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USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS THIRD QUARTER 2017

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 114.9 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$859 in the third quarter of 2017 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 3.9 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a gain of 2.0 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 in this news release.) Data shown in this release are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.

Highlights from the third-quarter data:

- Median weekly earnings of full-time workers were \$859 in the third quarter of 2017.
 Women had median weekly earnings of \$767, or 81.9 percent of the \$937 median for men. (See table 2.)
- The women's-to-men's earnings ratio varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 82.0 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with Black women (88.4 percent), Asian women (78.6 percent), and Hispanic women (85.5 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for Black men working at full-time jobs were \$744, or 77.1 percent of the median for White men (\$965). The difference was less among women, as Black women's median earnings (\$658) were 83.2 percent of those for White women (\$791). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$655) were lower than those of Blacks (\$696), Whites (\$887), and Asians (\$1,010). (See table 2.)
- By **age**, median weekly earnings were highest for men age 55 to 64, at \$1,133. For women, usual weekly earnings were highest for those age 35 to 64: weekly earnings were \$857 for women age 35 to 44, \$845 for women age 45 to 54, and \$873 for women age 55 to 64. Men and women age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, \$527 and \$500, respectively. (See table 3.)

- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,411 for men and \$1,058 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$610 and \$501, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By educational attainment, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$522, compared with \$714 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,271 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 \$3,499 or more per week, compared with \$2,765 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)
- Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings were \$868 in the third quarter of 2017, little changed from the previous quarter (\$863). (See table 1.)

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Usual Weekly Earnings Data

The Usual Weekly Earnings news release for the fourth quarter of 2017 will incorporate annual revisions to seasonally adjusted data for the number of 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 2013 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-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 Islander 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	<u> </u>			In current dollars			In constant (1982-84) dollars			
	Total	Men	Women	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Womer \$	
2008										
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										
2009 1st Quarter	101,683	56,302	45,381	732	815	645	345	384	304	
2nd Quarter	1 '	55,233	44,763	737	818	652	345	383	305	
3rd Quarter	1	54,481	44,769	742	820	664	345	381	309	
4th Quarter	1	54,410	44,145	747	823	666	344	379	303	
	90,555	34,410	44,143	141	023	000	344	319	307	
2010										
1st Quarter	1 '	54,098	44,045	748	836	662	344	384	304	
2nd Quarter	'	55,028	44,577	742	814	671	342	374	309	
Brd Quarter	,	55,620	44,792	746	821	670	342	377	308	
th Quarter	99,958	55,486	44,472	750	826	676	341	376	308	
2011										
st Quarter	. 99,670	55,337	44,333	750	821	679	338	370	306	
nd Quarter	1 '	55,821	44,526	754	830	687	336	370	306	
ard Quarter	1 '	56,046	44,449	760	836	681	336	370	301	
Ith Quarter		56,687	44,650	760	838	686	335	369	302	
2012	101,007	00,001	11,000	700					002	
st Quarter	102,161	57,110	45,051	764	841	693	335	368	303	
nd Quarter	1	57,079	45,447	772	870	687	337	380	300	
Brd Quarter	1	57,207	45,380	766	836	693	333	364	302	
Ith Quarter	1	57,772	45,977	771	868	690	333	375	298	
2013			,							
st Quarter	103,896	57,885	46,011	768	860	699	331	370	301	
2nd Quarter	1 '	57,938	46,038	777	866	706	335	373	304	
Brd Quarter	1 '	58,099	46,330	779	855	706	334	366	303	
Ith Quarter		58,081	46,703	782	862	712	334	368	304	
	104,704	30,001	40,703	702	002	/ 12	334	300	304	
2014 st Quarter	105,557	58,670	46,888	790	866	715	335	367	304	
2nd Quarter		59,516	46,871	782	861	715	330	364	302	
Brd Quarter	1 /	59,573	47,193	799	878	713	336	370	304	
th Quarter	1 '	60,059	47,193	794	876	723	335	370	305	
	107,413	00,000	77,004	7 34	0,0	123	333	370	303	
2015	1,22	00.0==	40.0:-				0.5			
st Quarter		60,356	48,048	801	887	723	340	377	307	
2nd Quarter	1 '	60,453	48,177	804	891	726	339	376	307	
Brd Quarter	1 '	61,017	48,280	811	897	728	341	377	306	
th Quarter	109,997	61,164	48,833	820	901	728	344	379	306	
2016										
st Quarter	1 '	61,633	48,730	823	905	743	346	380	312	
2nd Quarter	111,029	61,865	49,164	828	914	744	346	382	311	
Brd Quarter	. 111,601	62,128	49,473	835	919	751	347	382	313	
Ith Quarter	. 111,361	62,094	49,268	843	922	757	348	380	313	
2017										
1st Quarter	1 '	62,465	49,450	855	940	759	350	385	311	
2nd Quarter	. 113,129	63,006	50,123	863	938	779	354	385	319	
3rd Quarter	113,635	63,201	50,433	868	945	774	354	386	316	

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	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars		
			3rd 2016	3rd 2017	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	
SEX AND AGE							
Total, 16 years and over	112,784	114,859	\$827	\$859	\$343	\$350	
Men, 16 years and over	63,104	64,179	911	937	378	381	
16 to 24 years	6,181	6,343	510	527	212	214	
25 years and over	56,924	57,836	971	995	403	405	
Women, 16 years and over	49,680	50,680	745	767	309	312	
16 to 24 years	4,919	4,830	480	500	199	203	
25 years and over	44,761	45,850	785	811	326	330	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX							
White	87,781	88,794	854	887	354	361	
Men	50,231	50,776	932	965	387	393	
Women	37,550	38,018	760	791	316	322	
Black or African American	14,210	14,727	685	696	284	283	
Men	6,849	7,131	732	744	304	303	
Women	7,360	7,596	639	658	265	268	
Asian	7,136	7,509	1,010	1,010	419	411	
Men	3,961	4,132	1,154	1,147	479	467	
Women	3,176	3,377	865	902	359	367	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	19,278	20,091	632	655	262	267	
Men	11,892	12,183	667	698	277	284	
Women	7,385	7,908	593	597	246	243	

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 2017 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	To	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	114,859	\$859	64,179	\$937	50,680	\$767
16 to 24 years	11,173	514	6,343	527	4,830	500
16 to 19 years	1,774	417	995	437	780	403
20 to 24 years	9,399	537	5,348	554	4,051	520
25 years and over	103,686	909	57,836	995	45,850	811
25 to 54 years	79,847	890	44,586	969	35,261	797
25 to 34 years	28,504	778	15,975	835	12,529	729
35 to 44 years	25,572	970	14,549	1,067	11,023	857
45 to 54 years	25,771	953	14,062	1,051	11,709	845
55 years and over	23,839	980	13,250	1,125	10,589	859
55 to 64 years	19,351	987	10,663	1,133	8,688	873
65 years and over	4,488	941	2,588	1,087	1,901	762
White						
16 years and over	88,794	887	50,776	965	38,018	791
16 to 24 years	8,494	514	4,876	529	3,618	499
25 years and over	80,300	937	45,899	1,019	34,400	839
25 to 54 years	60,891	913	34,871	990	26,020	821
55 years and over	19,409	1,012	11,028	1,161	8,381	889
Black or African American						
16 years and over	14,727	696	7,131	744	7,596	658
16 to 24 years	1,429	488	735	478	694	501
25 years and over	13,298	734	6,396	801	6,902	686
25 to 54 years	10,618	720	5,101	777	5,517	674
55 years and over	2,681	792	1,295	884	1,386	724
Asian						
16 years and over	7,509	1,010	4,132	1,147	3,377	902
16 to 24 years	570	584	309	600	261	528
25 years and over	6,939	1,063	3,823	1,200	3,116	941
25 to 54 years	5,666	1,095	3,159	1,218	2,506	969
55 years and over	1,273	917	663	1,125	610	710
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over	20,091	655	12,183	698	7,908	597
16 to 24 years	2,585	490	1,493	532	1,091	442
25 years and over	17,507	690	10,690	725	6,817	636
25 to 54 years	14,730	685	8,976	717	5,754	637
55 years and over	2,777	721	1,714	762	1,062	621
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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

O and the state of		of workers usands)	Median weekly earnings		
Occupation and sex	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	
TOTAL					
Management, professional, and related occupations	46,081	47,495	\$1,195	\$1,209	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	· '	19,211	1,298	1,311	
Professional and related occupations		28,284	1,140	1,155	
Service occupations		16,514	520	540	
Sales and office occupations.	· ·	23,917	699	721	
Sales and related occupations.	· ·	10,081	744	774	
Office and administrative support occupations		13,836	679	700	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations		11,904	767	804	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations		1,081	517	530	
Construction and extraction occupations.		6,412	767	805	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.		4,412	850	868	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		15,028	677	680	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		7,746	675	700	
•		1 '			
Transportation and material moving occupations	7,019	7,282	679	647	
Men					
Management, professional, and related occupations	22,638	23,141	1,408	1,411	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	10,473	10,471	1,475	1,509	
Professional and related occupations	12,165	12,670	1,352	1,359	
Service occupations	8,264	8,189	592	610	
Sales and office occupations	9,526	9,623	806	863	
Sales and related occupations	5,479	5,726	903	967	
Office and administrative support occupations	4,046	3,897	714	723	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11,085	11,402	775	814	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	789	830	558	592	
Construction and extraction occupations		6,258	768	806	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		4,314	853	873	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		11,824	722	718	
Production occupations		5,729	738	761	
Transportation and material moving occupations		6,095	708	683	
Women	3,001	,,,,,,			
Management, professional, and related occupations	23,444	24,354	1,024	1,058	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations		8,740	1,088	1,129	
Professional and related occupations		15,613	997	1,020	
Service occupations	· ·	8,326	485	501	
Sales and office occupations	14,314	14,294	648	669	
Sales and related occupations.		4,355	591	601	
Office and administrative support occupations.		9,939	666	692	
······					
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations		502 251	586 440	527	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.				470	
Construction and extraction occupations.		153	692	694	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		98	723	698	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations		3,204	521	540	
Production occupations.		2,017	519	569	
Transportation and material moving occupations	982	1,188	524	508	

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 2017 averages, not seasonally adjusted

	Number of						
Characteristic	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	114,859	\$413	\$575	\$859	\$1,357	\$2,024	
Men	64,179	438	607	937	1,490	2,295	
Women	50,680	393	522	767	1,166	1,766	
White	88,794	422	590	887	1,396	2,091	
Men	50,776	449	622	965	1,526	2,308	
Women	38,018	402	544	791	1,200	1,815	
Black or African American	14,727	378	492	696	1,045	1,579	
Men	7,131	395	518	744	1,135	1,761	
Women	7,596	360	468	658	968	1,370	
Asian	7,509	438	613	1,010	1,725	2,482	
Men	4,132	475	693	1,147	1,881	2,726	
Women	3,377	402	550	902	1,476	2,095	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	20,091	375	475	655	981	1,522	
Men	12,183	390	500	698	1,036	1,641	
Women	7,908	348	428	597	892	1,356	
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT							
otal, 25 years and over	103,686	441	606	909	1,422	2,111	
Less than a high school diploma	7,054	327	410	522	730	1,034	
High school graduates, no college ¹	26,342	400	520	714	1,019	1,456	
Some college or associate degree	27,341	437	580	801	1,156	1,646	
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	42,949	612	865	1,271	1,897	2,864	
Bachelor's degree only	26,876	579	783	1,164	1,770	2,519	
Advanced degree	16,073	729	1,002	1,470	2,118	3,093	
Men, 25 years and over	57,836	480	651	995	1,567	2,363	
Less than a high school diploma	4,790	362	454	591	808	1,173	
High school graduates, no college ¹	16,235	441	588	799	1,128	1,603	
Some college or associate degree	14,582	479	635	915	1,339	1,886	
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	22,229	647	975	1,460	2,185	3,123	
Bachelor's degree only	14,132	610	914	1,373	2,001	2,910	
Advanced degree	8,097	771	1,120	1,671	2,419	3,499	
Women, 25 years and over	45,850	411	560	811	1,224	1,849	
Less than a high school diploma	2,264	299	365	447	566	737	
High school graduates, no college ¹	10,107	367	463	608	844	1,132	
Some college or associate degree	12,759	411	523	703	981	1,334	
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	20,720	586	774	1,128	1,651	2,300	
Bachelor's degree only	12,744 7,976	533 698	724 951	995 1,329	1,466 1,886	2,001 2,765	
Advanced degree	7,976	098	951	1,329	1,000	2,705	

¹ 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 language data.

of January data.

² 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	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	3rd 2016	3rd 2017	
SEX AND AGE					
Total, 16 years and over	23,973	23,785	\$255	\$266	
Men, 16 years and over	8,300	8,099	245	253	
16 to 24 years	3,666	3,631	201	217	
25 years and over	4,634	4,468	292	300	
Women, 16 years and over	15,673	15,686	260	274	
16 to 24 years	4,400	4,736	202	208	
25 years and over	11,273	10,950	294	310	
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX					
White	18,681	18,797	258	269	
Men	6,257	6,288	246	256	
Women	12,424	12,508	264	277	
Black or African American	2,947	2,869	238	249	
Men	1,115	999	235	233	
Women	1,833	1,870	240	254	
Asian	1,379	1,148	265	285	
Men	537	395	264	259	
Women	842	753	266	295	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,998	3,928	246	263	
Men	1,366	1,410	246	263	
Women	2,631	2,517	247	263	

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.