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

² Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

³ Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on four factors, including knowledge, job controls and complexity, contacts, and physical environment. The knowledge factor is tailored to 24 families of closely related jobs. Points are assigned based on the

occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

⁵ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 3. Private industry workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers² by work levels³, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ⁴ and level	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All workers	\$16.94	4.6	\$18.65	5.0	\$11.46	4.8
Management occupations	26.39	7.3	27.06	7.6	—	—
Level 9	28.33	7.2	29.70	6.4	—	—
Community and social services occupations	20.23	8.5	18.04	5.5	—	—
Social workers	20.03	8.3	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	41.04	7.9	—	—	29.12	4.7
Registered nurses	—	—	—	—	30.94	5.1
Healthcare support occupations	12.02	6.2	13.11	11.8	10.67	3.3
Level 3	10.42	3.1	—	—	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.87	2.3	—	—	10.22	.5
Level 3	10.42	3.1	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	11.37	4.4	—	—	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	10.55	4.3	12.73	10.2	6.48	14.5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	9.92	3.8	11.01	5.8	—	—
Building cleaning workers	9.95	4.3	11.01	5.8	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.01	6.9	11.26	8.6	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	10.19	2.1	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	11.44	3.1	12.65	5.0	9.51	3.2
Level 2	9.23	5.3	—	—	9.01	2.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.95	4.0	15.95	4.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	15.95	4.0	15.95	4.0	—	—
Retail sales workers	10.15	.7	10.97	1.7	9.31	2.5
Level 2	9.26	5.1	—	—	—	—
Cashiers, all workers	9.49	2.9	—	—	—	—
Level 2	9.44	3.1	—	—	—	—
Cashiers	9.49	2.9	—	—	—	—
Level 2	9.44	3.1	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	10.69	2.9	—	—	10.02	5.4
Office and administrative support occupations	13.79	3.5	14.33	4.6	10.49	6.8
Level 3	12.79	6.5	12.84	7.2	—	—
Level 4	14.86	3.5	15.00	3.4	—	—
Not able to be leveled	13.12	1.7	13.50	1.5	—	—
Financial clerks	13.58	8.0	13.58	8.0	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.47	3.3	14.94	3.6	—	—
Medical secretaries	14.43	7.7	14.66	6.7	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	18.23	4.8	18.23	4.8	—	—
Level 5	18.58	.0	18.58	.0	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	21.89	11.8	21.89	11.8	—	—
Production occupations	18.64	10.4	18.64	10.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	15.49	23.1	16.70	22.0	—	—
Not able to be leveled	10.41	13.7	10.41	13.7	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

² Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

³ Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on four factors, including knowledge, job controls and complexity, contacts, and physical environment. The knowledge factor is tailored to 24 families of closely related jobs. Points are assigned based on the

occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

⁵ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 4. **State and local government workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers² by work levels³, Bangor, ME, December 2009**

Occupation ⁴ and level	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All workers	\$20.62	1.8	\$21.21	1.6	\$14.25	5.7
Management occupations	25.79	11.1	25.79	11.1	—	—
Community and social services occupations	19.04	6.3	19.04	6.3	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	26.95	5.7	28.30	7.4	13.81	16.0
Level 4	12.17	.6	12.17	.6	—	—
Level 7	21.82	29.2	—	—	—	—
Level 9	33.11	8.5	33.11	8.5	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	33.21	3.1	35.52	4.3	—	—
Level 9	32.06	5.5	32.06	5.5	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	33.75	5.2	36.89	4.3	—	—
Level 9	32.54	6.5	32.54	6.5	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	33.11	11.2	37.03	.6	—	—
Level 9	33.20	6.0	33.20	6.0	—	—
Teacher assistants	12.30	.0	12.09	1.3	—	—
Level 4	12.17	.6	12.17	.6	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	13.83	17.5	13.94	18.8	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	15.10	4.4	15.11	4.4	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.22	2.1	14.22	2.1	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	14.51	3.7	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

² Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

³ Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on four factors, including knowledge, job controls and complexity, contacts, and physical environment. The knowledge factor is tailored to 24 families of closely related jobs. Points are assigned based on the

occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

⁵ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 5. Civilian workers: Hourly wage percentiles¹, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All workers	\$8.80	\$10.23	\$14.64	\$20.49	\$29.47
Management occupations	17.55	19.67	23.22	32.06	37.33
Community and social services occupations	14.00	16.21	17.36	19.32	26.69
Social workers	13.80	15.67	16.64	18.96	26.69
Education, training, and library occupations	10.91	13.34	28.52	34.46	43.08
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	13.34	25.33	31.96	40.43	43.08
Elementary and middle school teachers	10.00	28.48	34.57	43.08	43.32
Elementary school teachers, except special education	10.00	27.85	35.08	43.08	43.08
Teacher assistants	10.36	10.75	12.33	13.57	14.17
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	20.00	24.70	32.61	50.44	86.54
Registered nurses	20.68	25.50	31.68	33.50	36.34
Healthcare support occupations	9.31	10.22	10.80	12.00	18.50
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.31	10.22	10.59	12.00	12.00
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.22	10.22	12.00	12.00	12.49
Protective service occupations	9.70	10.00	10.33	15.58	18.31
Food preparation and serving related occupations	3.63	7.91	10.00	11.75	19.42
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7.75	8.08	9.85	11.94	14.75
Building cleaning workers	7.77	8.10	9.64	11.20	14.63
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	8.25	8.75	10.41	12.76	16.41
Personal care and service occupations	7.25	8.50	9.35	13.14	13.26
Sales and related occupations	8.30	8.98	10.15	15.63	17.78
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	8.80	12.00	15.87	16.72	20.48
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	8.80	12.00	15.87	16.72	20.48
Retail sales workers	7.80	8.98	9.50	10.95	13.57
Cashiers, all workers	7.80	8.90	9.00	9.70	11.80
Cashiers	7.80	8.90	9.00	9.70	11.80
Retail salespersons	8.10	9.38	9.86	11.60	15.63
Office and administrative support occupations	9.50	11.40	14.25	15.43	18.16
Financial clerks	10.50	12.00	13.18	15.43	18.00
Secretaries and administrative assistants	10.98	13.51	14.73	16.00	16.75
Medical secretaries	10.88	12.77	14.45	16.75	17.00
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	10.82	11.11	14.71	16.00	16.00
Construction and extraction occupations	14.00	14.00	16.62	24.00	25.50
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	13.50	18.28	19.16	22.00	38.95
Production occupations	9.48	13.50	17.00	26.05	26.48
Transportation and material moving occupations	8.50	9.57	13.79	20.48	24.79
Bus drivers	10.75	12.00	13.79	14.45	15.35
Laborers and material movers, hand	8.25	8.50	9.50	10.35	11.83

¹ Percentiles designate position in the earnings distribution and are calculated from individual-worker earnings and the hours they are scheduled to work. At the 50th percentile, the median, half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown, and half are paid the same as or less than the rate shown. At the 25th percentile, one-fourth of the hours are paid the same as or less than the rate shown. At the 75th percentile, one-fourth are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. The 10th and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

² Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 6. Private industry workers: Hourly wage percentiles¹, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All workers	\$8.70	\$10.00	\$13.50	\$19.47	\$27.96
Management occupations	16.00	19.67	23.46	33.75	37.33
Community and social services occupations	13.80	14.50	16.64	18.96	42.60
Social workers	13.79	14.43	16.64	18.96	42.60
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	20.00	26.32	32.61	53.48	86.54
Healthcare support occupations	9.31	10.22	10.80	12.00	18.50
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.31	10.22	10.59	12.00	12.00
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.22	10.22	12.00	12.00	12.49
Food preparation and serving related occupations	3.63	7.91	9.50	11.75	19.42
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7.75	8.02	9.28	10.80	12.84
Building cleaning workers	7.75	8.08	9.28	10.16	12.98
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	8.00	8.54	9.85	12.84	16.43
Personal care and service occupations	7.25	7.80	9.23	13.14	13.26
Sales and related occupations	8.30	8.98	9.80	13.53	16.72
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	8.80	12.00	15.87	16.72	20.48
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	8.80	12.00	15.87	16.72	20.48
Retail sales workers	7.80	8.98	9.50	10.99	13.57
Cashiers, all workers	7.80	8.90	8.98	9.70	11.80
Cashiers	7.80	8.90	8.98	9.70	11.80
Retail salespersons	8.10	9.38	9.86	11.60	15.63
Office and administrative support occupations	9.50	10.85	13.45	15.63	18.16
Financial clerks	10.50	12.00	13.18	15.00	18.00
Secretaries and administrative assistants	10.82	12.48	14.55	16.75	17.00
Medical secretaries	10.88	12.77	14.45	16.75	17.00
Construction and extraction occupations	14.00	14.00	16.62	24.00	25.50
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	13.50	18.11	18.28	22.00	38.95
Production occupations	9.48	13.50	17.74	26.05	26.48
Transportation and material moving occupations	8.39	9.00	13.00	21.88	25.04

¹ Percentiles designate position in the earnings distribution and are calculated from individual-worker earnings and the hours they are scheduled to work. At the 50th percentile, the median, half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown, and half are paid the same as or less than the rate shown. At the 25th percentile, one-fourth of the hours are paid the same as or less than the rate shown. At the 75th percentile, one-fourth are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. The 10th and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

² Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 7. State and local government workers: Hourly wage percentiles¹, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All workers	\$10.86	\$14.71	\$17.81	\$24.31	\$34.34
Management occupations	22.77	23.19	23.22	23.22	33.99
Community and social services occupations	15.67	16.27	17.36	19.62	22.22
Education, training, and library occupations	10.75	13.85	29.44	34.46	43.08
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	23.44	27.17	34.13	43.08	43.32
Elementary and middle school teachers	10.00	28.48	34.57	43.08	43.32
Elementary school teachers, except special education	10.00	27.85	35.08	43.08	43.08
Teacher assistants	10.36	10.91	12.33	13.85	14.17
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	9.43	10.30	11.20	15.08	24.99
Office and administrative support occupations	12.25	14.71	14.73	15.15	17.00
Secretaries and administrative assistants	11.11	14.71	14.73	14.73	15.15
Transportation and material moving occupations	13.00	13.63	14.45	14.98	17.37

¹ Percentiles designate position in the earnings distribution and are calculated from individual-worker earnings and the hours they are scheduled to work. At the 50th percentile, the median, half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown, and half are paid the same as or less than the rate shown. At the 25th percentile, one-fourth of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. At the 75th percentile, one-fourth are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. The 10th and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

² Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 8. Full-time¹ civilian workers: Mean and median hourly, weekly, and annual earnings and mean weekly and annual hours, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	Hourly earnings ³		Weekly earnings ⁴			Annual earnings ⁵		
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean weekly hours	Mean	Median	Mean annual hours
All workers	\$19.21	\$16.62	\$755	\$664	39.3	\$37,353	\$33,925	1,945
Management occupations	26.70	23.22	1,065	929	39.9	54,888	48,304	2,056
Community and social services occupations	18.64	17.36	743	694	39.9	38,182	36,109	2,049
Social workers	17.65	16.64	703	656	39.8	36,576	34,091	2,072
Education, training, and library occupations	29.09	30.67	1,010	1,051	34.7	38,260	42,522	1,315
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	34.62	34.20	1,190	1,135	34.4	45,233	44,669	1,307
Elementary and middle school teachers	36.89	40.60	1,309	1,316	35.5	48,005	47,948	1,301
Elementary school teachers, except special education	37.03	40.60	1,310	1,370	35.4	47,545	47,948	1,284
Teacher assistants	12.09	12.33	419	425	34.6	15,239	15,027	1,261
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations								
Registered nurses	29.47	30.89	1,124	1,136	38.2	57,805	56,742	1,962
Healthcare support occupations	13.11	12.00	518	480	39.5	26,951	24,960	2,056
Protective service occupations	13.23	11.00	531	440	40.2	25,063	21,320	1,894
Food preparation and serving related occupations	12.64	11.75	477	470	37.8	20,695	23,196	1,638
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	11.74	10.16	466	406	39.7	23,003	21,133	1,960
Building cleaning workers	11.11	10.16	441	406	39.7	21,720	21,133	1,954
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.32	10.80	448	432	39.6	21,839	22,048	1,929
Sales and related occupations	13.24	12.00	525	477	39.6	27,280	24,814	2,061
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.95	15.87	663	635	41.6	34,489	32,999	2,162
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	15.95	15.87	663	635	41.6	34,489	32,999	2,162
Retail sales workers	10.97	10.50	426	420	38.8	22,137	21,840	2,017
Office and administrative support occupations	14.47	14.71	569	568	39.3	29,199	29,120	2,018
Financial clerks	13.72	13.18	537	486	39.1	27,919	25,272	2,034
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.61	14.73	564	578	38.6	28,335	30,056	1,940
Medical secretaries	14.66	14.45	587	578	40.0	30,502	30,056	2,080
Construction and extraction occupations	18.23	16.62	729	665	40.0	37,928	34,570	2,080
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	21.73	19.16	869	766	40.0	45,194	39,853	2,080

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Full-time¹ civilian workers: Mean and median hourly, weekly, and annual earnings and mean weekly and annual hours, Bangor, ME, December 2009 — Continued

Occupation ²	Hourly earnings ³		Weekly earnings ⁴			Annual earnings ⁵		
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean weekly hours	Mean	Median	Mean annual hours
Production occupations	\$18.54	\$17.00	\$741	\$680	40.0	\$38,553	\$35,360	2,080
Transportation and material moving occupations	16.62	16.51	661	654	39.8	33,902	32,841	2,040

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 Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

³ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Mean weekly earnings are the straight-time weekly wages or salaries

paid to employees. Median weekly earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

⁵ Mean annual earnings are the straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. Median annual earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean annual hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a year, exclusive of overtime.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 9. Full-time¹ private industry workers: Mean and median hourly, weekly, and annual earnings and mean weekly and annual hours, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	Hourly earnings ³		Weekly earnings ⁴			Annual earnings ⁵		
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean weekly hours	Mean	Median	Mean annual hours
All workers	\$18.65	\$15.87	\$738	\$624	39.6	\$37,554	\$31,221	2,014
Management occupations	27.06	26.25	1,080	1,050	39.9	56,176	54,600	2,076
Community and social services occupations	18.04	16.64	716	649	39.7	37,247	33,746	2,065
Healthcare support occupations	13.11	12.00	518	480	39.5	26,951	24,960	2,056
Food preparation and serving related occupations	12.73	11.75	483	470	37.9	21,351	23,196	1,678
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	11.01	10.16	436	406	39.6	22,666	21,133	2,059
Building cleaning workers	11.01	10.16	436	406	39.6	22,666	21,133	2,059
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.26	10.41	444	416	39.5	23,111	21,653	2,052
Sales and related occupations	12.65	11.00	501	440	39.6	26,045	22,880	2,059
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.95	15.87	663	635	41.6	34,489	32,999	2,162
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	15.95	15.87	663	635	41.6	34,489	32,999	2,162
Retail sales workers	10.97	10.50	426	420	38.8	22,137	21,840	2,017
Office and administrative support occupations	14.33	14.45	566	560	39.5	29,446	29,120	2,055
Financial clerks	13.58	13.18	532	461	39.2	27,684	23,988	2,038
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.94	16.00	581	578	38.9	30,191	30,056	2,021
Medical secretaries	14.66	14.45	587	578	40.0	30,502	30,056	2,080
Construction and extraction occupations	18.23	16.62	729	665	40.0	37,928	34,570	2,080
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	21.89	18.28	876	731	40.0	45,528	38,018	2,080
Production occupations	18.64	17.74	746	710	40.0	38,774	36,899	2,080
Transportation and material moving occupations	16.70	16.84	668	674	40.0	34,480	35,027	2,064

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 Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

³ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Mean weekly earnings are the straight-time weekly wages or salaries

paid to employees. Median weekly earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

⁵ Mean annual earnings are the straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. Median annual earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean annual hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a year, exclusive of overtime.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Table 10. Full-time¹ State and local government workers: Mean and median hourly, weekly, and annual earnings and mean weekly and annual hours, Bangor, ME, December 2009

Occupation ²	Hourly earnings ³		Weekly earnings ⁴			Annual earnings ⁵		
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean weekly hours	Mean	Median	Mean annual hours
All workers	\$21.21	\$18.82	\$812	\$753	38.3	\$36,727	\$37,128	1,731
Management occupations	25.79	23.22	1,026	929	39.8	51,746	48,304	2,006
Community and social services occupations	19.04	17.36	762	694	40.0	38,802	36,109	2,038
Education, training, and library occupations	28.30	29.44	997	1,030	35.2	36,944	38,831	1,305
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	35.52	34.46	1,256	1,206	35.4	45,455	44,669	1,280
Elementary and middle school teachers	36.89	40.60	1,309	1,316	35.5	48,005	47,948	1,301
Elementary school teachers, except special education	37.03	40.60	1,310	1,370	35.4	47,545	47,948	1,284
Teacher assistants	12.09	12.33	419	425	34.6	15,239	15,027	1,261
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	13.94	11.94	558	478	40.0	23,851	23,296	1,711
Office and administrative support occupations	15.11	14.73	579	589	38.3	28,191	30,634	1,866
Secretaries and administrative assistants	14.22	14.73	544	589	38.3	26,332	30,634	1,852

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 Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

³ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

⁴ Mean weekly earnings are the straight-time weekly wages or salaries

paid to employees. Median weekly earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

⁵ Mean annual earnings are the straight-time annual wages or salaries paid to employees. Median annual earnings designates position - one-half of the hours are paid the same as or more than the rate shown. Mean annual hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a year, exclusive of overtime.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately

Appendix: Technical note

Survey scope

This survey of the Bangor, ME, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covered establishments employing one worker or more in private goods-producing industries (mining, construction, and manufacturing); private service-providing industries (trade, transportation, and utilities, information, financial activities, professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and other services); State governments; and local governments. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, private households, and the Federal Government were excluded from the scope of the survey. For purposes of this survey, an establishment is an economic unit that produces goods or services, a central administrative office, or an auxiliary unit providing support services to a company. For private industries in this survey, the establishment is usually at a single physical location. For State and local governments, an establishment is defined as all locations of a government agency within the sampled area.

Sampling frame

The list of establishments from which the survey sample was selected (sampling frame) was developed from State unemployment insurance reports. Due to the volatility of industries within the private sector, sampling frames were developed using the most recent month of reference available at the time the sample was selected.

Sample design

The sample for this survey area was selected using a two-stage stratified design with probability proportional to employment sampling at each stage. The first stage of sample selection was a probability-proportional-to-size sample of establishments. Use of this technique means that the larger an establishment's employment, the greater its chance of selection. The second stage of sample selection, detailed below, was a probability sample of occupations within a sampled establishment.

Occupational selection and classification

Identification of the occupations for which wage data were to be collected was a multistep process:

1. Probability-proportional-to-size selection of establishment jobs
2. Classification of jobs into occupations based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system
3. Characterization of jobs as full-time or part-time, union or nonunion, and time or incentive
4. Determination of the level of work of each job

For each occupation, wage data were collected for those workers whose jobs could be characterized by the criteria identified in the last three steps. In step one, the jobs to be sampled were selected at each establishment by the BLS field economist. A complete list of employees was used for sampling, with each selected worker representing a job within the establishment. The greater the number of people working in a job in the establishment, the greater its chance of selection.

The second step of the process entailed classifying the selected jobs into occupations based on their duties. NCS uses the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. A selected job may fall into any one of about 800 occupational classifications, from accountant to zoologist. When workers could be classified in more than one occupation, they were classified in the occupation that required the higher skill level. When there was no perceptible difference in skill level, the workers were classified in the occupation that described their primary activity.

Each occupational classification is an element of a broader classification known as a major group. Occupations can fall into any of 22 major groups. A complete list of all individual occupations, classified by the major group to which they belong, is available from BLS.

In step three, certain other job characteristics of the chosen worker were identified. First, the worker was identified as holding either a full-time or part-time job, based on the establishment's definition of those terms. Then, the worker was classified as having a time versus incentive job and also identified as being in a union or a nonunion job.

Occupational leveling

In the last step before wage data were collected, the work level of each selected job was determined using a "point factor leveling" process. Point factor leveling matches certain aspects of a job to specific levels of work with assigned point values. Points for each factor are then totaled to determine the overall work level for the job.

The NCS program is in the process of converting from a nine-factor to a four-factor occupational leveling system. The conversion is being phased in via annual NCS sample replenishment groups and will require several years for full implementation. The four occupational leveling factors are:

- Knowledge
- Job controls and complexity
- Contacts (nature and purpose)
- Physical environment

Each factor consists of several levels, and each level has an associated description and assigned points. A knowledge guide for 24 families of closely related occupations contains short definitions of the point levels of knowledge expected for the occupations and presents relevant examples. The other three factors use identical descriptions for all occupational categories and contain a definition of each point level within each factor.

The description within each factor best matching the job is chosen. The point levels within each factor are designed to describe the thresholds of distinct levels of work. When a job does not meet the full description of a point level, the next lowest point level is used. Points for the four factors are totaled to determine the overall work level. NCS publishes data for up to 15 work levels.

Most supervisory occupations are evaluated based on their duties and responsibilities. A modified approach is used for professional and administrative supervisors when they direct professional work and are paid primarily to supervise. Such supervisory occupations are leveled based on the work level of the highest position reporting to them.

For a complete description of point factor leveling, refer to the publication “National Compensation Survey: Guide for Evaluating Your Firm’s Jobs and Pay,” available at the BLS National Compensation Survey Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/sp/ncbr0004.pdf>.

Collection period

Survey data were collected over a 14-month period for the larger areas in the NCS program. For the smaller areas, data were collected over a 5-month period. For each establishment in the survey, the data reflect the establishment’s most recent information at the time of collection. The payroll reference month shown in the tables reflects the average date of this information for all sample units.

Earnings

Earnings were defined as regular payments from the employer to the employee as compensation for straight-time hourly work, or for any salaried work performed. The following components were included as part of earnings:

- Incentive pay, including commissions, production bonuses, and piece rates
- Cost-of-living allowances
- Hazard pay
- Payments of income deferred due to participation in a salary reduction plan
- Deadhead pay, defined as pay given to transportation workers returning in a vehicle without freight or passengers

The following forms of payments were *not* considered part of straight-time earnings:

- Shift differentials, defined as extra payment for working a schedule that varies from the norm, such as night or weekend work
- Premium pay for overtime, holidays, and weekends
- Bonuses not directly tied to production (such as Christmas and profit-sharing bonuses)
- Uniform and tool allowances
- Free or subsidized room and board
- Payments made by third parties (for example, tips)
- On-call pay

To calculate earnings for various periods (hourly, weekly, and annual), data on work schedules also were collected. For hourly workers, scheduled hours worked per day and per week, exclusive of overtime, were recorded. Annual weeks worked were determined. Because salaried workers who are exempt from overtime provisions often work beyond the assigned work schedule, their typical number of hours actually worked was collected.

Weighting and nonresponse

Sample weights were calculated for each establishment and occupation in the survey. These weights reflected the relative size of the occupation within the establishment and of the establishment within the sample universe. Weights were used to aggregate data for the individual establishments or occupations into the various data series.

If data were not provided by a sample member during the initial interview, the weights of responding sample members in the same or similar “cells” were adjusted to account for the missing data. This technique assumes that the mean value of data for the nonrespondents equals the mean value of data for the respondents at some detailed “cell” level. Responding and nonresponding establishments were classified into these cells according to industry and employment size. Responding and nonresponding occupations within responding establishments were classified into cells that were additionally defined by major occupation group.

If average hourly earnings data were not provided by a sample member during the update interview, then missing average hourly earnings were imputed by multiplying prior average hourly earnings by the rate of change in the average hourly earnings of respondents. The regression model that takes into account available establishment characteristics is used to derive the rate of change in the average hourly earnings.

Establishments that were determined to be out of business or outside the scope of the survey had their weights changed to zero.

Survey response

	<i>Establish- ments</i>
Total in sampling frame	3,213
Total in sample	102
Responding	82
Refused or unable to provide data	11
Out of business or not in survey scope	9

Estimation

The wage series in the tables are computed by combining the wages for each sampled occupation. Before being combined, individual wage rates are weighted by the number of workers; the sample weight, adjusted for nonresponding establishments and other factors; and the occupation's scheduled hours of work.

The sample weight reflects the inverse of each unit's probability of selection at each sample selection stage and four weight adjustment factors. The first factor adjusts for establishment nonresponse and the second factor adjusts for occupational nonresponse. The third factor adjusts for any special situations that may have occurred during data collection. The fourth factor, post-stratification, also called benchmarking, is introduced to adjust estimated employment totals to the current counts of employment by industry. The latest available employment counts were used to derive average hourly earnings in this publication.

Not all calculated series met the criteria for publication. Before any series was published, it was reviewed to make sure that the number of observations underlying it was suf-

ficient. This review prevented the publication of a series that could have revealed information about a specific establishment.

Data reliability

The data in this summary 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 this 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 the different samples would differ from each other.

A measure of variation among these differing estimates is called the standard error or sampling error. It indicates the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error divided by the estimate. RSE data are provided alongside the earnings data in the summary tables.

The standard error can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. As an example, suppose a table shows that mean hourly earnings for all workers were \$17.75, with a relative standard error of 1.0 percent for this estimate. At the 90-percent level, the confidence interval for this estimate is from \$17.46 to \$18.04 (\$17.75 minus and plus \$0.29, where \$0.29 is the product of 1.645 times 1.0 percent times \$17.75). 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.

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. Although they were not specifically measured, the nonsampling errors were expected to be minimal due to the extensive training of the field economists who gathered the survey data, computer edits of the data, and detailed data review.