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USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS FIRST QUARTER 2013

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 102.6 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$773 in the first quarter of 2013 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 0.5 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 1.7 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:

- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$769 in the first quarter of 2013, about unchanged from the previous quarter (\$772). (See table 1.)
- On a not seasonally adjusted basis, **median weekly earnings** were \$773 in the first quarter of 2013. **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$704, or 81.2 percent of the \$867 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **female-to-male earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 81.4 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with black (89.6 percent), Hispanic (89.5 percent), and Asian women (78.5 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$666, or 75.0 percent of the median for white men (\$888). The difference was less among women, as black women's median weekly earnings (\$597) were 82.6 percent of those for white women (\$723). Overall, median weekly earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$575) were lower than those of blacks (\$622), whites (\$802), and Asians (\$951). (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, \$1,015 and \$983, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64; weekly earnings were \$757 for women age 35 to 44, \$758 for women age 45 to 54, and \$771 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$459. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,344 for men and \$984 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$576 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 \$457, compared with \$651 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,189 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 \$3,844 or more per week, compared with \$2,301 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)

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 2008 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-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									
1st Quarter.....	100,905	56,848	44,057	629	705	562	337	378	301
2nd Quarter.....	101,135	56,914	44,221	642	715	576	341	380	306
3rd Quarter.....	101,148	56,931	44,217	635	712	574	335	376	303
4th Quarter.....	101,658	57,289	44,369	646	720	577	337	376	302
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

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			
	1st 2012	1st 2013	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars	
			1st 2012	1st 2013	1st 2012	1st 2013
SEX AND AGE						
Total, 16 years and over.....	100,830	102,606	\$ 769	\$ 773	\$337	\$334
Men, 16 years and over.....	56,022	56,829	848	867	372	374
16 to 24 years.....	4,786	4,727	469	487	206	210
25 years and over.....	51,236	52,102	904	914	396	394
Women, 16 years and over.....	44,808	45,777	697	704	306	304
16 to 24 years.....	3,614	3,712	421	419	185	181
25 years and over.....	41,194	42,065	731	735	321	317
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX						
White.....	80,278	81,432	793	802	348	346
Men.....	45,755	46,163	874	888	383	383
Women.....	34,523	35,269	713	723	313	312
Black or African American.....	11,935	12,432	635	622	278	268
Men.....	5,626	5,784	677	666	297	287
Women.....	6,309	6,648	602	597	264	258
Asian.....	5,778	5,861	918	951	403	410
Men.....	3,099	3,255	1,027	1,058	451	456
Women.....	2,679	2,606	830	831	364	358
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	15,776	16,016	567	575	249	248
Men.....	9,577	9,821	584	593	256	256
Women.....	6,199	6,195	525	531	230	229

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 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.....	102,606	\$ 773	56,829	\$ 867	45,777	\$704
16 to 24 years.....	8,439	459	4,727	487	3,712	419
16 to 19 years.....	876	372	495	400	382	339
20 to 24 years.....	7,563	475	4,232	494	3,330	436
25 years and over.....	94,167	827	52,102	914	42,065	735
25 to 54 years.....	73,903	816	41,241	902	32,663	729
25 to 34 years.....	24,834	716	14,030	753	10,804	672
35 to 44 years.....	24,098	871	13,664	949	10,434	757
45 to 54 years.....	24,971	889	13,547	1,015	11,424	758
55 years and over.....	20,264	873	10,862	969	9,402	754
55 to 64 years.....	16,940	891	8,937	983	8,003	771
65 years and over.....	3,324	745	1,924	889	1,400	645
White						
16 years and over.....	81,432	802	46,163	888	35,269	723
16 to 24 years.....	6,662	476	3,871	493	2,792	435
25 years and over.....	74,770	853	42,293	936	32,477	751
25 to 54 years.....	58,006	839	33,115	919	24,890	744
55 years and over.....	16,764	904	9,177	1,000	7,587	776
Black or African American						
16 years and over.....	12,432	622	5,784	666	6,648	597
16 to 24 years.....	1,092	401	457	417	635	389
25 years and over.....	11,340	658	5,327	702	6,013	624
25 to 54 years.....	9,156	644	4,299	690	4,857	618
55 years and over.....	2,185	707	1,029	734	1,156	680
Asian						
16 years and over.....	5,861	951	3,255	1,058	2,606	831
16 to 24 years.....	347	522	211	541	136	472
25 years and over.....	5,514	983	3,044	1,106	2,469	862
25 to 54 years.....	4,564	1,028	2,544	1,145	2,020	905
55 years and over.....	949	804	500	958	449	652
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over.....	16,016	575	9,821	593	6,195	531
16 to 24 years.....	1,913	415	1,208	453	704	379
25 years and over.....	14,103	599	8,613	617	5,490	567
25 to 54 years.....	12,399	599	7,619	614	4,780	573
55 years and over.....	1,704	601	993	640	711	522

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	
	1st 2012	1st 2013	1st 2012	1st 2013
TOTAL				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	40,290	41,565	\$1,107	\$1,136
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	16,676	17,241	1,173	1,238
Professional and related occupations.....	23,614	24,324	1,050	1,063
Service occupations.....	14,339	14,618	491	501
Sales and office occupations.....	22,842	22,716	654	655
Sales and related occupations.....	9,388	9,115	698	703
Office and administrative support occupations.....	13,454	13,601	638	640
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	9,883	10,010	742	738
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	716	668	420	430
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,042	5,169	727	707
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,125	4,173	815	850
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	13,475	13,698	619	622
Production occupations.....	7,335	7,290	627	640
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,140	6,408	611	609
Men				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	19,378	20,037	1,309	1,344
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	8,913	9,292	1,407	1,408
Professional and related occupations.....	10,465	10,745	1,242	1,269
Service occupations.....	7,336	7,388	563	576
Sales and office occupations.....	9,066	8,881	766	765
Sales and related occupations.....	5,284	5,215	847	824
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3,782	3,666	687	723
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	9,499	9,593	749	746
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	565	523	438	444
Construction and extraction occupations.....	4,938	5,063	724	706
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3,996	4,008	818	853
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	10,744	10,931	667	674
Production occupations.....	5,446	5,471	694	708
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5,297	5,459	640	627
Women				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	20,912	21,528	959	984
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	7,763	7,949	1,026	1,083
Professional and related occupations.....	13,149	13,579	924	945
Service occupations.....	7,004	7,231	450	447
Sales and office occupations.....	13,776	13,835	608	609
Sales and related occupations.....	4,104	3,900	550	565
Office and administrative support occupations.....	9,672	9,935	622	622
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	384	417	561	608
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	152	145	380	353
Construction and extraction occupations.....	103	106	929	743
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	129	165	673	827
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	2,732	2,767	483	502
Production occupations.....	1,889	1,818	476	503
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	843	949	492	500

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 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.....	102,606	\$368	\$ 510	\$ 773	\$1,245	\$1,884
Men.....	56,829	388	550	867	1,387	2,079
Women.....	45,777	345	482	704	1,081	1,595
White.....	81,432	376	523	802	1,269	1,900
Men.....	46,163	392	574	888	1,409	2,105
Women.....	35,269	354	493	723	1,097	1,626
Black or African American.....	12,432	330	438	622	965	1,507
Men.....	5,784	358	467	666	1,020	1,594
Women.....	6,648	316	414	597	902	1,374
Asian.....	5,861	382	566	951	1,533	2,118
Men.....	3,255	399	602	1,058	1,673	2,314
Women.....	2,606	361	507	831	1,356	1,893
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	16,016	310	396	575	885	1,373
Men.....	9,821	322	408	593	934	1,479
Women.....	6,195	295	373	531	804	1,209
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Total, 25 years and over.....	94,167	387	543	827	1,307	1,909
Less than a high school diploma.....	6,591	286	346	457	617	875
High school graduates, no college ¹	24,768	359	476	651	947	1,342
Some college or associate degree.....	25,796	393	521	741	1,072	1,528
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	37,013	565	801	1,189	1,772	2,585
Bachelor's degree only.....	23,764	519	740	1,095	1,624	2,323
Advanced degree.....	13,249	673	946	1,412	2,000	2,914
Men, 25 years and over.....	52,102	407	590	914	1,449	2,116
Less than a high school diploma.....	4,454	296	369	488	665	940
High school graduates, no college ¹	14,746	390	517	732	1,052	1,481
Some college or associate degree.....	13,411	422	592	866	1,242	1,753
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	19,491	600	891	1,373	2,000	2,922
Bachelor's degree only.....	12,778	577	825	1,242	1,869	2,720
Advanced degree.....	6,713	730	1,045	1,608	2,339	3,844
Women, 25 years and over.....	42,065	366	503	735	1,135	1,651
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,137	266	317	400	520	705
High school graduates, no college ¹	10,021	326	414	574	763	1,067
Some college or associate degree.....	12,384	368	488	652	905	1,265
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	17,522	526	736	1,050	1,512	2,085
Bachelor's degree only.....	10,986	486	674	958	1,383	1,896
Advanced degree.....	6,537	636	886	1,239	1,744	2,301

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	
	1st 2012	1st 2013	1st 2012	1st 2013
SEX AND AGE				
Total, 16 years and over.....	25,150	24,849	\$229	\$234
Men, 16 years and over.....	8,600	8,813	221	228
16 to 24 years.....	3,605	3,775	170	180
25 years and over.....	4,995	5,037	265	269
Women, 16 years and over.....	16,550	16,037	234	238
16 to 24 years.....	4,778	4,627	166	166
25 years and over.....	11,772	11,410	265	272
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX				
White.....	20,365	20,140	229	234
Men.....	6,879	7,005	222	226
Women.....	13,486	13,136	233	239
Black or African American.....	2,834	2,704	219	235
Men.....	1,026	1,105	209	235
Women.....	1,807	1,599	225	236
Asian.....	1,214	1,187	245	240
Men.....	430	372	227	238
Women.....	784	814	255	241
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	3,904	3,910	229	225
Men.....	1,596	1,564	231	228
Women.....	2,309	2,345	228	224

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.