

Survey Highlights

Background

The Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) is a nationwide establishment survey of the BLES since 1989. Through the years, the survey has undergone revisions in its periodicity, scope and coverage and survey design to meet the needs of users for statistics in aid of wage and salary administration and wage determination in collective bargaining negotiations.

The OWS is one of the designated statistical activities in E.O. 352 (s. 1996) that will generate critical data for decision making of the government and the private sector. The data category *average monthly occupational wage rates in selected occupations* is among those listed by the Philippine government under the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund. The SDDS serves as reference to member countries in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public.

With the addition of two emerging industries: call center activities, and medical transcription and related outsourcing activities, the 2006 OWS covered non-agricultural establishments employing at least 20 persons in 60 industry groups. In particular, data on wage rates of time-rate workers on full-time basis were collected for 169 occupations across 45 specific industries.

Wage Rate Defined

For purposes of the survey, **wage rate** is defined as including basic pay and regular/guaranteed cash allowances. The OWS monitors rates actually paid by employers per time unit of full-time work. It does not monitor wage rates on output basis neither allowances in kind because of the inherent difficulties in determining a standard conversion factor for work done on output basis and the valuation or pricing of payments in kind. Full-time work is considered as it relates to normal or regular periods of work in establishments.

Highlights

1. The monthly wage rates of the covered occupations averaged to ₱10,629. The highest rate at ₱60,313 was paid to aircraft pilots, navigators and flight engineers.
2. The average wage rates of some occupations identified as highly in-demand during the recently concluded National Human Resource Conference are as follows:

Professionals

Professional nurses	8,944
Medical doctors	18,134
Architects	20,666
Systems analysts and designers	41,305
Computer programmers	19,657 - 24,700*
Engineers	11,086 - 29,276*
Teaching professionals	12,039 - 18,859*
Accountants and auditors	12,271 - 26,526*

Technicians and Associate Professionals

Ships' deck officers and pilots	18,221
Aircraft pilots, navigators and flight engineers	60,313

Clerks

Customer service representatives/associates (in call centers)	13,137 - 17,212*
Medical transcriptionists	10,757

Service and Sales Workers

Travel guides (travel agencies)	9,781
Service crew (restaurants/fastfoods)	8,003
Cooks	8,971

Craft and Related Trades Workers

Welders and flame cutters	8,755 - 9,492*
Heavy equipment mechanics (construction)	8,110

Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers

Ships deck crews and related workers	9,945
Electronic equipment assemblers	8,711

Unskilled Workers 5,343 - 10,752*

**Refer to the range of averages as the occupation may be found in more than one industry.*

The complete report on the survey findings will be released in a series of LABSTAT Updates beginning next month.