

HIGHLIGHTS:

Alaska Wage Rates 1993

by JoAnn Wilson

JoAnn Wilson is a labor economist with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. She is located in Juneau.

Alaska *Wage Rates 1993* is the 18th edition of the annual wage rate survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL), Research and Analysis.

Survey Questions and Response Rate

During the summer of 1993, the Alaska DOL Research and Analysis Section mailed questionnaires to private employers in the state, asking them to report the gross rates and frequency of payment (e.g., hourly, monthly), the number of workers in each occupation paid at each rate, the number of hours worked per week, and if the reported wage was entry level. A total of 1,516 employers with businesses located in all of Alaska's six economic regions responded. (See inside back cover.)

¹The median hourly wage for an occupation is the wage at which half of the employees in the occupation earn more and half earn less.

The wage data for Alaska and the six economic regions are presented in separate tables in the publication. To ensure confidentiality of wage rate information, each occupation which appears in *Alaska Wage Rates 1993* was reported for at least 15 workers by a minimum of seven employers or 30 workers by five employers. A total of 154 occupations met at least one of these criteria. An adequate number of responses were also received to publish entry-level wages for 41 occupations. This is the first year that *Alaska Wage Rates* has included entry-level wage data.

Highest and Lowest Median Wages

Employees in the occupational category of professional, paraprofessional and technical

occupations received the highest wages, with a median¹ hourly wage of \$19.34. Workers in service occupations received the lowest median wages (\$7.00 per hour). (See Figure 1.)

Of the 10 occupations with the highest median hourly wage, eight belong to the professional, paraprofessional and technical category. (See Table 1.) Of the occupations with the lowest median hourly wage, all but two are service occupations and half are food and beverage preparation and service occupations. (See Table 2.)

Median Wages by Industry

For many occupations, the wage varies by industry. While the sample was too small to permit publishing many wages at this greater level of detail, it is possible to give some examples.

Table 3 presents the median hourly wages of workers in health-related occupations by industry. For most of these occupations, the workers employed by hospitals received higher wages than workers who were not. The exceptions are pharmacists and physical therapists working in hospitals; their median wages were slightly lower than those of similar workers who were not employed by hospitals.

Industry is a factor in the wages of many other workers besides those in health-related occupations. For example, the median wage of aircraft pilots and navigators, regardless of industry, was \$21.49; for those employed in the nonscheduled air transportation sector, the median wage was much lower, \$15.64. For aircraft mechanics, the overall median wage of \$16.94 was higher than that received by the same workers in the nonscheduled air transportation sector (\$16.50) but less than that received in the scheduled air transportation sector (\$17.75).

Wages for occupations which occur across many industries may also vary by industry. For example, secretaries are employed in virtually every industrial sector, with an overall median hourly wage of \$12.31. However, the median wage for secretaries ranged from a high of \$18.28 for the mining industry

Occupations with Highest Median Hourly Wage^{1/}—Alaska (July 1993)



^{1/} Total of 154 selected occupations.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Occupations with Lowest Median Hourly Wage^{1/}—Alaska (July 1993)



^{1/} Total of 154 selected occupations.

Minimum Wage Rates (4/1/92) = \$4.75/hr. (Nonagricultural Workers).

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

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Median Hourly Wages for Selected Health-Related Occupations by Hospital and Nonhospital Employment—Alaska Statewide (July 1993)

	Median Wage All Industries	Median Wage Hospitals	Median Wage All Industries Except Hospital
Registered Nurses (RNs)	\$20.53	\$21.00	\$18.00 ^{1/}
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)	14.46	15.50	14.28 ^{1/}
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	10.24	11.13	9.97
Medical Laboratory Technicians	17.91	18.50	13.10
Medical Records Technicians	11.90	11.90	11.77
Pharmacists	28.25	27.35	28.25 ^{2/}
Physical Therapists	23.00	22.65	23.06
Radiologic Technicians	17.10	17.50	16.00
Social Workers	13.44	20.11	12.75

1/ The median wage for offices and clinics of doctors of medicine was \$16.18 for RNs and \$12.75 for LPNs.

2/ Most of these workers are employed in drug stores and proprietary stores.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

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**Median Hourly Wages by Occupational Category
Alaska (July 1993)**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

to a low of \$9.62 for membership organizations, a component of the services industry. Similarly, the median hourly wage for receptionists across all industries was \$9.75. However, receptionists employed in the health services industry averaged \$11.00 per hour and those employed in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry averaged only \$8.58. Lowest of all were receptionists employed in retail trade with a median hourly wage rate of \$7.00.