

Economic News Release

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Usual Weekly Earnings Summary

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USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS FIRST QUARTER 2017

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 110.7 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$865 in the first quarter of 2017 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 4.2 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with again of 2.5 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 first-quarter data:

--Median weekly earnings of full-time workers were \$865 in the first quarter of 2017. Women had median weekly earnings of \$765, or 80.5 percent of the \$950 median for men. (See table 2.)

--The women's-to-men's earnings ratio varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 80.9 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with Black women (89.3 percent), Asian women (74.0 percent), and Hispanic women (86.1 percent). (See table 2.)

--Among the major race and ethnicity groups, median weekly earnings for Black men working at full-time jobs were \$722, or 73.9 percent of the median for White men (\$977). The difference was less among women, as Black women's median earnings (\$645) were 81.6 percent of those for White women (\$790). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$649) were lower than those of Blacks (\$679), Whites (\$894), and Asians (\$1,019). (See table 2.)

--Usual weekly earnings of full-time workers varied by age. Among men, median weekly earnings were highest for those age 45 to 54 (\$1,141). Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64: weekly earnings were \$846 for women age 35 to 44, \$863 for women age 45 to 54, and \$836 for women age 55