

For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Friday, November 1, 2013

USDL-13-2078

Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS THIRD QUARTER 2013

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 105.5 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$771 in the third quarter of 2013 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 1.7 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 1.6 percent in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

Data on usual weekly earnings are collected as part of the Current Population Survey, a nationwide sample survey of households in which respondents are asked, among other things, how much each wage and salary worker usually earns. (See the Technical Note.) Data shown in this release are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Highlights from the third-quarter data are:

- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$777 in the third quarter of 2013, little changed from the previous quarter (\$775). (See table 1.)
- On a not seasonally adjusted basis, **median weekly earnings** were \$771 in the third quarter of 2013. **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$698, or 82.4 percent of the \$847 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **women's-to-men's earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 82.8 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with black (87.1 percent), Asian (77.4 percent), and Hispanic women (90.8 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$682 per week, or 78.6 percent of the median for white men (\$868). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$594) were 82.6 percent of those for white women (\$719). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$587) were lower than those of blacks (\$630), whites (\$794), and Asians (\$922). (See table 2.)
- Usual weekly earnings of full-time workers varied by **age**. Among men, those age 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 had the highest median weekly earnings, \$970 and \$1,001, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64; weekly earnings were \$775 for women age 35 to 44, \$755 for women age 45 to 54, and \$769 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$430. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,338 for men and \$962 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$562 and \$447, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By **educational attainment**, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$479, compared with \$659 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,174 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (professional or master's degree and above), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,436 or more per week, compared with \$2,302 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Usual Weekly Earnings Data

The Usual Weekly Earnings news release for the fourth quarter of 2013 will incorporate annual revisions to seasonally adjusted data for full-time wage and salary workers and median weekly earnings in current dollars. (See table 1.) Estimates for constant (1982-84) dollar median weekly earnings also will be affected by revisions to the current dollar series. Seasonally adjusted estimates back to the first quarter of 2009 will be subject to revision.

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides basic information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau using a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 eligible households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-quarter of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers (both incorporated and unincorporated self-employed are excluded). The data, therefore, exclude self-employment income.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Reliability

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling errors can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

A full discussion of the reliability of data from the Current Population Survey and information on estimating standard errors is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series are described briefly below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders). Prior to 1994, respondents were asked how much they usually earned per week. Since January 1994, respondents have been asked to identify the easiest way for them to report earnings (hourly, weekly, biweekly, twice monthly, monthly, annually, other) and how much they usually earn in the reported time period.

Earnings reported on a basis other than weekly are converted to a weekly equivalent. The term "usual" is as perceived by the respondent. If the respondent asks for a definition of "usual", interviewers are instructed to define the term as more than half the weeks worked during the past 4 or 5 months.

Medians (and other quantiles) of weekly earnings. The median (or upper limit of the second quartile) is the amount that divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median. Ten percent of a given distribution have earnings below the upper limit of the first decile (90 percent have higher earnings); 25 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the first quartile (75 percent have higher earnings); 75 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the third quartile (25 percent have higher earnings); and 90 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the ninth decile (10 percent have higher earnings).

The estimation procedure places each reported or calculated weekly earnings value into \$50-wide intervals that are centered around multiples of \$50. The actual value is estimated through the linear interpolation of the interval in which the quantile boundary lies.

Over-the-year changes in the medians (and other quantile boundaries) for specific groups may not necessarily be consistent with the movements estimated for the overall quantile boundary. The most common reasons for this possible anomaly are: (1) There could be a change in the relative weights of the subgroups. For example, the medians of both 16- to 24-year-olds and those 25 years and over may rise; but if the lower-earning 16- to 24-year-olds group accounts for a greatly increased share of the total, the overall median could actually fall. (2) There could be a large change in the shape of the distribution of reported earnings, particularly near a quantile boundary. This could be caused by survey observations that are clustered at

rounded values, such as \$250, \$300, or \$400. An estimate lying in a \$50-wide centered interval containing such a cluster or "spike" tends to change more slowly than one in other intervals.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Full-time workers. Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

Part-time workers. Workers who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week at their sole or principal job.

Constant dollars. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is used to convert current dollars to constant (1982-84) dollars.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Refers to persons who identified themselves in the enumeration process as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of

any race.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and other measures of labor market activity undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These recurring events include seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variations can be very large.

Because seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments easier to spot. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in quarter-to-quarter activity.

At the end of each calendar year, the seasonally adjusted data are revised for the past 5 years when the seasonal adjustment factors are updated. More information on seasonal adjustment is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#sa.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted

Year and quarter	Number of workers (in thousands)			Median weekly earnings					
	Total	Men	Women	In current dollars			In constant (1982-84) dollars		
				Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
2004									
3rd Quarter.....	101,148	56,931	44,217	635	712	574	335	376	303
4th Quarter.....	101,658	57,289	44,369	646	720	577	337	376	302
2005									
1st Quarter.....	102,091	57,710	44,381	647	723	580	336	376	302
2nd Quarter.....	103,201	58,099	45,101	647	714	584	334	369	301
3rd Quarter.....	104,310	58,843	45,467	651	723	588	331	368	299
4th Quarter.....	104,605	58,967	45,638	658	730	588	332	368	296
2006									
1st Quarter.....	104,708	58,960	45,748	662	737	594	332	370	298
2nd Quarter.....	105,798	59,831	45,966	663	732	597	329	364	296
3rd Quarter.....	107,041	60,060	46,981	678	755	603	334	372	297
4th Quarter.....	106,847	60,140	46,707	681	748	607	337	370	300
2007									
1st Quarter.....	107,176	60,105	47,070	687	752	610	336	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	106,827	60,351	46,476	693	765	610	335	370	295
3rd Quarter.....	107,156	60,216	46,940	698	774	621	336	372	298
4th Quarter.....	108,178	60,508	47,670	700	774	615	332	368	292
2008									
1st Quarter.....	107,786	60,378	47,408	713	783	633	335	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	107,046	59,586	47,460	722	802	636	335	372	295
3rd Quarter.....	106,136	59,273	46,863	724	802	637	331	367	291
4th Quarter.....	105,617	58,511	47,106	727	806	647	340	377	302
2009									
1st Quarter.....	101,680	56,299	45,381	732	815	645	344	384	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,990	55,233	44,757	736	818	652	345	383	306
3rd Quarter.....	99,049	54,481	44,567	742	820	664	345	381	308
4th Quarter.....	98,569	54,412	44,156	747	823	666	344	379	307
2010									
1st Quarter.....	98,149	54,102	44,048	748	836	662	344	385	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,598	55,038	44,559	742	813	671	342	374	309
3rd Quarter.....	100,410	55,618	44,792	746	822	670	342	377	307
4th Quarter.....	99,960	55,469	44,491	750	826	676	342	376	308
2011									
1st Quarter.....	99,690	55,338	44,353	750	821	679	338	370	306
2nd Quarter.....	100,343	55,848	44,495	754	828	688	336	369	306
3rd Quarter.....	100,487	56,053	44,434	759	837	681	336	370	301
4th Quarter.....	101,316	56,643	44,674	761	838	686	335	369	302
2012									
1st Quarter.....	102,194	57,113	45,081	764	842	693	335	369	304
2nd Quarter.....	102,491	57,102	45,389	772	867	688	337	379	301
3rd Quarter.....	102,637	57,236	45,401	765	838	693	333	364	301
4th Quarter.....	103,681	57,701	45,980	772	868	690	334	376	298
2013									
1st Quarter.....	103,972	57,914	46,058	769	862	699	331	371	301
2nd Quarter.....	103,946	57,964	45,983	775	863	705	334	372	304
3rd Quarter.....	104,492	58,143	46,350	777	860	706	333	368	302

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 2. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings			
	3rd 2012	3rd 2013	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars	
			3rd 2012	3rd 2013	3rd 2012	3rd 2013
SEX AND AGE						
Total, 16 years and over.....	103,577	105,459	\$ 758	\$ 771	\$329	\$330
Men, 16 years and over.....	58,069	58,990	828	847	359	362
16 to 24 years.....	5,576	5,733	459	452	199	193
25 years and over.....	52,493	53,257	891	904	387	387
Women, 16 years and over.....	45,508	46,469	685	698	298	299
16 to 24 years.....	4,036	4,324	414	414	180	177
25 years and over.....	41,472	42,146	725	737	315	315
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX						
White.....	82,259	83,689	780	794	339	340
Men.....	47,292	47,897	854	868	371	371
Women.....	34,967	35,791	712	719	309	307
Black or African American.....	12,340	12,571	606	630	263	270
Men.....	5,771	5,898	633	682	275	292
Women.....	6,569	6,672	590	594	256	254
Asian.....	5,986	6,141	915	922	397	394
Men.....	3,338	3,473	1,043	1,027	453	439
Women.....	2,649	2,668	762	795	331	340
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	16,889	17,480	556	587	241	251
Men.....	10,110	10,593	586	609	255	260
Women.....	6,779	6,887	513	553	223	236

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 3. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 3rd quarter 2013 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings
TOTAL						
16 years and over.....	105,459	\$771	58,990	\$ 847	46,469	\$698
16 to 24 years.....	10,056	430	5,733	452	4,324	414
16 to 19 years.....	1,422	369	824	381	598	352
20 to 24 years.....	8,634	454	4,909	476	3,726	425
25 years and over.....	95,403	820	53,257	904	42,146	737
25 to 54 years.....	74,859	807	42,089	885	32,770	729
25 to 34 years.....	25,164	710	14,284	756	10,879	651
35 to 44 years.....	24,527	870	13,948	947	10,579	775
45 to 54 years.....	25,169	870	13,857	970	11,311	755
55 years and over.....	20,544	879	11,168	984	9,376	765
55 to 64 years.....	17,030	893	9,208	1,001	7,822	769
65 years and over.....	3,514	804	1,960	907	1,554	736
White						
16 years and over.....	83,689	794	47,897	868	35,791	719
16 to 24 years.....	7,989	447	4,689	475	3,300	417
25 years and over.....	75,700	845	43,208	925	32,492	755
25 to 54 years.....	58,643	829	33,724	905	24,920	746
55 years and over.....	17,056	903	9,484	1,012	7,572	785
Black or African American						
16 years and over.....	12,571	630	5,898	682	6,672	594
16 to 24 years.....	1,277	382	623	378	654	388
25 years and over.....	11,294	664	5,275	719	6,019	618
25 to 54 years.....	9,191	654	4,345	704	4,846	616
55 years and over.....	2,103	728	931	819	1,173	635
Asian						
16 years and over.....	6,141	922	3,473	1,027	2,668	795
16 to 24 years.....	370	467	208	413	162	574
25 years and over.....	5,771	953	3,265	1,083	2,506	827
25 to 54 years.....	4,708	980	2,675	1,136	2,032	853
55 years and over.....	1,064	797	590	852	474	686
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over.....	17,480	587	10,593	609	6,887	553
16 to 24 years.....	2,257	416	1,381	421	876	410
25 years and over.....	15,223	618	9,211	658	6,012	585
25 to 54 years.....	13,230	615	8,047	656	5,183	584
55 years and over.....	1,993	639	1,164	676	828	604

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 4. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by occupation and sex, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Occupation and sex	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	3rd 2012	3rd 2013	3rd 2012	3rd 2013
TOTAL				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	41,105	41,679	\$1,098	\$1,116
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	17,266	17,082	1,159	1,179
Professional and related occupations.....	23,839	24,597	1,056	1,056
Service occupations.....	15,540	15,419	487	490
Sales and office occupations.....	22,726	23,379	645	655
Sales and related occupations.....	9,251	9,708	667	710
Office and administrative support occupations.....	13,475	13,671	637	629
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,135	10,886	728	744
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	943	856	417	462
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,090	5,762	723	725
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,102	4,269	811	828
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	14,072	14,096	615	633
Production occupations.....	7,310	7,215	621	623
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,762	6,881	608	647
Men				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	20,168	20,372	1,300	1,338
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	9,142	9,215	1,368	1,417
Professional and related occupations.....	11,026	11,158	1,259	1,268
Service occupations.....	7,980	7,730	530	562
Sales and office occupations.....	8,889	9,185	751	744
Sales and related occupations.....	5,253	5,565	825	805
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3,636	3,620	685	636
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	9,720	10,442	737	756
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	748	712	439	482
Construction and extraction occupations.....	4,998	5,608	723	733
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3,973	4,122	812	832
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	11,312	11,260	657	685
Production occupations.....	5,422	5,265	680	692
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5,890	5,994	626	680
Women				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	20,937	21,306	948	962
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	8,124	7,867	983	1,034
Professional and related occupations.....	12,813	13,439	928	941
Service occupations.....	7,560	7,689	440	447
Sales and office occupations.....	13,836	14,194	607	615
Sales and related occupations.....	3,998	4,143	543	558
Office and administrative support occupations.....	9,838	10,051	624	627
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	415	444	501	551
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	195	144	369	396
Construction and extraction occupations.....	92	153	724	585
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	129	147	760	680
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	2,759	2,836	494	492
Production occupations.....	1,888	1,950	502	493
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	872	886	479	490

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 5. Quartiles and selected deciles of usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, 3rd quarter 2013 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)	Upper limit of:				
		First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total, 16 years and over.....	105,459	\$370	\$ 509	\$ 771	\$1,221	\$1,886
Men.....	58,990	385	546	847	1,361	2,082
Women.....	46,469	350	481	698	1,068	1,574
White.....	83,689	379	521	794	1,244	1,899
Men.....	47,897	391	565	868	1,384	2,100
Women.....	35,791	360	493	719	1,086	1,604
Black or African American.....	12,571	322	427	630	962	1,475
Men.....	5,898	337	470	682	1,022	1,574
Women.....	6,672	313	410	594	905	1,340
Asian.....	6,141	388	569	922	1,484	2,192
Men.....	3,473	400	609	1,027	1,729	2,493
Women.....	2,668	373	514	795	1,270	1,764
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	17,480	317	404	587	869	1,330
Men.....	10,593	328	413	609	917	1,398
Women.....	6,887	305	389	553	798	1,165
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Total, 25 years and over.....	95,403	393	551	820	1,277	1,914
Less than a high school diploma.....	7,166	296	363	479	655	903
High school graduates, no college ¹	25,392	360	477	659	933	1,339
Some college or associate degree.....	25,867	399	531	747	1,091	1,517
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	36,977	581	803	1,174	1,781	2,584
Bachelor's degree only.....	23,815	530	746	1,101	1,646	2,320
Advanced degree.....	13,162	682	947	1,365	1,984	2,920
Men, 25 years and over.....	53,257	411	598	904	1,430	2,164
Less than a high school diploma.....	5,053	313	388	509	705	982
High school graduates, no college ¹	15,248	384	514	742	1,041	1,484
Some college or associate degree.....	13,642	430	597	846	1,221	1,719
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	19,313	639	924	1,378	2,012	2,979
Bachelor's degree only.....	12,612	601	846	1,267	1,891	2,816
Advanced degree.....	6,701	752	1,062	1,645	2,376	3,436
Women, 25 years and over.....	42,146	374	508	737	1,116	1,638
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,113	277	319	404	540	721
High school graduates, no college ¹	10,144	329	426	569	763	1,053
Some college or associate degree.....	12,225	377	492	654	910	1,251
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	17,664	518	727	1,031	1,492	2,095
Bachelor's degree only.....	11,202	485	672	941	1,396	1,921
Advanced degree.....	6,462	628	860	1,172	1,641	2,302

1 Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

2 Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Ten percent of all full-time wage and salary workers earn less than the upper limit of the first decile; 25 percent earn less than the upper limit of the first quartile; 50 percent earn less than the upper limit of the second quartile, or median; 75 percent earn less than the upper limit of the third quartile; and 90 percent earn less than the upper limit of the ninth decile. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 6. Median usual weekly earnings of part-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	3rd 2012	3rd 2013	3rd 2012	3rd 2013
SEX AND AGE				
Total, 16 years and over.....	24,086	24,064	\$240	\$241
Men, 16 years and over.....	8,319	8,391	238	234
16 to 24 years.....	3,589	3,634	196	193
25 years and over.....	4,730	4,758	278	278
Women, 16 years and over.....	15,767	15,673	241	245
16 to 24 years.....	4,727	4,642	180	187
25 years and over.....	11,039	11,031	283	280
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX				
White.....	19,577	19,288	243	243
Men.....	6,652	6,578	239	235
Women.....	12,925	12,710	246	247
Black or African American.....	2,530	2,668	226	231
Men.....	945	1,074	235	229
Women.....	1,585	1,594	220	233
Asian.....	1,145	1,236	251	246
Men.....	403	408	239	225
Women.....	742	828	255	258
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	3,583	3,597	230	228
Men.....	1,446	1,463	245	238
Women.....	2,137	2,134	218	222

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.