

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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# USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS SECOND QUARTER 2013

**Median weekly earnings** of the nation's 104.2 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$776 in the second quarter of 2013 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 0.6 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 second-quarter data are:

- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$775 in the second quarter of 2013, little changed from the previous quarter (\$769). (See table 1.)
- On a not seasonally adjusted basis, **median weekly earnings** were \$776 in the second quarter of 2013. **Women** who usually worked full time had median weekly earnings of \$707, or 82.2 percent of the \$860 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **women's-to-men's earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 81.1 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with black (91.6 percent), Asian (77.1 percent), and Hispanic women (94.2 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 75.3 percent of the median for white men (\$885). The difference was less among women, as black women's median weekly earnings (\$610) were 85.0 percent of those for white women (\$718). Overall, median weekly earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$572) were lower than those of blacks (\$634), whites (\$799), and Asians (\$973). (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, \$1,007 and \$1,023, respectively. Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64; weekly earnings were \$760 for women age 35 to 44, \$767 for women age 45 to 54, and \$789 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$452. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,345 for men and \$962 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$534 and \$461, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By **educational attainment**, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$477, compared with \$647 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,193 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 \$3,510 or more per week, compared with \$2,339 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)

### **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

	1	nber of wor n thousand			ı	Median wee	kly earning	s	
Year and quarter				In current dollars In constant (1982-84) dollars					
·	Total	Men	Women	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
2004									
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
2nd Quarter	103,946	57,964	45,983	775	863	705	334	372	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	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84 dollars		
			2nd 2012	2nd 2013	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	
SEX AND AGE							
otal, 16 years and over	102,769	104,194	\$ 771	\$ 776	\$335	\$333	
Men, 16 years and over	57,319	58,164	865	860	376	369	
16 to 24 years	5,200	5,304	460	479	200	206	
25 years and over	52,119	52,859	918	913	400	392	
Women, 16 years and over	45,450	46,030	689	707	300	303	
16 to 24 years	3,897	4,069	409	422	178	181	
25 years and over	41,553	41,961	727	743	316	319	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX							
White	82,045	82,612	792	799	344	343	
Men	46,765	47,223	891	885	388	380	
Women	35,280	35,390	701	718	305	308	
Black or African American	12,198	12,353	637	634	277	272	
Men	5,785	5,876	668	666	291	286	
Women	6,413	6,476	616	610	268	262	
Asian	5,540	6,085	930	973	405	418	
Men	3,101	3,356	1,092	1,117	475	479	
Women	2,439	2,729	771	861	336	369	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	16,325	16,990	576	572	251	245	
Men	9,995	10,478	600	583	261	250	
Women	6,330	6,512	525	549	229	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, 2nd quarter 2013 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	Total		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	104,194	\$ 776	58,164	\$ 860	46,030	\$707
16 to 24 years	9,373	452	5,304	479	4,069	422
16 to 19 years	1,068	362	619	373	449	326
20 to 24 years	8,305	472	4,685	492	3,620	440
25 years and over	94,821	828	52,859	913	41,961	743
25 to 54 years	74,384	810	41,936	890	32,449	735
25 to 34 years	25,031	706	14,193	731	10,838	670
35 to 44 years	24,149	868	13,888	956	10,262	760
45 to 54 years	25,204	892	13,855	1,007	11,348	767
55 years and over	20,436	893	10,924	1,018	9,513	769
55 to 64 years	17,007	907	8,993	1,023	8,013	789
65 years and over	3,429	825	1,930	987	1,499	682
White						
16 years and over	82,612	799	47,223	885	35,390	718
16 to 24 years	7,464	471	4,324	492	3,140	426
25 years and over	75,148	851	42,899	936	32,249	753
25 to 54 years	58,203	831	33,670	907	24,533	743
55 years and over	16,945	924	9,229	1,061	7,717	783
Black or African American						
16 years and over	12,353	634	5,876	666	6,476	610
16 to 24 years	1,110	392	532	383	578	400
25 years and over	11,243	667	5,344	695	5,899	639
25 to 54 years	9,105	657	4,362	695	4,743	623
55 years and over	2,138	727	982	702	1,156	738
Asian						
16 years and over	6,085	973	3,356	1,117	2,729	861
16 to 24 years	365	495	209	518	155	487
25 years and over	5,721	1,019	3,147	1,155	2,574	896
25 to 54 years	4,718	1,058	2,621	1,166	2,097	926
55 years and over	1,002	898	526	1,095	477	768
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over	16,990	572	10,478	583	6,512	549
16 to 24 years	2,103	415	1,334	422	769	406
25 years and over	14,887	598	9,144	607	5,743	583
25 to 54 years	12,916	594	8,022	604	4,894	579
55 years and over	1,971	635	1,122	651	849	619

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 any		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Occupation and sex	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	
TOTAL					
Management, professional, and related occupations	40,782	41,607	\$1,102	\$1,126	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	16,884	17,080	1,174	1,205	
Professional and related occupations	23,898	24,527	1,036	1,060	
Service occupations	14,836	15,203	485	493	
Sales and office occupations	23,536	23,349	659	658	
Sales and related occupations	9,394	9,279	696	704	
Office and administrative support occupations	14,142	14,070	646	637	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	9,732	10,272	745	759	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	699	665	444	460	
Construction and extraction occupations	5,040	5,289	762	744	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,993	4,318	800	826	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	13,883	13,762	651	616	
Production occupations	7,407	7,188	647	622	
Transportation and material moving occupations	6,475	6,574	656	608	
	0,475	0,574	050	000	
Men					
Management, professional, and related occupations	19,720	20,298	1,342	1,345	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	9,163	9,036	1,410	1,428	
Professional and related occupations	10,557	11,262	1,269	1,268	
Service occupations	7,642	7,793	529	534	
Sales and office occupations	9,515	9,219	764	750	
Sales and related occupations	5,504	5,291	843	897	
Office and administrative support occupations	4,011	3,928	692	658	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	9,383	9,871	756	766	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	578	529	453	488	
Construction and extraction occupations	4,946	5,195	766	747	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,859	4,147	802	828	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11,059	10,983	696	657	
Production occupations	5,433	5,279	716	685	
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,626	5,704	676	625	
Women					
Management, professional, and related occupations	21,062	21,309	945	962	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations		8,045	979	1,031	
Professional and related occupations.	13,341	13,264	928	932	
Service occupations	7,194	7,411	435	461	
Sales and office occupations	14,021	14,130	615	615	
Sales and related occupations.	3,890	3,988	509	557	
Office and administrative support occupations.	10,131	10,142	636	632	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	349	401	586	565	
•	121	136	428	369	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.		95			
Construction and extraction occupations.			647	668	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.		171	709	724	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2,824	2,779	512	498	
Production occupations.	1,974	1,909	505	503	
Transportation and material moving occupations	850	870	551	488	

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, 2nd quarter 2013 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of		Upper limit of:	r limit of:		
	workers (in thousands)	First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Fotal, 16 years and over	104,194	\$374	\$ 510	\$ 776	\$1,235	\$1,895
Men	58,164	388	543	860	1,385	2,084
Women	46,030	352	482	707	1,072	1,573
White	82,612	381	523	799	1,253	1,907
Men	47,223	396	565	885	1,414	2,106
Women	35,390	359	493	718	1,079	1,577
Black or African American	12,353	332	427	634	959	1,423
Men	5,876	341	443	666	986	1,481
Women	6,476	322	417	610	934	1,375
Asian	6,085	394	589	973	1,633	2,381
Men	3,356	420	633	1,117	1,867	2,732
Women	2,729	376	533	861	1,363	1,979
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	16,990	321	402	572	876	1,364
Men	10,478	331	409	583	912	1,485
Women	6,512	306	389	549	811	1,170
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
otal, 25 years and over	94,821	393	547	828	1,289	1,922
Less than a high school diploma	7,197	299	367	477	637	953
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>	24,950	361	478	647	931	1,291
Some college or associate degree	25,957	399	527	751	1,116	1,550
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	36,717	578	811	1,193	1,837	2,682
Bachelor's degree only	23,141	526	746	1,101	1,656	2,324
Advanced degree	13,576	676	940	1,387	2,055	3,003
Men, 25 years and over	52,859	411	590	913	1,450	2,152
Less than a high school diploma	5,049	314	388	502	697	1,018
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>	14,772	386	510	722	1,046	1,456
Some college or associate degree	13,932	436	598	869	1,262	1,773
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	19,106	617	916	1,390	2,017	3,045
Bachelor's degree only	11,922	586	834	1,263	1,889	2,875
Advanced degree	7,184	757	1,098	1,604	2,375	3,510
Women, 25 years and over	41,961	374	508	743	1,126	1,641
Less than a high school diploma	2,148	279	326	404	528	684
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup>	10,178	334	425	581	777	1,055
Some college or associate degree	12,025	376	483	657	919	1,246
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup>	17,611	528	739	1,040	1,495	2,117
Bachelor's degree only	11,219	497	680	963	1,383	1,969
Advanced degree	6,392	628	855	1,172	1,731	2,339

<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>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

Characteristic		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Characteristic	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	2nd 2012	2nd 2013	
SEX AND AGE					
otal, 16 years and over	24,616	25,015	\$226	\$238	
Men, 16 years and over	8,484	8,763	220	234	
16 to 24 years	3,735	3,653	171	189	
25 years and over	4,749	5,109	277	280	
Women, 16 years and over	16,132	16,252	229	241	
16 to 24 years	4,720	4,687	172	177	
25 years and over	11,412	11,565	263	276	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX					
White	19,741	20,072	228	239	
Men	6,683	6,943	220	233	
Women	13,058	13,130	233	243	
Black or African American	2,787	2,964	218	236	
Men	949	1,070	220	238	
Women	1,838	1,895	217	234	
Asian	1,140	1,205	240	252	
Men	457	433	242	254	
Women	682	772	238	250	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,846	3,922	218	231	
Men	1,431	1,684	230	248	
Women	2,414	2,237	213	220	

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.