

A Comparison of Police Wages to Other Groups in the United States

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From May 2009 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates

	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)	Mean RSE (3)
All Occupations	130,647,610	\$15.95	\$20.90	\$43,460	0.1 %
All Protective Service Occupations*	3,172,420	\$17.39	\$20.07	\$41,740	0.7 %

Selected Protective Service Occupations	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)	Mean RSE (3)
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Police and Detectives	99,900	\$36.78	\$37.78	\$78,580	0.7 %
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	110,380	\$29.86	\$31.66	\$65,860	0.6 %
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	641,590	\$25.58	\$26.53	\$55,180	0.7 %
Transit and Railroad Police	3,930	\$24.49	\$25.17	\$52,350	2.0 %

*Includes occupations classified as Managers of Correctional Officers, Managers of Police and Detectives, Managers of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers, Fire Fighters, Fire Inspectors and Investigators, Forest Fire Inspectors and Prevention Specialists, Bailiffs, Correctional Officers and Jailers, Detectives and Criminal Investigators, Fish and Game Wardens, Parking Enforcement Workers, Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers, Transit and Railroad Police, Animal Control Workers, Private Detectives and Investigators, Gaming Surveillance Officers and Gaming Investigators, Security Guards, Crossing Guards, Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Protective Service Workers.

Other Major Occupational Groups	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)	Mean RSE (3)
Management Occupations	6,116,380	\$42.95	\$49.47	\$102,900	0.2 %
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	6,063,670	\$28.32	\$31.68	\$65,900	0.2 %
Computer and Mathematical Science Occupations	3,303,690	\$35.05	\$36.68	\$76,290	0.3 %
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	2,412,730	\$33.07	\$35.38	\$73,590	0.2 %
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	1,308,380	\$28.03	\$31.57	\$65,660	0.4 %
Community and Social Services Occupations	1,891,320	\$18.74	\$20.55	\$42,750	0.3 %
Legal Occupations	999,020	\$35.59	\$46.07	\$95,820	0.6 %
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	8,488,740	\$21.74	\$23.81	\$49,530	0.5 %
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	1,745,670	\$20.41	\$24.87	\$51,720	0.5 %
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations	7,200,950	\$27.74	\$33.51	\$69,690	0.2 %
Healthcare Support Occupations	3,886,690	\$11.89	\$12.84	\$26,710	0.2 %
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	11,218,260	\$8.89	\$10.04	\$20,880	0.2 %
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	4,269,480	\$10.75	\$12.00	\$24,970	0.2 %
Personal Care and Service Occupations	3,461,910	\$9.99	\$11.87	\$24,680	0.4 %
Sales and Related Occupations	13,715,050	\$11.51	\$17.32	\$36,020	0.2 %

Other Major Occupational Groups (cont.)	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)	Mean RSE (3)
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	22,336,450	\$14.62	\$15.86	\$32,990	0.1 %
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	419,200	\$9.43	\$11.53	\$23,990	0.5 %
Construction and Extraction Occupations	5,751,630	\$18.64	\$20.84	\$43,350	0.2 %
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,114,150	\$19.04	\$20.30	\$42,210	0.1 %
Production Occupations	8,927,130	\$14.41	\$16.01	\$33,290	0.2 %
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8,844,700	\$13.46	\$15.47	\$32,180	0.3 %

(1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(2) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(3) The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the reliability of a survey statistic. The smaller the relative standard error, the more precise the estimate.

SOURCE: "May 2009 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates". United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. May 20, 2010
http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm.