

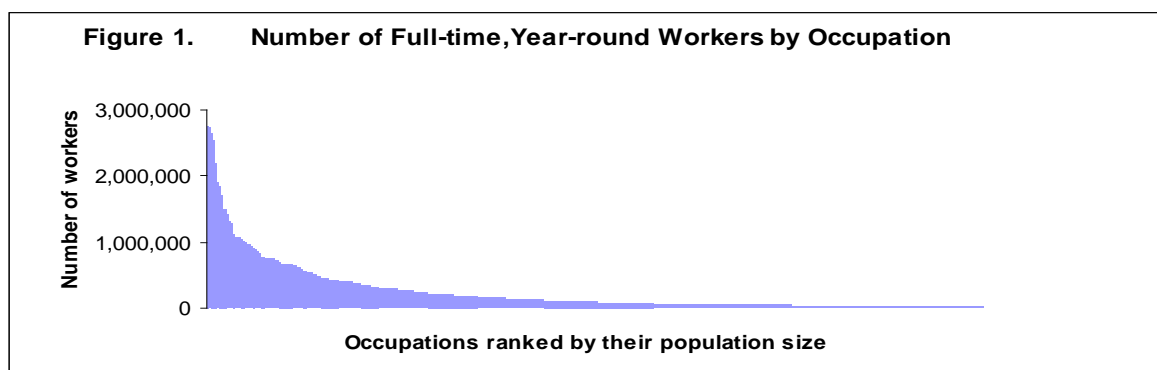
Detailed Occupations and Median Earnings: 2008¹

By Jennifer Cheeseman Day and Jeffrey Rosenthal, US Census Bureau

This analysis highlights findings from the American Community Survey special tabulation: Table 1. Full-Time, Year-Round Workers and Median earnings in the Past 12 Months by Sex and Detailed Occupation: 2008. This table provides the number of workers and median earnings of men and women in 505 occupations. It also shows the percentage of women in each occupation and women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings. Occupations are classified into detailed occupations consistent with the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).² An occupation describes the kind of work that a person does on the job.

Most people worked in just a few occupations.

Among the 102 million full-time, year-round workers, about three out of four worked in just 100 occupations in 2008. With over 500 detailed occupations classified by the Census Bureau, the distribution of America's labor force was mostly concentrated in a relatively small number of occupation groups (Figure 1). In fact, one in five workers worked in the top 10 occupations (Table A).³ The most popular occupations were Managers, all other⁴ and First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers, with over 2.7 million workers each, followed by Secretaries and administrative assistants, Drivers/sales workers and truck



drivers,⁵ Elementary and middle school teachers, Registered nurses, Retail salespersons, Accountants and auditors, Customer services representatives, and Janitors and building cleaners.

¹ This paper is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. Any views expressed on methodological issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

² For more information on the Census Bureau's occupation classification or the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/oiindex/oiindex.html>.

³ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

⁴ "Managers, all other" is a fairly diverse occupational category that encompasses a wide range of occupational titles that are not directly mentioned in other managerial categories. It refers to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Category "11-9199 Managers, All Other." Occupational titles in this category include workers found across a variety of specific industries, and also in industries or establishments that were not elsewhere specified. For instance, this category includes managers of diverse kinds of establishments such as Bowling Alleys and Mines. Research and publishing managers are also represented in this category by titles such as Director of Research, Research Analyst, and Publisher. Finally, managers found in government sectors such as City Officials, County Clerks, Division Chiefs and Diplomats appear in this category. For a detailed accounting of occupational titles within this category, please refer to the occupational title Managers, All Other (Census Code 0430) at: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/oiindex/oiindex02/cens02_0010_0430.html

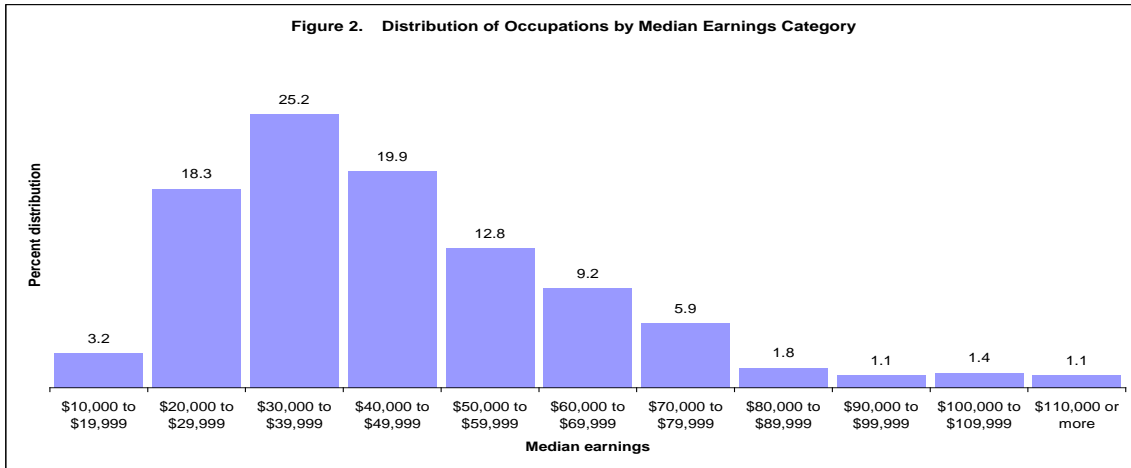
⁵ Three Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) titles comprise the 'Driver/sales workers and truck drivers' category: Driver/Sales Workers (53-3031), Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer (53-3032), and Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services (53-3033). Driver/Sales Workers (53-3031) includes such occupational titles as Route Driver, Newspaper Delivery Driver and Milkman. Truck

Table A. Selected Occupations with the Largest Number of Workers: 2008

Occupation	Population	Margin of error	Percent women in occupation		Median earnings		Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
			Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error		
Managers, all other	2,749,090	26,110	32.8	0.4	70,470	410	74.9	1.6
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	2,731,250	21,600	41.3	0.4	37,200	210	72.5	1.3
Secretaries and administrative assistants	2,664,540	26,280	96.3	0.2	33,020	180	84.6	3.5
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	2,554,410	24,520	3.6	0.2	39,950	370	72.4	3.7
Elementary and middle school teachers	2,194,090	24,630	77.8	0.4	46,160	170	90.0	0.6
Registered nurses	1,900,350	25,530	89.4	0.4	60,910	180	90.5	1.3
Retail salespersons	1,836,050	22,840	40.3	0.6	31,090	240	67.2	1.3
Accountants and auditors	1,702,530	17,190	57.9	0.6	56,630	420	71.3	0.8
Customer service representatives	1,512,310	23,100	67.9	0.6	31,240	180	87.8	2.0
Janitors and building cleaners	1,502,090	23,850	24.7	0.6	25,810	260	75.1	1.7
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	1,416,200	20,570	64.0	0.5	42,510	370	80.2	0.9
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	1,320,880	19,510	87.1	0.5	24,460	170	86.3	3.0
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	1,286,370	17,950	24.1	0.5	60,600	300	82.5	1.2
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	1,222,710	20,920	16.9	0.6	27,780	380	80.9	1.8
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	1,115,100	19,780	28.5	0.7	55,430	750	82.9	2.8
Construction laborers	1,075,670	22,880	2.5	0.2	29,660	500	89.8	7.8
Cashiers	1,074,400	18,530	72.2	0.8	19,810	250	80.9	2.7
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,058,420	17,960	88.2	0.5	33,790	290	89.8	2.2
Cooks	1,053,510	21,680	37.3	0.9	19,360	210	84.5	1.5
Chief executives	1,019,420	13,870	19.7	0.5	115,700	2,290	74.5	2.4
Financial managers	1,000,020	17,510	52.9	0.7	65,900	670	60.4	1.7
Carpenters	961,510	18,040	1.3	0.2	33,440	750	87.4	14.0
Production workers, all other	960,940	17,610	28.6	0.8	30,990	220	77.2	1.8
General and operations managers	929,650	14,430	28.1	0.8	69,860	1,510	76.0	2.2
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	907,570	16,120	17.8	0.7	50,060	410	71.6	1.5
Stock clerks and order fillers	893,560	16,200	36.3	0.8	25,300	260	89.3	1.8
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	844,080	14,410	2.2	0.3	51,700	270	78.6	10.0
Lawyers	837,140	13,870	31.7	0.7	113,810	2,000	73.7	2.8
Marketing and sales managers	784,180	14,500	41.4	0.9	77,260	1,280	66.4	1.1
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	776,610	17,400	39.0	1.0	29,400	370	79.0	1.5

Many occupations had median earnings around the national average of \$40,910 for full-time, year-round workers.⁶

Median earnings for the majority of occupations were between \$20,000 and \$49,999 (Figure 2). About 3 million workers were in the few occupations that had median earnings above \$100,000 (Table B). Occupations topping the list with highest medians



earnings were Physicians and surgeons, Dentists, Chief executives, Lawyers, Engineering managers, Pharmacists, and Actuaries – all with earnings above \$100,000.⁷ About 4

Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer (53-3032) includes such occupational titles as Auto Hauler, Cement Truck Driver, and Diesel Truck Driver. Finally, Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services (53-3033) includes such occupational titles as Delivery Driver, Food Service Driver, and Parcel Post Truck Driver. For a detailed accounting of occupational titles within this category, please refer to the occupational title Driver/sales workers and truck drivers (Census Code 9130) at: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ioindex/ioindex02/cens02_9000_9750.html

⁶ For reliable estimates of median earnings, the sample size for each occupation required at least 100 sample cases. Total median earnings were calculated for 437 occupations.

million workers were in occupations with the lowest median earnings of less than \$20,000 annually. These included: Waiters and waitresses; Teacher assistants; Cooks; Maids and housekeeping cleaners; Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials; Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers; Food preparation workers; Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food; Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop; Childcare workers; Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop; and Dishwashers.⁸

Table B. Selected Occupations with the Highest and Lowest Median Earnings: 2008

Occupation	Median earnings	Margin of error	Population	Margin of error	Percent women in occupation	Margin of error	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	Margin of error
Highest								
Physicians and surgeons	157,510	4,930	679,820	13,750	30.6	1.0	60.8	4.6
Dentists	133,810	6,240	101,650	4,140	21.3	2.1	67.4	2.8
Chief executives	115,700	2,290	1,019,420	13,870	19.7	0.5	74.5	2.4
Lawyers	113,810	2,000	837,140	13,870	31.7	0.7	73.7	2.8
Engineering managers	113,150	2,360	142,930	5,280	8.4	1.0	104.9	5.7
Pharmacists	106,410	950	184,060	7,590	45.3	1.5	91.1	0.9
Actuaries	105,490	5,170	20,090	2,080	31.6	4.4	90.6	17.2
Petroleum engineers	103,700	7,450	20,590	2,120	7.7	3.4	(B)	(X)
Podiatrists	101,390	11,370	7,720	1,480	10.0	4.8	(B)	(X)
Natural sciences managers	100,320	10,830	14,990	1,640	34.8	6.1	(B)	(X)
Economists	100,020	7,360	19,900	2,000	32.3	4.8	(B)	(X)
Optometrists	96,050	6,760	27,250	2,780	27.3	3.9	80.6	4.5
Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers	94,560	7,510	56,270	3,960	42.1	3.3	61.2	7.5
Computer and information systems managers	91,650	960	437,030	10,020	28.6	0.9	86.5	2.5
Aerospace engineers	91,230	1,080	131,240	6,190	11.6	1.3	80.5	5.7
Sales engineers	90,870	2,010	29,230	2,290	9.0	2.7	(B)	(X)
Astronomers and physicists	89,190	12,010	11,660	1,570	14.9	5.2	(B)	(X)
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	87,870	6,170	95,980	6,220	4.6	0.8	(B)	(X)
Chemical engineers	87,070	3,550	57,630	3,750	13.2	2.1	84.4	3.2
Air traffic controllers and airfield operations specialists	86,500	14,500	27,930	3,240	20.0	4.0	(B)	(X)
Computer software engineers	86,030	730	737,870	12,230	20.4	0.7	86.4	1.9
Electrical and electronics engineers	84,170	1,700	216,180	7,250	8.2	1.0	90.0	3.4
Engineers, all other	82,120	590	409,940	10,240	11.3	0.8	90.8	2.8
Veterinarians	81,250	1,600	58,500	3,910	44.1	3.3	76.7	5.5
Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers	79,150	11,740	7,600	1,150	16.3	6.7	(B)	(X)
Civil engineers	78,400	1,770	290,880	8,850	10.7	0.9	80.8	2.7
Management analysts	77,900	1,700	507,560	13,210	39.5	1.1	76.6	2.5
Biomedical engineers	77,680	6,150	10,260	1,820	12.9	4.9	(B)	(X)
Financial analysts	77,550	5,040	66,700	3,920	34.0	2.9	64.6	6.4
Physician assistants	77,390	3,260	56,930	4,130	61.6	3.3	80.4	4.3
Lowest								
Tailors, dressmakers, and sewers	22,840	1,810	51,470	3,430	74.9	3.1	66.3	6.7
Nonfarm animal caretakers	22,790	1,250	87,340	5,670	67.3	2.9	78.6	7.4
Telemarketers	22,730	1,230	59,640	4,260	57.9	4.1	86.5	8.1
Grounds maintenance workers	22,710	430	706,780	17,870	4.4	0.4	100.4	8.5
Bakers	22,580	810	110,110	5,570	48.1	2.7	81.8	4.8
Parking lot attendants	22,330	1,030	41,630	3,350	11.9	2.8	(B)	(X)
Helpers, construction trades	22,170	1,220	45,550	4,180	4.6	1.7	(B)	(X)
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	22,040	1,710	17,500	2,020	55.1	6.0	63.3	8.4
Food servers, nonrestaurant	21,710	610	77,750	4,910	69.0	3.3	76.3	4.2
Shoe and leather workers and repairers	21,630	3,650	7,450	1,360	21.5	8.2	(B)	(X)
Packers and packagers, hand	21,560	360	271,500	10,850	56.0	1.9	87.5	3.8
Miscellaneous personal appearance workers	21,420	610	130,230	7,360	81.4	2.0	100.4	5.3
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	21,330	320	435,090	13,720	14.4	0.9	81.8	3.4
Service station attendants	20,980	700	64,730	5,240	19.0	2.9	83.4	9.8
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	20,850	740	79,530	5,220	61.8	3.3	81.0	5.7
Personal and home care aides	20,390	290	407,980	10,340	84.2	1.1	91.9	3.0
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	20,340	610	130,490	7,100	57.0	2.5	71.5	4.3
Sewing machine operators	19,860	550	162,670	7,900	71.8	2.3	84.7	6.5
Cashiers	19,810	250	1,074,400	18,530	72.2	0.8	80.9	2.7
Waiters and waitresses	19,530	360	679,170	16,540	66.6	1.0	79.4	2.4
Teacher assistants	19,520	370	347,200	9,130	89.7	0.9	81.6	5.0
Cooks	19,360	210	1,053,510	21,680	37.3	0.9	84.5	1.5
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	19,020	270	722,390	17,280	84.8	0.8	80.9	2.8
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	18,620	840	35,450	3,330	67.2	4.6	73.8	6.5
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	18,460	700	100,840	6,650	37.3	2.8	89.2	4.9
Food preparation workers	18,390	440	260,890	10,310	53.2	1.8	89.8	3.5
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	18,230	630	114,690	5,910	71.0	2.8	108.6	8.4
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	17,760	1,580	37,350	3,380	84.3	3.7	(B)	(X)
Child care workers	17,700	320	578,030	13,390	95.0	0.6	73.5	8.0
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	17,060	1,040	44,490	4,650	60.4	4.3	84.9	10.1
Dishwashers	17,060	470	96,410	6,820	19.0	2.7	92.9	5.6

(B) Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of derived figure.

(X) Not applicable.

⁷Median earnings for the following occupations did not significantly differ from \$100,000: Petroleum engineers; Podiatrists; Natural sciences managers; Economists; Optometrists; Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers; Astronomers and physicists; and Air traffic controllers and airfield operations specialists.

⁸ The margin of error for median earnings for Sewing machine operators and Cashiers exceeded \$20,000.

Male and female workers were concentrated in different occupations

In 2008, among full-time, year-round workers, men outnumbered women (59 million compared with 43 million). The most popular occupations for men – those with over one million male workers -- were Driver/sales workers and truck drivers; Managers, all other; First/line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers; Janitors and building cleaners; Retail salespersons; and Construction laborers (Table C).⁹ All of these occupations are composed mostly of men, with less than 5 percent of women in the Driver/sales workers and truck drivers and Construction laborers occupations.

Occupations with over one million female workers were Secretaries and administrative assistants; Elementary and middle school teachers; Registered nurses; Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides; First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers; and Customer service representatives (Table D). With the exception of First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers, these large occupations were majority female.

Table C. Selected Occupations with the Largest Number of Male Workers: 2008

Occupation	Number of Men		Percent women in occupation		Men's median earnings		Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Number	Margin of error	Percent	Margin of error	Median	Margin of error	Percentage	Margin of error
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	2,461,220	24,540	3.6	0.2	40,200	170	72.4	3.7
Managers, all other	1,847,730	22,000	32.8	0.4	76,650	660	74.9	1.6
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,603,420	17,500	41.3	0.4	42,850	670	72.5	1.3
Janitors and building cleaners	1,131,560	20,650	24.7	0.6	27,640	450	75.1	1.7
Retail salespersons	1,096,860	19,640	40.3	0.6	36,580	390	67.2	1.3
Construction laborers	1,049,120	22,500	2.5	0.2	29,740	500	89.8	7.8
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	1,016,360	18,830	16.9	0.6	29,200	390	80.9	1.8
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	976,200	14,780	24.1	0.5	62,050	330	82.5	1.2
Carpenters	948,790	18,120	1.3	0.2	33,610	740	87.4	14.0
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	825,710	14,360	2.2	0.3	51,800	270	78.6	10.0
Chief executives	818,710	13,050	19.7	0.5	122,770	1,020	74.5	2.4
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	797,500	16,350	28.5	0.7	60,070	1,220	82.9	2.8
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	746,360	15,620	17.8	0.7	51,540	300	71.6	1.5
Accountants and auditors	717,210	11,080	57.9	0.6	70,670	730	71.3	0.8
Construction managers	705,530	11,770	6.7	0.4	65,520	720	79.6	3.8
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	701,370	14,910	1.4	0.2	35,020	580	89.9	8.6
Production workers, all other	686,560	15,520	28.6	0.8	33,320	570	77.2	1.8
Grounds maintenance workers	675,650	18,490	4.4	0.4	22,700	450	100.4	8.5
General and operations managers	668,450	12,620	28.1	0.8	75,020	1,200	76.0	2.2
Cooks	660,620	17,420	37.3	0.9	20,510	240	84.5	1.5
Electricians	639,620	15,570	1.8	0.3	44,400	860	92.4	7.7
Computer software engineers	587,390	10,570	20.4	0.7	89,160	1,260	86.4	1.9
Lawyers	571,730	10,850	31.7	0.7	126,650	2,180	73.7	2.8
Stock clerks and order fillers	568,810	12,440	36.3	0.8	26,280	330	89.3	1.8
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	534,930	10,920	14.4	0.8	57,330	850	89.5	2.4
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	521,570	11,900	22.8	0.9	29,590	680	91.4	3.2
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	509,240	10,940	64.0	0.5	50,390	490	80.2	0.9
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	496,540	13,550	5.2	0.5	36,600	400	72.9	3.7
Elementary and middle school teachers	486,530	11,050	77.8	0.4	50,240	290	90.0	0.6
Customer service representatives	485,150	12,770	67.9	0.6	34,460	740	87.8	2.0

⁹ The margin of error for the number of men in the Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand occupation dropped below 1 million.

Table D. Selected Occupations with the Largest Number of Female Workers: 2008

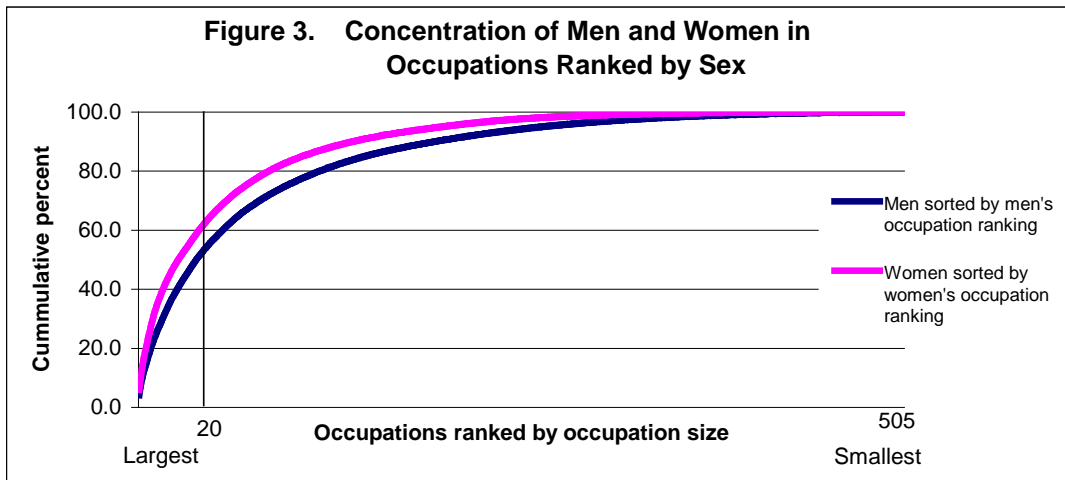
Occupation	Number of Women	Margin of error	Percent women in occupation		Women's median earnings		Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
			Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error		
Secretaries and administrative assistants	2,566,290	26,030	96.3	0.2	32,780	190	84.6	3.5
Elementary and middle school teachers	1,707,560	20,950	77.8	0.4	45,220	200	90.0	0.6
Registered nurses	1,698,710	23,440	89.4	0.4	60,540	190	90.5	1.3
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	1,151,110	17,810	87.1	0.5	24,010	180	86.3	3.0
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,127,830	14,480	41.3	0.4	31,070	230	72.5	1.3
Customer service representatives	1,027,160	17,480	67.9	0.6	30,260	230	87.8	2.0
Accountants and auditors	985,320	14,710	57.9	0.6	50,390	310	71.3	0.8
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	933,810	16,540	88.2	0.5	33,370	290	89.8	2.2
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	906,970	14,880	64.0	0.5	40,410	270	80.2	0.9
Managers, all other	901,350	14,290	32.8	0.4	57,430	1,110	74.9	1.6
Cashiers	775,790	15,890	72.2	0.8	18,650	250	80.9	2.7
Retail salespersons	739,190	13,380	40.3	0.6	24,570	400	67.2	1.3
Office clerks, general	636,790	14,830	83.5	0.9	30,820	280	86.7	2.6
Receptionists and information clerks	615,280	15,200	91.9	0.6	25,960	250	86.9	3.6
Maid and housekeeping cleaners	612,290	15,560	84.8	0.8	18,210	290	80.9	2.8
Child care workers	549,250	13,190	95.0	0.6	17,450	260	73.5	8.0
Financial managers	528,970	11,080	52.9	0.7	52,680	1,030	60.4	1.7
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	510,710	9,770	69.8	0.9	47,230	480	80.0	3.4
Social workers	486,540	9,150	77.9	0.8	39,430	760	96.5	2.5
Medical assistants and other healthcare support occupations	453,240	11,600	88.9	0.7	27,180	250	88.3	2.4
Waiters and waitresses	452,080	13,710	66.6	1.0	17,550	410	79.4	2.4
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	441,620	11,100	91.5	0.6	37,230	310	90.3	2.2
Education administrators	422,350	10,950	62.0	1.0	55,860	960	76.3	2.3
Cooks	392,890	11,740	37.3	0.9	17,340	230	84.5	1.5
Janitors and building cleaners	370,530	10,240	24.7	0.6	20,770	310	75.1	1.7
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	354,690	9,630	87.6	0.8	22,580	560	69.6	4.6
Personal and home care aides	343,670	9,830	84.2	1.1	20,110	320	91.9	3.0
Food service managers	329,330	10,790	43.8	1.1	30,710	410	75.7	1.4
Postsecondary teachers	327,840	7,520	43.6	0.8	53,740	1,270	81.2	2.1
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	325,080	8,980	89.4	0.9	30,960	250	88.8	4.7

Women were concentrated in fewer occupations than men

Among occupations for women, 44 percent of employed women worked in the largest 20 (Figure 3). In comparison, 34 percent of male workers were employed in the largest 20 occupations for men.

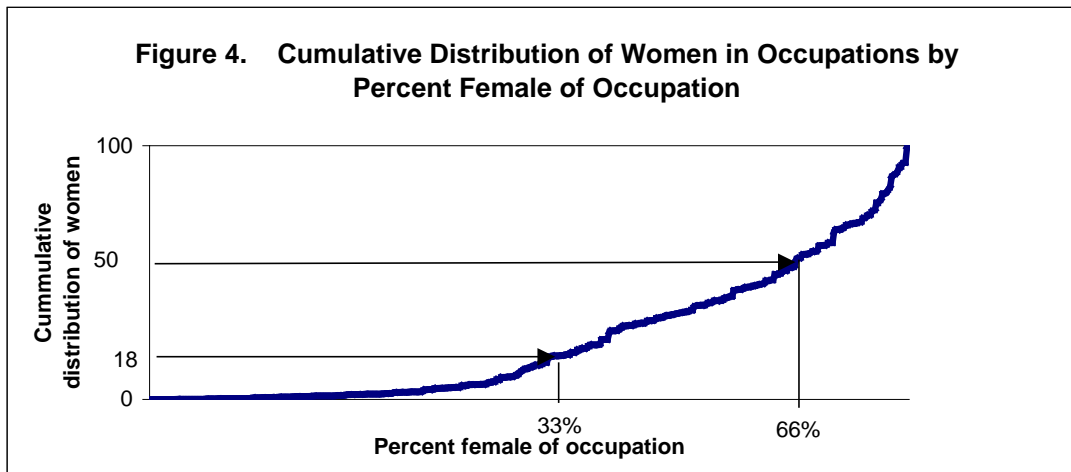
The most popular 20 occupations for women were from three of the six broad occupation categories:¹⁰ Sales and office occupations; Management, professional, and related occupations; and Service Occupations. The most popular 20 occupations for men were more diverse, representing five of the six major groupings: Management, professional, and related occupations; Service occupations; Sales and office occupations; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

¹⁰ Occupations are classified into six broad categories at the least-detailed summary level. These categories are: Management, professional, and related occupations; Service occupations; Sales and office occupations; Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



Women worked in female dominated occupations.

While about three out of five full-time, year-round workers were men, about half of women worked in occupations where they outnumbered men by at least 2 to 1 (Figure 4). Conversely, about one in six women worked in occupations where men outnumbered them by at least 2 to 1. Two-thirds of men worked in occupations that had twice as many men as women.



Median earnings for men (\$45,800) was higher than that for women (\$35,530).

The disparity between the total median earnings for men and women reflects both occupational differences of median earnings by sex -- in most occupations men earned more than women -- and the distribution of men and women among high and low earning occupations. In four out of five occupations with the highest median earnings, men earned at least one-third more than women earned. About 2 percent of working women were in occupations with median earnings over \$100,000 compared with about 4 percent of working men.

The highest median earnings for men were in the Physicians and surgeons occupation (\$185,490). The lowest – below \$20,000 – were for Food preparation workers; Dishwashers; and Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food occupation (Table E).¹¹ The occupations with median earnings for women over \$100,000 were Engineering managers; Physicians and surgeons; and Pharmacists.¹² The median earnings were below \$18,000 for women in the Waiters and waitresses; Child care workers; Food preparation workers; Cooks; Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers; Dishwashers; and Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop occupations (Table F).¹³

Table E. Selected Occupations with the Highest and Lowest Median Earnings for Men: 2008

Occupation	Men's Median earnings	Margin of error	Number of men	Margin of error	Percent women in occupation	Margin of error	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	Margin of error
Highest								
Physicians and surgeons	185,490	3,840	472,080	11,660	30.6	1.0	60.8	4.6
Dentists	150,690	5,540	79,980	3,710	21.3	2.1	67.4	2.8
Lawyers	126,650	2,180	571,730	10,850	31.7	0.7	73.7	2.8
Chief executives	122,770	1,020	818,710	13,050	19.7	0.5	74.5	2.4
Engineering managers	112,630	2,300	130,950	5,020	8.4	1.0	104.9	5.7
Pharmacists	111,500	990	100,700	5,090	45.3	1.5	91.1	0.9
Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers	111,270	5,910	32,590	3,080	42.1	3.3	61.2	7.5
Actuaries	109,360	11,550	13,740	1,580	31.6	4.4	90.6	17.2
Natural sciences managers	107,750	15,250	9,780	1,230	34.8	6.1	(B)	(X)
Economists	105,050	6,750	13,480	1,610	32.3	4.8	(B)	(X)
Petroleum engineers	103,440	8,720	19,000	1,970	7.7	3.4	(B)	(X)
Podiatrists	102,430	25,760	6,950	1,480	10.0	4.8	(B)	(X)
Optometrists	101,270	1,650	19,820	2,250	27.3	3.9	80.6	4.5
Astronomers and physicists	98,360	9,650	9,930	1,320	14.9	5.2	(B)	(X)
Computer and information systems managers	95,400	1,260	312,230	8,330	28.6	0.9	86.5	2.5
Air traffic controllers and airfield operations specialists	95,350	12,960	22,350	2,580	20.0	4.0	(B)	(X)
Financial analysts	95,190	8,850	43,990	3,250	34.0	2.9	64.6	6.4
Veterinarians	93,670	6,330	32,710	2,700	44.1	3.3	76.7	5.5
Aerospace engineers	92,650	1,290	115,980	5,710	11.6	1.3	80.5	5.7
Personal financial advisors	92,350	3,900	204,120	6,920	29.6	1.2	60.4	3.3
Lowest								
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	23,440	1,560	30,410	3,540	61.8	3.3	81.0	5.7
Teacher assistants	23,430	1,460	35,820	3,380	89.7	0.9	81.6	5.0
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	23,290	790	177,500	8,080	12.1	1.1	92.6	5.2
Cashiers	23,070	730	298,610	10,630	72.2	0.8	80.9	2.7
Grounds maintenance workers	22,700	450	675,650	18,490	4.4	0.4	100.4	8.5
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	22,510	760	110,100	6,710	84.8	0.8	80.9	2.8
Parking lot attendants	22,490	1,420	36,680	3,350	11.9	2.8	(B)	(X)
Sewing machine operators	22,380	1,560	45,860	4,850	71.8	2.3	84.7	6.5
Waiters and waitresses	22,100	380	227,100	8,490	66.6	1.0	79.4	2.4
Helpers, construction trades	22,040	1,230	43,460	4,120	4.6	1.7	(B)	(X)
Personal and home care aides	21,880	620	64,300	4,690	84.2	1.1	91.9	3.0
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	21,870	330	372,300	12,220	14.4	0.9	81.8	3.4
Service station attendants	21,610	870	52,440	4,540	19.0	2.9	83.4	9.8
Miscellaneous personal appearance workers	21,350	1,000	24,220	3,160	81.4	2.0	100.4	5.3
Cooks	20,510	240	660,620	17,420	37.3	0.9	84.5	1.5
Food preparation workers	19,340	530	122,090	7,040	53.2	1.8	89.8	3.5
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	19,230	830	63,200	5,470	37.3	2.8	89.2	4.9
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	18,860	1,780	17,620	2,990	60.4	4.3	84.9	10.1
Dishwashers	17,320	550	78,080	6,710	19.0	2.7	92.9	5.6
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	17,200	1,050	33,320	4,100	71.0	2.8	108.6	8.4

(B) Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of derived figure.

(X) Not applicable.

¹¹ The margin of error for men's median earnings exceeded \$20,000 for the two occupations -- Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers; and Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop.

¹² The margin of error for women's median earnings dropped below \$100,000 for Dentists.

¹³ The margin of error for women's median earnings exceeded \$18,000 for the following occupations: Miscellaneous agricultural workers; Graders and sorters, agricultural products; Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials; and Hosts and hostess, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop.

Table F. Selected Occupations with the Highest and Lowest Median Earnings for Women: 2008

Occupation	Women's Median earnings		Number of women		Percent women in occupation		Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	
Highest								
Engineering managers	118,170	6,180	11,980	1,490	8.4	1.0	104.9	5.7
Physicians and surgeons	112,690	8,390	207,750	8,040	30.6	1.0	60.8	4.6
Pharmacists	101,610	470	83,360	4,270	45.3	1.5	91.1	0.9
Dentists	101,510	1,750	21,670	2,340	21.3	2.1	67.4	2.8
Actuaries	99,110	15,870	6,350	1,170	31.6	4.4	90.6	17.2
Lawyers	93,320	2,760	265,410	7,160	31.7	0.7	73.7	2.8
Chief executives	91,460	2,920	200,710	5,590	19.7	0.5	74.5	2.4
Computer and information systems managers	82,540	2,040	124,800	4,700	28.6	0.9	86.5	2.5
Optometrists	81,630	4,580	7,430	1,340	27.3	3.9	80.6	4.5
Computer software engineers	77,070	1,510	150,480	6,020	20.4	0.7	86.4	1.9
Electrical and electronics engineers	77,060	2,530	17,750	2,240	8.2	1.0	90.0	3.4
Chemical engineers	76,550	1,280	7,640	1,210	13.2	2.1	84.4	3.2
Engineers, all other	75,370	2,180	46,390	3,200	11.3	0.8	90.8	2.8
Aerospace engineers	74,580	5,230	15,260	1,880	11.6	1.3	80.5	5.7
Veterinarians	71,850	2,370	25,790	2,770	44.1	3.3	76.7	5.5
Physician assistants	71,830	1,900	35,060	3,170	61.6	3.3	80.4	4.3
Statisticians	70,520	2,660	14,860	1,980	52.7	4.3	94.4	10.5
Computer programmers	68,920	2,530	101,260	5,000	23.3	1.0	92.7	3.7
Computer hardware engineers	68,400	6,430	10,010	1,680	17.8	2.8	84.5	10.3
Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers	68,150	7,580	23,670	2,360	42.1	3.3	61.2	7.5
Lowest								
Teacher assistants	19,120	350	311,380	8,610	89.7	0.9	81.6	5.0
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	19,000	1,000	49,120	3,890	61.8	3.3	81.0	5.7
Sewing machine operators	18,950	560	116,810	5,930	71.8	2.3	84.7	6.5
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	18,680	760	81,380	4,480	71.0	2.8	108.6	8.4
Cashiers	18,650	250	775,790	15,890	72.2	0.8	80.9	2.7
Farmers and ranchers	18,480	3,270	33,210	2,890	10.1	0.8	57.4	9.9
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	18,210	290	612,290	15,560	84.8	0.8	80.9	2.8
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	18,170	550	74,410	5,680	57.0	2.5	71.5	4.3
Service station attendants	18,020	1,880	12,300	2,150	19.0	2.9	83.4	9.8
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	17,880	740	62,800	4,400	14.4	0.9	81.8	3.4
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	17,620	1,680	9,650	1,520	55.1	6.0	63.3	8.4
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	17,580	830	23,810	2,590	67.2	4.6	73.8	6.5
Waiters and waitresses	17,550	410	452,080	13,710	66.6	1.0	79.4	2.4
Child care workers	17,450	260	549,250	13,190	95.0	0.6	73.5	8.0
Food preparation workers	17,380	490	138,800	6,720	53.2	1.8	89.8	3.5
Cooks	17,340	230	392,890	11,740	37.3	0.9	84.5	1.5
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	17,160	700	37,640	3,390	37.3	2.8	89.2	4.9
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	17,140	1,090	31,500	2,960	84.3	3.7	(B)	(X)
Dishwashers	16,100	830	18,330	2,530	19.0	2.7	92.9	5.6
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	16,000	1,170	26,870	2,960	60.4	4.3	84.9	10.1

(B) Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of derived figure.
(X) Not applicable.

For full-time, year-round workers, women earned 77.6 percent of men’s earnings.

Of the occupations large enough to produce a women’s-to-men’s earnings ratio, 43 percent had a ratio above the average of 78 percent, while 15 percent had a ratio below.¹⁴

Women earned at least 90 percent of what men earned in about 5 percent of the occupations measured, representing 3.9 million workers (Table G). In contrast, women earned less than 70 percent of what men earned in about 5 percent of occupations, including 7.1 million workers.

Two occupations -- Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food; and Radio and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers – had median earnings for women marginally above those for men. Other occupations with women’s-to-men’s earnings ratios above 90 percent were Engineering managers; Grounds maintenance workers; Miscellaneous personal appearance workers; Transportation storage and distribution managers; Counselors; Postal service clerks; Postal service mail

¹⁴ About three-fifths of the detailed occupations shown here are large enough to show earnings for both men and women and calculate an earnings ratio (294 of 505 occupations, representing 93 percent of all full-time, year-round workers).

sorters, processors, and processing machine operators; Loan interviewers and clerks; Social workers; Special education teachers; Postal service mail carriers; and Pharmacists. Physicians and surgeons, Financial managers, and Personal financial advisors were among the occupations with the lowest women's-to-men's earnings ratio, about 60 percent.

Table G. Selected Occupations with the Highest and Lowest Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings: 2008

Occupation	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings		Total Population		Percent women in occupation		Total Median earnings	
	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	Margin of error	
Highest								
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	108.6	8.4	114,690	5,910	71.0	2.8	18,230	630
Radio and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers	106.4	5.8	155,620	6,900	11.4	1.4	51,020	730
Engineering managers	104.9	5.7	142,930	5,280	8.4	1.0	113,150	2,360
Biological technicians	102.2	14.8	16,950	2,160	51.5	5.8	41,380	1,570
Grounds maintenance workers	100.4	8.5	706,780	17,870	4.4	0.4	22,710	430
Miscellaneous personal appearance workers	100.4	5.3	130,230	7,360	81.4	2.0	21,420	610
Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	99.9	7.9	195,080	7,880	16.8	1.6	48,500	1,480
Baggage porters, bellhops, and concierges	99.7	13.5	51,810	3,970	18.0	2.7	30,150	1,320
Announcers	99.5	9.5	26,530	2,690	25.3	4.3	40,490	1,870
Agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes	99.2	14.4	32,700	3,090	38.0	4.5	50,770	2,130
Counselors	99.1	2.4	459,700	11,540	66.1	1.1	40,370	450
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	98.5	12.8	153,000	6,510	6.2	1.0	49,050	2,190
Medical records and health information technicians	98.5	11.7	83,890	4,410	88.5	2.1	28,920	1,350
Postal service clerks	98.2	0.9	140,950	6,050	49.5	2.2	50,870	210
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	98.0	1.6	77,800	5,330	48.6	3.1	50,520	260
Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	97.5	7.8	209,970	8,460	11.3	1.2	41,580	550
Loan interviewers and clerks	97.1	4.1	109,250	5,420	81.7	2.0	35,790	760
Information and record clerks, all other	96.8	13.7	75,620	4,860	84.9	1.8	32,500	950
Social workers	96.5	2.5	624,200	11,210	77.9	0.8	39,910	520
Special education teachers	96.2	3.6	138,160	6,430	84.2	1.6	45,220	900
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	95.4	8.9	148,840	5,190	89.9	1.5	36,480	610
Miscellaneous entertainment attendants and related workers	94.8	11.7	47,840	4,150	45.2	3.6	24,320	2,120
Technical writers	94.4	7.6	52,010	3,620	54.2	3.1	62,070	1,260
Statisticians	94.4	10.5	28,180	2,530	52.7	4.3	71,690	1,830
Order clerks	94.3	5.6	100,140	4,850	59.5	2.3	29,610	1,030
Paralegals and legal assistants	94.2	4.8	270,020	8,830	87.8	1.1	44,200	1,000
Tellers	94.0	4.5	273,420	9,950	88.6	1.0	23,270	320
Computer support specialists	93.8	3.8	384,720	10,910	29.1	1.1	51,210	400
Postal service mail carriers	93.7	1.2	295,510	8,360	34.1	1.3	51,190	200
Industrial truck and tractor operators	93.5	5.5	453,770	11,150	7.8	0.8	29,840	510
Dietitians and nutritionists	93.5	15.7	60,710	4,210	88.4	2.0	43,580	2,160
Personal care and service workers, all other	93.5	15.4	41,900	4,230	37.6	4.1	24,690	1,520
Producers and directors	93.4	6.8	104,490	5,150	38.9	2.3	59,490	3,510
File Clerks	93.0	3.4	205,790	8,500	79.0	1.5	29,770	610
Dishwashers	92.9	5.6	96,410	6,820	19.0	2.7	17,060	470
Computer programmers	92.7	3.7	434,840	11,770	23.3	1.0	72,650	880
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	92.6	5.2	202,050	8,530	12.1	1.1	23,010	730
Bill and account collectors	92.5	4.9	188,960	8,090	71.6	2.0	31,640	370
Electricians	92.4	7.7	651,170	15,880	1.8	0.3	44,280	820
Urban and regional planners	92.4	9.2	24,330	2,490	40.8	4.7	61,490	1,470
Librarians	92.0	4.2	123,470	5,120	82.6	1.6	46,800	820
Personal and home care aides	91.9	3.0	407,980	10,340	84.2	1.1	20,390	290
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	91.4	3.2	675,980	12,230	22.8	0.9	28,860	490
Transportation attendants	91.4	7.2	64,170	4,340	71.3	2.9	36,690	1,290
Pharmacists	91.1	0.9	184,060	7,590	45.3	1.5	106,410	950
Lowest								
Insurance underwriters	69.9	9.9	87,700	4,390	69.3	2.6	51,880	960
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	69.6	4.6	404,700	10,680	87.6	0.8	24,050	630
Chiropractors	69.4	12.6	41,100	3,370	19.2	2.9	65,880	7,230
Transportation inspectors	68.2	14.2	46,060	3,360	17.9	3.1	50,470	1,740
Crushing, grinding, polishing, mixing, and blending workers	68.1	9.6	76,380	5,600	8.8	1.9	35,850	1,050
Printing machine operators	67.7	3.5	160,410	6,920	15.8	1.6	35,800	640
Counter and rental clerks	67.7	7.4	59,500	4,420	49.9	3.5	25,620	1,380
Property, real estate, and community association managers	67.6	1.6	415,100	10,580	49.5	1.3	47,130	840
Dentists	67.4	2.8	101,650	4,140	21.3	2.1	133,810	6,240
Retail salespersons	67.2	1.3	1,836,050	22,840	40.3	0.6	31,090	240
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	67.0	1.8	640,960	13,880	37.9	0.9	36,540	350
Tax preparers	66.9	5.7	41,580	3,460	58.6	4.2	48,940	3,600
Animal trainers	66.6	13.9	26,920	2,890	40.1	4.7	26,990	2,400
Job printers	66.5	9.5	45,590	3,570	22.6	3.1	34,110	2,620
Marketing and sales managers	66.4	1.1	784,180	14,500	41.4	0.9	77,260	1,280
Tailors, dressmakers, and sewers	66.3	6.7	51,470	3,430	74.9	3.1	22,840	1,810
First-line supervisors/managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeeping workers	66.2	7.0	151,720	7,120	5.2	1.0	35,620	780
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	65.1	12.1	30,900	2,890	24.1	5.2	37,420	4,270
First-line supervisors/managers of housekeeping and janitorial workers	64.7	3.4	218,800	8,320	35.5	1.8	33,730	1,040
Financial analysts	64.6	6.4	66,700	3,920	34.0	2.9	77,550	5,040
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	63.3	8.4	17,500	2,020	55.1	6.0	22,040	1,710
Insurance sales agents	63.2	3.0	458,280	12,090	44.9	1.1	48,890	1,400
Miscellaneous health technologists and technicians	63.2	2.1	99,860	5,920	63.6	2.8	36,410	980
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	62.1	3.2	299,260	10,330	29.9	1.6	69,690	3,860
Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers	61.2	7.5	56,270	3,960	42.1	3.3	94,560	7,510
Physicians and surgeons	60.8	4.6	679,820	13,750	30.6	1.0	157,510	4,930
Financial managers	60.4	1.7	1,000,020	17,510	52.9	0.7	65,900	670
Personal financial advisors	60.4	3.3	290,010	8,750	29.6	1.2	76,910	1,300
Financial specialists, all other	60.4	11.1	53,660	3,470	53.4	3.5	50,580	2,170
Farmers and ranchers	57.4	9.9	327,830	8,690	10.1	0.8	31,310	530