

# **NEWS RELEASE**



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## USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS FIRST QUARTER 2014

**Median weekly earnings** of the nation's 104.3 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$796 in the first quarter of 2014 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 3.0 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 1.4 percent in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

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

- **Median weekly earnings** were \$796 in the first quarter of 2014. **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$722, or 82.8 percent of the \$872 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The women's-to-men's earnings ratio varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 82.4 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with black women (85.6 percent), Asian women (83.8 percent), and Hispanic women (92.6 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$708 per week, or 78.8 percent of the median for white men (\$898). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$606) were 81.9 percent of those for white women (\$740). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$593) were lower than those of blacks (\$646), whites (\$819), and Asians (\$955). (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, \$1,021 and \$992, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64: weekly earnings were \$787 for women age 35 to 44 and for women age 45 to 54, and \$776 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$465. (See table 3.)
- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,347 for

men and \$975 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$581 and \$459, respectively. (See table 4.)

- By educational attainment, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$480, compared with \$660 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,199 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 \$3,834 or more per week, compared with \$2,390 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)
- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$791 in the first quarter of 2014, little changed from the previous quarter (\$782). (See table 1.)

#### Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Usual Weekly Earnings Data

Seasonally adjusted data for median usual weekly earnings in constant (1982-84) dollars have been updated using revised seasonally adjusted data for the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). (Data are shown in table 1 of the release.) Seasonally adjusted constant (1982-84) dollar estimates back to the first quarter of 2009 were 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-fourth of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers, both incorporated and unincorporated, are excluded from CPS earnings estimates.

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#### **Definitions**

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings data in this news release 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, or 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 determined by each respondent's own understanding of the term. 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 midpoint in a given earnings distribution, with half of workers having earnings above the median and the other half 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 BLS procedure for estimating the median of an earnings distribution places each reported or calculated weekly earnings value into a \$50-wide interval that is centered around a multiple of \$50. The median is calculated through the linear interpolation of the interval in which the median lies.

Changes over time 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 as follows: (1) there could be a change in the relative weights of the subgroups. For example, the median of 16- to 24-year-olds and the median earnings of those 25 years and over may rise, but if the lower earning 16to-24 age 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 change could be caused by survey observations that are clustered at rounded values, such as \$400 or \$500. 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.

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

Wage and salary workers. These are 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, it excludes all self-employed persons, both those with incorporated businesses and those with unincorporated businesses.

Full-time workers. For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working full time.

*Part-time workers.* For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working part time.

Race. In the survey process, race is determined by the household respondent. In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidelines, white, black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders are terms used to describe a person's race. Estimates for the latter two race groups and persons who selected more than one race are not included in this release due to insufficient sample size.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This refers to people who identified themselves in the survey process as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

#### 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 component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the true population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

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

Additional information about the reliability of data from the CPS is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

#### 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

	Number of workers (in thousands)			Median weekly earnings					
Year and quarter			In	current doll	ars	In constant (1982-84) dollars			
	Total	Men	Women	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
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	101,683	56,302	45,381	732	815	645	345	384	304
2nd Quarter	99,996	55,233	44,763	737	818	652	345	383	305
3rd Quarter	99,050	54,481	44,569	742	820	664	345	381	309
4th Quarter	98,555	54,410	44,145	747	823	666	344	379	307
2010									
1st Quarter	98,151	54,104	44,047	748	836	662	344	384	305
2nd Quarter	99,616	55,042	44,574	743	813	670	342	374	309
3rd Quarter	100,407	55,613	44,793	745	822	670	342	377	307
4th Quarter	99,939	55,469	44,470	750	826	676	341	376	308
2011									
1st Quarter	99,691	55,339	44,352	750	821	679	338	370	306
2nd Quarter	100,376	55,855	44,521	754	828	687	336	369	306
3rd Quarter	100,477	56,042	44,435	758	837	682	335	370	301
4th Quarter	101,287	56,646	44,641	761	838	686	335	369	302
2012	400 404	57.444	45.000	705	044	000	005	000	004
1st Quarter	102,194	57,114	45,080	765 770	841	693	335	369	304
2nd Quarter	102,543	57,113	45,430	772	867	686	337	379	300
3rd Quarter	102,615	57,216	45,399	764 772	838	693	332	365	302
4th Quarter	103,644	57,709	45,935	772	868	690	334	375	298
2013	102.000	E7 000	46.054	770	960	700	222	274	202
1st Quarter.	103,960	57,909	46,051	770 776	860	700	332	371	302
2nd Quarter	103,981	57,969	46,013	776 770	862	705	334	371	303
3rd Quarter	104,497	58,124	46,373	778 792	859	706	333	368	302
4th Quarter	104,620	57,988	46,632	782	862	712	334	368	304
2014	105,620	50 704	46 017	791	867	716	326	369	304
1st Quarter	100,020	58,704	46,917	191	867	716	336	368	304

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

		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings				
Characteristic	1st 2013	1st 2014	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars		
			1st 2013	1st 2014	1st 2013	1st 2014	
SEX AND AGE							
Total, 16 years and over	102,606	104,327	\$773	\$796	\$334	\$339	
Men, 16 years and over	56,829	57,654	867	872	374	371	
16 to 24 years	4,727	4,871	487	480	210	204	
25 years and over	52,102	52,783	914	925	394	394	
Women, 16 years and over	45,777	46,673	704	722	304	307	
16 to 24 years	3,712	3,707	419	434	181	185	
25 years and over	42,065	42,967	735	754	317	321	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX							
White	81,432	82,536	802	819	346	349	
Men	46,163	46,637	888	898	383	382	
Women	35,269	35,899	723	740	312	315	
Black or African American	12,432	12,501	622	646	268	275	
Men	5,784	5,863	666	708	287	301	
Women	6,648	6,638	597	606	258	258	
Asian	5,861	6,353	951	955	410	407	
Men	3,255	3,516	1,058	1,045	456	445	
Women	2,606	2,838	831	876	358	373	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	16,016	16,804	575	593	248	252	
Men	9,821	10,292	593	610	256	260	
Women	6,195	6,513	531	565	229	240	

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, 1st quarter 2014 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	То	tal	Men		Women	
Age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	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	104,327	\$796	57,654	\$872	46,673	\$722
16 to 24 years	8,577	465	4,871	480	3,707	434
16 to 19 years	843	395	509	410	333	369
20 to 24 years	7,735	476	4,362	489	3,373	448
25 years and over	95,750	837	52,783	925	42,967	754
25 to 54 years	74,812	827	41,476	905	33,336	750
25 to 34 years	25,237	727	14,246	755	10,991	679
35 to 44 years	24,435	891	13,684	973	10,751	787
45 to 54 years	25,139	898	13,545	1,021	11,594	787
55 years and over	20,938	884	11,307	979	9,631	767
55 to 64 years	17,335	896	9,342	992	7,993	776
65 years and over	3,603	809	1,966	938	1,638	714
White						
16 years and over	82,536	819	46,637	898	35,899	740
16 to 24 years	6,908	479	3,984	493	2,923	449
25 years and over	75,628	861	42,652	948	32,976	771
25 to 54 years	58,213	851	33,072	929	25,141	771
55 years and over	17,415	911	9,580	1,006	7,835	772
Black or African American						
16 years and over	12,501	646	5,863	708	6,638	606
16 to 24 years	1,020	384	507	386	513	381
25 years and over	11,481	682	5,356	742	6,125	624
25 to 54 years	9,364	670	4,365	731	4,999	615
55 years and over	2,116	744	991	789	1,125	673
Asian						
16 years and over	6,353	955	3,516	1,045	2,838	876
16 to 24 years	342	478	198	498	144	419
25 years and over	6,011	1,000	3,317	1,088	2,694	921
25 to 54 years	4,960	1,037	2,743	1,127	2,217	944
55 years and over	1,051	895	574	942	477	838
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over	16,804	593	10,292	610	6,513	565
16 to 24 years	1,925	421	1,249	417	677	432
25 years and over	14,879	618	9,043	651	5,836	587
25 to 54 years	12,903	618	7,938	645	4,965	591

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

Opporation and according		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Occupation and sex	1st 2013	1st 2014	1st 2013	1st 2014	
TOTAL					
Management, professional, and related occupations	41,565	42,034	\$1,136	\$1,130	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	17,015	1,238	1,231	
Professional and related occupations		25,020	1,063	1,072	
Service occupations		14,822	501	504	
Sales and office occupations		23,416	655	685	
Sales and related occupations		9,683	703	754	
Office and administrative support occupations		13,733	640	660	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations		10,162	738	763	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations		607	430	417	
Construction and extraction occupations.		5,304	707	745	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		4,250	850	820	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		13,894	622	644	
Production occupations.		7,507	640	644	
Transportation and material moving occupations	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6,386	609	644	
	0,400	0,300	009	044	
Men					
Management, professional, and related occupations		19,884	1,344	1,347	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	9,292	9,040	1,408	1,399	
Professional and related occupations	10,745	10,844	1,269	1,297	
Service occupations	7,388	7,623	576	581	
Sales and office occupations	8,881	9,261	765	794	
Sales and related occupations	5,215	5,468	824	875	
Office and administrative support occupations	3,666	3,793	723	720	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	9,593	9,713	746	773	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	523	496	444	423	
Construction and extraction occupations	5,063	5,168	706	750	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,008	4,049	853	823	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	10,931	11,174	674	686	
Production occupations		5,631	708	705	
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,459	5,543	627	668	
Women					
Management, professional, and related occupations	21,528	22,151	984	975	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations		7,975	1,083	1,055	
Professional and related occupations.		14,176	945	943	
Service occupations	· · · · · ·	7,199	447	459	
Sales and office occupations	13,835	14,155	609	629	
Sales and related occupations		4,215	565	599	
Office and administrative support occupations.		9,940	622	641	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations		448	608	543	
•		112	353	368	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.		136	743		
Construction and extraction occupations.				630	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		201	827	649	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		2,720	502	504	
Production occupations.		1,877	503	504	
Transportation and material moving occupations	949	843	500	505	

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, 1st quarter 2014 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of	Upper limit of:					
	workers (in thousands)	First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile	
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY							
Total, 16 years and over	. 104,327	\$378	\$518	\$796	\$1,254	\$1,893	
Men		393	564	872	1,399	2,076	
Women	. 46,673	360	489	722	1,103	1,637	
White	. 82,536	386	536	819	1,285	1,906	
Men	46,637	402	581	898	1,428	2,097	
Women	35,899	368	500	740	1,126	1,665	
Black or African American	. 12,501	333	439	646	973	1,431	
Men	5,863	334	465	708	1,068	1,517	
Women	6,638	333	425	606	908	1,280	
Asian	6,353	395	597	955	1,550	2,293	
Men	3,516	405	621	1,045	1,763	2,500	
Women	2,838	384	561	876	1,422	1,911	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	16,804	320	409	593	899	1,38	
Men	1 '	325	416	610	945	1,472	
Women	6,513	314	397	565	841	1,223	
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT							
otal, 25 years and over	. 95,750	396	559	837	1,314	1,914	
Less than a high school diploma	. 6,601	293	362	480	644	85	
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>	. 25,220	367	477	660	942	1,35	
Some college or associate degree	. 25,655	398	526	756	1,081	1,532	
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	. 38,273	582	821	1,199	1,783	2,613	
Bachelor's degree only	. 24,289	540	754	1,102	1,633	2,306	
Advanced degree	. 13,983	687	960	1,419	2,026	3,007	
Men, 25 years and over	. 52,783	414	602	925	1,456	2,122	
Less than a high school diploma	. 4,505	308	385	501	692	907	
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>	. 15,042	396	530	756	1,053	1,49 <sup>-</sup>	
Some college or associate degree	. 13,374	421	600	859	1,241	1,740	
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	. 19,862	610	912	1,393	1,997	2,92	
Bachelor's degree only	· ·	578	834	1,247	1,850	2,599	
Advanced degree	. 6,997	753	1,134	1,652	2,431	3,834	
Women, 25 years and over	· ·	379	511	754	1,143	1,689	
Less than a high school diploma	. 2,097	275	328	410	577	711	
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>		332	417	564	760	1,025	
Some college or associate degree	· ·	381	487	658	929	1,270	
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	· ·	550	757	1,063	1,531	2,103	
Bachelor's degree only	1	513	700	981	1,404	1,913	
Advanced degree	. 6,987	638	867	1,205	1,733	2,390	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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

Oh assassintia		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Characteristic	1st 2013	1st 2014	1st 2013	1st 2014	
SEX AND AGE					
Total, 16 years and over	24,849	25,053	\$234	\$236	
Men, 16 years and over	8,813	8,688	228	235	
16 to 24 years	3,775	3,652	180	181	
25 years and over	5,037	5,036	269	285	
Women, 16 years and over	16,037	16,366	238	237	
16 to 24 years	4,627	4,904	166	173	
25 years and over	11,410	11,462	272	276	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX					
White	20,140	20,274	234	238	
Men	7,005	6,960	226	234	
Women	13,136	13,314	239	240	
Black or African American	2,704	2,952	235	228	
Men	1,105	1,068	235	252	
Women	1,599	1,884	236	216	
Asian	1,187	949	240	254	
Men	372	293	238	202	
Women	814	656	241	285	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,910	4,116	225	226	
Men	1,564	1,577	228	247	
Women	2,345	2,539	224	214	

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.