



Wage and Salary Division

Atlanta, Georgia

Federal Wage System
Survey Summary

May 2009

FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM

LOCALITY SURVEY OF BLUE-COLLAR OCCUPATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Wage System (FWS) was established by law in 1972 and calls for paying Federal blue-collar workers wages which approximate local prevailing private sector rates for comparable skill levels. With the exception of employees of the Postal Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and other similar government corporations, most Federal civilian blue-collar workers are covered by the FWS. There are approximately two hundred fifty thousand FWS employees nationwide.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The United States is divided into local wage areas for FWS pay setting purposes. These wage areas are established where there are large concentrations of FWS employment along with concentrations of private industry employment. Each wage area consists of a survey area (counties in which wage data are collected) and the adjacent area of application (counties where the FWS wage schedule is applied in addition to the survey area). The survey area is usually centered on a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

INDUSTRY COVERAGE

FWS surveys cover a standard set of industries which includes manufacturing, wholesale trade, selected transportation industries and utilities. Other industries may be added if they have significant employment similar to local FWS employment. Firms with fewer than fifty employees are not included in the survey. In small survey areas, all firms meeting the industry and size specifications are contacted. This is referred to as a universe survey. In larger areas where this is not practical a sample survey is conducted; and the results are weighted to represent all the firms within the scope of the survey.

OCCUPATIONAL COVERAGE

A standard set of 21 blue-collar jobs representing common FWS occupations and skill levels are surveyed in each area. In some areas, additional jobs are added if there is significant FWS employment in these kinds of jobs. Sometimes jobs are also added to obtain data for use in other areas. The tables in this summary may not cover all the jobs surveyed since jobs where fewer than three firms providing data are not shown.

The following provides information on FWS employment, geographic survey area boundaries, and survey industry coverage in your locality.

Type of survey: Statistical Sample

Number of establishments represented by survey: 601

Federal blue-collar FWS employment in the wage area: 855

Major FWS employer: Department of Veterans Affairs

For industries surveyed see industry coverage.

Other industries surveyed include: General Medical and Surgical Hospitals

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Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia
Butts
Cherokee
Clayton
Cobb
De Kalb
Douglas
Fayette
Forsyth
Fulton
Gwinnett
Henry
Newton
Paulding
Rockdale
Walton

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Table 1 Number of Observations, Means, Medians, and Other Data by Survey Job								
Job Title	Federal Grade	Observations	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Quartiles	
							1st	3rd
Janitor (Light)	1	925	11.34	11.20	6.55	15.94	9.98	13.35
Janitor (Heavy)	2	1585	11.95	10.32	7.50	22.22	9.35	13.30
Material Handler	2	108	13.78	14.79	10.25	19.23	12.85	14.79
Food Service Worker	2	709	10.82	10.34	7.00	16.08	9.25	12.12
Warehouse Worker	5	2805	15.09	13.76	9.87	26.52	13.76	15.95
Forklift Operator	5	755	15.00	12.83	9.75	22.53	11.85	18.40
Matl Handling Eqp Opr	5	570	16.23	16.39	12.70	18.90	15.90	16.69
Truckdriver (Heavy)	7	2283	23.05	19.77	13.00	28.89	18.89	28.89
Electrician	10	242	25.86	27.10	17.90	28.23	22.40	28.23
Automotive Mechanic	10	445	24.43	26.24	13.91	30.98	21.57	29.10
Welder	10	62	22.58	20.36	17.98	31.38	20.36	20.81
Machinist	10	696	18.74	18.73	17.48	33.07	17.80	18.73
Aircraft Mechanic	10	3217	30.28	30.96	15.78	40.64	29.96	30.96
Diesel Engine Mechanic	10	85	24.15	22.50	17.63	30.39	21.83	26.31
Toolmaker	13	263	24.31	22.30	16.59	32.80	20.44	27.00

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Table 2 Percent Distribution of Survey Job Observations by Industry Group						
Job Title	Manufacturing		Transp'tn	Utilities	Wholesale	Other
	Durable	Nondrbl				
Janitor (Light)	2.9	1.1	0.4	-	19.7	75.9
Janitor (Heavy)	5.1	8.3	3.4	-	4.4	78.9
Material Handler	61.1	38.0	-	-	-	0.9
Food Service Worker	-	-	-	0.3	-	99.7
Warehouse Worker	25.0	15.2	9.1	3.7	40.2	6.8
Forklift Operator	34.2	25.7	24.0	-	16.2	-
Mat'l Handling Eqp Opr	1.2	-	20.9	-	77.9	-
Truckdriver (Heavy)	2.2	-	74.4	8.9	14.5	-
Electrician	43.0	46.7	-	-	2.5	7.9
Automotive Mechanic	1.8	1.6	53.0	28.1	15.5	-
Welder	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
Machinist	7.0	-	-	-	93.0	-
Aircraft Mechanic	4.4	-	95.4	0.2	-	-
Diesel Engine Mechanic	-	-	29.4	-	70.6	-
Toolmaker	65.8	12.2	-	-	22.1	-

LEGEND: "-" NO OBSERVATIONS

"*" LESS THAN 0.1 PERCENT

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Table 3 Index Values of Relative Average Hourly Rates by Survey Job and Industry Group <i>All Industry Average for Each Job = 100.0</i>						
Job Title	Manufacturing		Transptn	Utilities	Wholesale	Other
	Durable	Nondrbl				
Janitor (Light)	114.5	84.2	129.9	-	81.1	104.4
Janitor (Heavy)	165.4	172.3	112.6	-	113.5	86.9
Material Handler	107.3	87.3	-	-	-	139.6
Food Service Worker	-	-	-	106.1	-	100.0
Warehouse Worker	102.2	96.0	111.9	169.1	92.3	93.0
Forklift Operator	92.9	97.9	123.9	-	82.9	-
Matl Handling Eqp Opr	100.3	-	102.0	-	99.5	-
Truckdriver (Heavy)	62.6	-	109.3	72.5	74.6	-
Electrician	94.8	108.8	-	-	70.1	85.5
Automotive Mechanic	118.1	72.0	103.6	103.8	81.2	-
Welder	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
Machinist	122.6	-	-	-	98.3	-
Aircraft Mechanic	106.6	-	99.6	112.1	-	-
Diesel Engine Mechanic	-	-	90.1	-	104.1	-
Toolmaker	101.7	96.8	-	-	96.8	-

LEGEND: "-" NO OBSERVATIONS