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## Frequency Distribution of Wage Earners by Wage Level

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### Introduction

The purpose of this note is to present data on numbers of wage earners distributed by wage level for years after 1979. In addition, quartiles of wage distributions will be presented by age group and sex, and median wage levels will be compared to average wage amounts.

For purposes of this note, wages are defined as the amounts subject to Federal income taxes, as currently reported in box 1 of the Internal Revenue Service's Form W-2. Beginning with tax year 1978, employers have been required to file W-2s for all their employees with the Social Security Administration. SSA processes the W-2 data for the IRS and records the wage amounts in its Master Earnings File (MEF).

Data extracted from the MEF on the number of wage earners and the amount of their wages have been tabulated for each year 1978-94. In addition, a frequency distribution of the number of workers by wage level from this source has been tabulated for each year 1985-94. More detailed data are available from a one-percent sample file called the Continuous Work History Sample. Data on the number of workers by wage level, age group, and sex have been extracted from this sample for each year 1980-93.

Caution should be used in interpreting the data presented in this note. The data for a given year include wages for people who entered or left the work force during the year and include wages for part-time workers. Thus the average and median wage amounts from our data are substantially lower than corresponding amounts for full-time workers at a comparable point in time. Another important consideration to bear in mind is that the wage data include distributions from a particular type of deferred compensation plan available only to State and local government employees.<sup>1</sup> While such distributions are taxable for income purposes and so meet our definition, they are not normally considered to be wages.

<sup>1</sup> Distribution from other types of deferred compensation plans are reported on Form 1099. Data on distributions reported on W-2s were not available until 1990.

### 100-Percent Wage Data

Wage data have been tabulated on a 100-percent basis beginning with data for 1978. The reason for tabulating wage data on such a complete basis is the need to accurately determine the national average wage index (AWI). The AWI series, which begins with the index for 1951, is the basis for indexing earnings used in the computation of Social Security benefits. The AWI is also used to index certain Social Security program amounts such as the contribution and benefit base. Average wages presented in this note are lower than corresponding AWI amounts, primarily because the AWI is an index, not a direct measurement of average wages. See Actuarial Notes 103 and 133 for more information on the AWI series.

Only overall totals of the number of wage earners and their corresponding aggregate wages were tabulated for years 1978-84. Thereafter, frequency distributions of the number of workers by certain wage levels were also tabulated. The data were extracted at the end of the processing cycle for that year—generally in mid-February, 2 years after the year in which the wages were earned. For example, the data used in this note for 1994 was extracted in February 1996.

### Sample Wage Data

For years 1978-93, wage data were extracted from the one-percent Continuous Work History Sample (CWHS) maintained by SSA's Office of Research, Evaluation and Statistics. Pertinent to the purpose of this note, the CWHS includes demographic information such as date-of-birth and sex. The CWHS wage data also come from SSA's MEF. Except in recent years, data for the CWHS were extracted from the MEF at an earlier point in time than for the 100-percent data tabulated each year. As a result, the number of wage records from the CWHS, after inflating by a factor of 100, falls further below the 100-percent count than could be expected from sampling error. Table 1 shows the number of wage earners from the CWHS and from the 100-percent MEF data and the ratio of the former to the latter.

**Table 1.—Comparison of CWHS and 100-percent data on wage earners and their average wages, 1978-93**

Year	Number of workers (in thousands)			Average wage amount		
	CWHS	100-Percent	Ratio	CWHS	100-Percent	Ratio
1978	94,878	101,146	93.80%	\$13,974.06	\$9,833.20	142.11%
1979	94,193	105,347	89.41	13,640.62	10,748.79	126.90
1980	95,074	107,804	88.19	11,878.39	11,886.47	99.93
1981	98,116	107,569	91.21	12,575.09	12,980.69	96.88
1982	97,879	105,376	92.89	13,597.07	13,727.92	99.05
1983	104,286	109,672	95.09	14,466.43	14,409.98	100.39
1984	106,822	112,666	94.81	15,251.38	15,250.75	100.00
1985	112,233	117,588	95.45	15,989.98	15,954.96	100.22
1986	113,216	117,919	96.01	16,770.03	16,543.51	101.37
1987	119,617	121,995	98.05	17,763.57	17,456.36	101.76
1988	122,912	124,580	98.66	18,417.33	18,300.25	100.64
1989	126,563	128,633	98.39	19,087.78	19,021.53	100.35
1990	129,437	129,705	99.79	19,952.79	19,932.46	100.10
1991	128,476	128,727	99.81	20,609.76	20,552.35	100.28
1992	129,153	129,448	99.77	21,632.24	21,660.89	99.87
1993	129,652	130,076	99.67	22,004.28	22,005.54	99.99

Note: Average wage amounts do not reflect any editing of the CWHS data, but do reflect minor edits in the 100-percent data for years after 1986.

Table 1 also shows the ratio of the average wage amount from the CWHS as a percentage of the corresponding average from 100-percent data. The large variation in these ratios for 1978 and 1979 from the ideal level of 100 percent could not be explained in terms of the timing of the data tabulation for the 100-percent data versus that for the extraction of the data from the MEF for the CWHS. Examination of MEF records for a small subsample of CWHS cases revealed many cases where wage amounts were 100 times the amount of those wages subject to Social Security taxes. This problem was at least partially corrected when the wage data were extracted for the 100-percent data tabulations. The MEF itself, however, was left uncorrected. Wage data from the CWHS are too unreliable to be used for 1978 and 1979 because they were extracted directly from the MEF.

Given the problem of inaccurate wage data for 1978-79 and the ever-present possibility of employer reporting errors, all wage data from the CWHS for subsequent years were subjected to an edit. The edit was applied whenever the wage amount reported for a worker was much larger than the corresponding amount reported as wages subject to Social Security taxes and the latter amount was less than the taxable maximum. Under such circumstances, the edited amount was set equal to the taxable amount for

Social Security. Wage data from the CWHS in all subsequent tables reflect this edit.

Wages for 1980 were edited in 534 cases out of a total 950,739 cases, or 0.0562 percent of the total. The corresponding percentage for 1981 dropped to only 0.0026 percent. The 1980 percentage is thus almost 22 times the 1981 percentage. This suggests that some of the problems that affected the 1978 and 1979 data persisted into the 1980 data. The percentage of cases edited for 1980-93 averaged 0.0103 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Data from the CWHS on the number of wage earners, by age group and sex for each year 1980-93, are presented in table 2. The number of workers shown for a given year represents the number who received wages at any point in time during the year. Table 3 shows the annual percentage increases in the number of workers by age group and sex using the data from table 2.

<sup>2</sup> After the high percentage for 1980, the second highest percentage was 0.0206 percent for 1987. Excluding both 1980 and 1987, the average percentage is only 0.0056 percent

**Table 2.—Number of wage earners by age group and sex, 1980-93**  
[In thousands]

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1980	95,074	4,764	23,380	26,313	16,259	12,510	9,137	2,711
1981	98,115	4,388	23,175	27,681	17,603	12,992	9,550	2,726
1982	97,879	3,644	21,619	27,671	18,933	13,296	9,931	2,785
1983	104,286	3,599	22,256	29,801	21,015	14,260	10,516	2,840
1984	106,822	4,035	22,482	30,636	22,022	14,339	10,426	2,883
1985	112,233	4,556	22,749	32,392	23,691	14,996	10,811	3,037
1986	113,216	4,765	22,182	32,740	24,578	15,138	10,646	3,168
1987	119,617	5,116	22,356	34,352	26,766	16,549	11,087	3,392
1988	122,912	5,310	22,426	34,949	27,919	17,429	11,263	3,616
1989	126,562	5,215	22,790	35,889	29,449	18,148	11,302	3,770
1990	129,437	4,913	22,532	36,232	31,082	18,986	11,613	4,078
1991	128,476	4,268	21,565	35,538	31,650	19,806	11,545	4,103
1992	129,153	4,229	21,194	34,900	31,913	21,056	11,581	4,280
1993	129,652	4,259	20,859	34,252	32,226	21,918	11,667	4,472
<b>Male</b>								
1980	54,207	2,605	12,678	15,227	9,480	7,247	5,374	1,597
1981	55,270	2,373	12,474	15,782	10,092	7,414	5,547	1,588
1982	55,039	1,964	11,845	15,764	10,699	7,472	5,699	1,595
1983	57,833	1,899	11,932	16,617	11,788	7,992	6,013	1,592
1984	58,656	2,121	11,974	16,936	12,169	7,942	5,909	1,605
1985	61,191	2,392	12,001	17,769	12,964	8,261	6,110	1,696
1986	61,037	2,464	11,615	17,790	13,274	8,210	5,933	1,750
1987	64,180	2,681	11,661	18,583	14,337	8,918	6,129	1,871
1988	65,126	2,784	11,571	18,680	14,694	9,260	6,165	1,971
1989	67,437	2,737	11,921	19,341	15,560	9,654	6,171	2,052
1990	68,723	2,538	11,747	19,518	16,360	10,047	6,323	2,190
1991	68,055	2,207	11,229	19,134	16,619	10,412	6,256	2,198
1992	68,100	2,174	11,016	18,725	16,717	11,000	6,216	2,251
1993	68,239	2,200	10,769	18,312	16,818	11,434	6,290	2,416
<b>Female</b>								
1980	40,867	2,159	10,701	11,086	6,779	5,263	3,763	1,114
1981	42,846	2,016	10,701	11,898	7,512	5,578	4,003	1,138
1982	42,840	1,680	9,774	11,906	8,234	5,823	4,232	1,190
1983	46,453	1,700	10,324	13,184	9,227	6,268	4,503	1,248
1984	48,167	1,914	10,508	13,700	9,852	6,397	4,517	1,278
1985	51,042	2,165	10,748	14,624	10,727	6,735	4,701	1,341
1986	52,179	2,300	10,567	14,950	11,304	6,928	4,713	1,418
1987	55,437	2,434	10,695	15,769	12,428	7,632	4,958	1,521
1988	57,786	2,526	10,855	16,269	13,224	8,169	5,098	1,645
1989	59,125	2,478	10,869	16,547	13,889	8,494	5,131	1,718
1990	60,714	2,374	10,785	16,715	14,722	8,939	5,290	1,888
1991	60,421	2,060	10,337	16,404	15,031	9,394	5,290	1,906
1992	61,053	2,054	10,178	16,175	15,196	10,055	5,365	2,030
1993	61,414	2,058	10,090	15,940	15,408	10,485	5,377	2,056

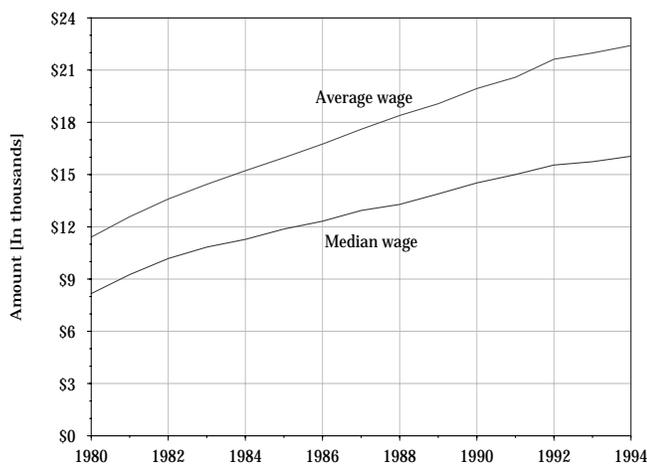
**Table 3.—Annual percentage increase in number of wage earners over prior year's level  
by age group and sex, 1981-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1981	3.20	-7.89	-0.88	5.20	8.27	3.85	4.52	0.55
1982	-0.24	-16.96	-6.71	-0.04	7.56	2.34	3.99	2.16
1983	6.55	-1.24	2.95	7.70	11.00	7.25	5.89	1.98
1984	2.43	12.11	1.02	2.80	4.79	0.55	-0.86	1.51
1985	5.07	12.91	1.19	5.73	7.58	4.58	3.69	5.34
1986	0.88	4.59	-2.49	1.07	3.74	0.95	-1.53	4.31
1987	5.65	7.37	0.78	4.92	8.90	9.32	4.14	7.07
1988	2.76	3.79	0.31	1.74	4.31	5.32	1.59	6.60
1989	2.97	-1.79	1.62	2.69	5.48	4.13	0.35	4.26
1990	2.27	-5.79	-1.13	0.96	5.55	4.62	2.75	8.17
1991	-0.74	-13.13	-4.29	-1.92	1.83	4.32	-0.59	0.61
1992	0.53	-0.91	-1.72	-1.80	0.83	6.31	0.31	4.31
1993	0.39	0.71	-1.58	-1.86	0.98	4.09	0.74	4.49
<b>Male</b>								
1981	1.96	-8.91	-1.61	3.65	6.46	2.30	3.22	-0.56
1982	-0.42	-17.24	-5.04	-0.11	6.02	0.78	2.74	0.44
1983	5.08	-3.31	0.73	5.41	10.18	6.96	5.51	-0.19
1984	1.42	11.69	0.35	1.92	3.23	-0.63	-1.73	0.82
1985	4.32	12.78	0.23	4.92	6.53	4.02	3.40	5.67
1986	-0.25	3.01	-3.22	0.12	2.39	-0.62	-2.90	3.18
1987	5.15	8.81	0.40	4.46	8.01	8.62	3.30	6.91
1988	1.47	3.84	-0.77	0.52	2.49	3.84	0.59	5.35
1989	3.55	-1.69	3.03	3.54	5.89	4.26	0.10	4.11
1990	1.91	-7.27	-1.46	0.92	5.14	4.07	2.46	6.73
1991	-0.97	-13.04	-4.41	-1.97	1.58	3.63	-1.06	0.37
1992	0.07	-1.50	-1.90	-2.14	0.59	5.65	-0.64	2.41
1993	0.20	1.20	-2.24	-2.21	0.60	3.95	1.19	7.33
<b>Female</b>								
1981	4.84	-6.62	0.00	7.33	10.81	5.99	6.38	2.15
1982	-0.01	-16.67	-8.66	0.07	9.61	4.39	5.72	4.57
1983	8.43	1.19	5.63	10.73	12.06	7.64	6.40	4.87
1984	3.69	12.59	1.78	3.91	6.77	2.06	0.31	2.40
1985	5.97	13.11	2.28	6.75	8.88	5.28	4.07	4.93
1986	2.23	6.24	-1.68	2.23	5.38	2.87	0.26	5.74
1987	6.24	5.83	1.21	5.48	9.94	10.16	5.20	7.26
1988	4.24	3.78	1.50	3.17	6.41	7.04	2.82	8.15
1989	2.32	-1.90	0.13	1.71	5.03	3.98	0.65	4.44
1990	2.69	-4.20	-0.77	1.02	6.00	5.24	3.10	9.90
1991	-0.48	-13.23	-4.15	-1.86	2.10	5.09	0.00	0.95
1992	1.05	-0.29	-1.54	-1.40	1.10	7.04	1.42	6.51
1993	0.59	0.20	-0.87	-1.45	1.40	4.28	0.22	1.28

## Average Wages and Quartiles of Wage Distributions

Figure 1 shows the average wage of all workers compared to that for the median wage over the period 1980-94. The data used for 1980-93 is based on the CWHS. For 1994, 100-percent (non-sample) data were used. The median wage for 1994 was estimated by interpolating on the cumulative frequency distribution of workers by wage level.

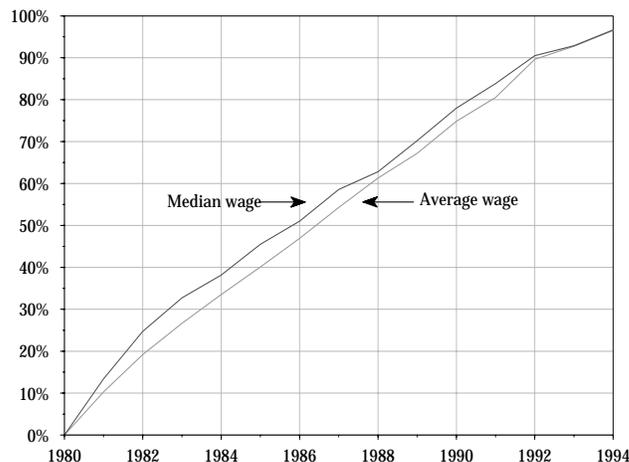
Figure 1.—Average and median wages, 1980-94



Note that as time increases the curve for the average wage appears to diverge from that for the median wage. In fact, over the 1984-94 period, the average wage increase is almost 5 percentage points more than the comparable increase in the median wage. For the 1980-94 period, however, the increase in each was very nearly the same. These facts are illustrated in figure 2, which shows the cumulative increase from 1980 in both the average wage and the median wage.

As indicated in figure 2, median wage growth exceeds average wage growth in the early 1980s, and then its growth slows relative to average wage growth. If measurement of cumulative increases begins in a later year such as 1983 or 1984, then the median wage curve would fall below, and stay below, the average wage curve for all years thereafter through 1994. See table 4 for a numerical comparison of the nominal wage amounts and their annual increases. (Table 4 also shows comparable data in 1994 dollars. The conversion to 1994 dollars is based on the average annual "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.")

Figure 2.—Cumulative increase in average and median wages, 1980-94



Caution should be exercised in interpreting the data from table 4 and the above graphs. Recall that table 1 compared the number of workers from the CWHS to those from 100-percent data, and the number of workers was less for the CWHS data. As noted earlier, the median and average wage amounts for each year 1980-93 are based on the CWHS data. It may be that the relatively low number of workers in the early 1980s affects the relationship between the median and average wage amounts.

Table 5 shows average wage amounts by age group and sex for each year 1980-93 from the CWHS. Note that the overall averages in table 5 are somewhat lower than those shown in table 1 due to the edits described earlier. Table 6 shows annual percentage increases in the average wage amounts in 1994 dollars.

Tables 7, 8, and 9 present first, second, and third quartiles, respectively, of the frequency distribution of workers by wage level. The quartiles are given by age group and sex for each year 1980-93. Again, the data are from the CWHS. Table 10 shows the annual percentage increases in the median wage (the middle quartile), in 1994 dollars, by age group and sex.

**Table 4.—Median and average wage amount, 1980-94**

Year	Current dollars		Percent increase over prior year's level		
	Median	Average	Median	Average	Difference
1980	\$8,160	\$11,402	—	—	—
1981	9,253	12,573	13.395	10.270	3.124
1982	10,178	13,591	9.997	8.097	1.900
1983	10,829	14,440	6.396	6.247	0.149
1984	11,273	15,220	4.100	5.402	-1.302
1985	11,872	15,972	5.314	4.941	0.373
1986	12,322	16,749	3.790	4.865	-1.074
1987	12,938	17,593	4.999	5.039	-0.040
1988	13,284	18,391	2.674	4.536	-1.862
1989	13,887	19,064	4.539	3.659	0.880
1990	14,522	19,935	4.573	4.569	0.004
1991	15,000	20,581	3.292	3.241	0.051
1992	15,545	21,620	3.633	5.048	-1.415
1993	15,736	21,975	1.229	1.642	-0.413
1994	16,046	22,401	1.970	1.939	0.031

Year	1994 dollars		Percent increase over prior year's level		
	Median	Average	Median	Average	Difference
1980	\$14,676	\$20,507	—	—	—
1981	15,086	20,498	2.794	-0.044	2.838
1982	15,631	20,872	3.613	1.825	1.788
1983	16,113	21,485	3.084	2.937	0.147
1984	16,079	21,710	-0.211	1.047	-1.258
1985	16,352	21,999	1.698	1.331	0.367
1986	16,662	22,647	1.896	2.946	-1.050
1987	16,879	22,952	1.302	1.347	-0.044
1988	16,641	23,039	-1.410	0.379	-1.789
1989	16,597	22,785	-0.264	-1.102	0.838
1990	16,466	22,604	-0.789	-0.794	0.005
1991	16,322	22,395	-0.875	-0.925	0.050
1992	16,420	22,838	0.600	1.978	-1.378
1993	16,139	22,537	-1.711	-1.318	-0.393
1994	16,046	22,401	-0.576	-0.603	0.027

**Table 5.—Average wage amounts by age group and sex, 1980-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1980	\$11,402	\$1,422	\$5,879	\$11,709	\$15,802	\$16,800	\$15,606	\$8,139
1981	12,573	1,507	6,336	12,802	17,185	18,173	17,021	9,009
1982	13,591	1,475	6,434	13,602	18,359	19,331	17,912	9,647
1983	14,440	1,419	6,533	14,264	19,402	20,589	18,941	10,477
1984	15,220	1,440	6,826	14,993	20,572	21,854	20,053	11,034
1985	15,972	1,486	7,135	15,739	21,446	22,945	20,909	11,667
1986	16,749	1,510	7,353	16,418	22,448	24,124	21,827	12,343
1987	17,593	1,575	7,440	16,934	23,489	25,699	22,656	12,722
1988	18,391	1,603	7,577	17,553	24,205	27,121	24,053	13,605
1989	19,064	1,620	7,820	18,158	25,035	28,145	24,302	13,741
1990	19,935	1,660	8,011	18,829	25,922	29,172	25,081	14,373
1991	20,581	1,670	7,879	19,162	26,456	29,886	25,762	14,493
1992	21,620	1,645	7,974	19,802	27,625	31,726	26,980	14,773
1993	21,975	1,671	8,012	20,051	27,917	32,209	27,259	14,407
<b>Male</b>								
1980	14,759	1,562	6,838	14,412	20,933	22,577	20,661	10,503
1981	16,184	1,656	7,313	15,623	22,723	24,375	22,417	11,566
1982	17,290	1,621	7,225	16,266	24,162	25,933	23,576	12,395
1983	18,311	1,542	7,264	16,954	25,303	27,416	24,745	13,497
1984	19,412	1,550	7,661	17,883	26,979	29,340	26,433	14,464
1985	20,346	1,597	7,997	18,760	27,983	30,843	27,583	15,207
1986	21,304	1,599	8,153	19,459	29,229	32,576	28,936	16,209
1987	22,374	1,660	8,210	20,060	30,464	34,757	30,192	16,696
1988	23,482	1,691	8,315	20,807	31,402	36,952	32,467	18,236
1989	24,043	1,689	8,549	21,309	32,061	37,986	32,399	18,119
1990	25,039	1,745	8,757	21,930	32,980	39,109	33,306	19,336
1991	25,530	1,731	8,477	21,992	33,174	39,539	33,983	19,110
1992	26,884	1,698	8,610	22,670	34,605	42,030	35,773	19,809
1993	27,207	1,727	8,659	22,921	34,818	42,365	35,749	18,616
<b>Female</b>								
1980	6,949	1,253	4,742	7,997	8,627	8,846	8,385	4,751
1981	7,914	1,333	5,198	9,059	9,746	9,929	9,544	5,443
1982	8,838	1,304	5,477	10,076	10,818	10,860	10,286	5,960
1983	9,620	1,281	5,689	10,874	11,863	11,885	11,189	6,623
1984	10,116	1,319	5,874	11,421	12,657	12,562	11,706	6,727
1985	10,728	1,363	6,174	12,069	13,547	13,258	12,234	7,191
1986	11,420	1,415	6,473	12,800	14,484	14,107	12,878	7,569
1987	12,058	1,481	6,601	13,250	15,443	15,115	13,340	7,833
1988	12,653	1,506	6,792	13,816	16,208	15,978	13,878	8,058
1989	13,385	1,543	7,021	14,474	17,165	16,959	14,562	8,509
1990	14,158	1,570	7,198	15,208	18,078	18,003	15,251	8,617
1991	15,008	1,605	7,231	15,862	19,028	19,186	16,040	9,169
1992	15,749	1,588	7,286	16,481	19,946	20,453	16,793	9,187
1993	16,161	1,611	7,320	16,754	20,384	21,134	17,327	9,461

**Table 6.—Percentage increase in the average wage, in 1994 dollars, over prior year's level, 1981-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1981	-0.04	-3.87	-2.30	-0.89	-1.41	-1.94	-1.13	0.35
1982	1.82	-7.85	-4.34	0.09	0.62	0.20	-0.87	0.86
1983	2.94	-6.80	-1.63	1.60	2.39	3.19	2.45	5.22
1984	1.05	-2.65	0.15	0.76	1.64	1.75	1.49	0.96
1985	1.33	-0.44	0.94	1.37	0.67	1.38	0.68	2.10
1986	2.95	-0.20	1.17	2.41	2.76	3.22	2.49	3.86
1987	1.35	0.64	-2.38	-0.49	0.96	2.78	0.14	-0.56
1988	0.38	-2.29	-2.19	-0.47	-1.05	1.34	1.95	2.69
1989	-1.10	-3.59	-1.54	-1.31	-1.33	-1.00	-3.61	-3.65
1990	-0.79	-2.74	-2.81	-1.62	-1.77	-1.66	-2.08	-0.76
1991	-0.92	-3.45	-5.61	-2.34	-2.06	-1.69	-1.43	-3.23
1992	1.98	-4.46	-1.76	0.32	1.37	3.05	1.67	-1.05
1993	-1.32	-1.32	-2.45	-1.68	-1.88	-1.43	-1.90	-5.31
<b>Male</b>								
1981	-0.60	-3.88	-3.06	-1.74	-1.60	-2.13	-1.65	-0.17
1982	0.64	-7.78	-6.94	-1.93	0.16	0.22	-0.93	0.94
1983	2.61	-7.87	-2.58	0.99	1.46	2.43	1.69	5.49
1984	1.62	-3.62	1.09	1.11	2.21	2.59	2.40	2.73
1985	1.21	-0.50	0.80	1.29	0.15	1.51	0.76	1.52
1986	2.80	-1.73	0.10	1.83	2.55	3.69	2.99	4.65
1987	1.33	0.19	-2.85	-0.54	0.56	2.94	0.66	-0.63
1988	0.78	-2.22	-2.75	-0.40	-1.02	2.09	3.27	4.88
1989	-2.31	-4.72	-1.90	-2.29	-2.60	-1.93	-4.79	-5.21
1990	-1.20	-1.93	-2.82	-2.36	-2.41	-2.32	-2.47	1.25
1991	-2.16	-4.80	-7.12	-3.76	-3.47	-2.99	-2.09	-5.16
1992	2.23	-4.78	-1.40	0.07	1.26	3.20	2.19	0.63
1993	-1.74	-1.28	-2.34	-1.83	-2.31	-2.14	-2.97	-8.76
<b>Female</b>								
1981	3.23	-3.55	-0.64	2.70	2.41	1.76	3.17	3.84
1982	5.19	-7.87	-0.74	4.76	4.56	3.03	1.52	3.17
1983	5.46	-4.80	0.64	4.57	6.25	6.03	5.39	7.66
1984	0.80	-1.31	-1.02	0.68	2.28	1.32	0.29	-2.64
1985	2.40	-0.21	1.49	2.04	3.35	1.91	0.91	3.23
1986	4.51	1.92	2.93	4.12	4.97	4.47	3.35	3.32
1987	1.87	0.99	-1.62	-0.13	2.86	3.37	-0.06	-0.16
1988	0.76	-2.33	-1.20	0.13	0.78	1.51	-0.10	-1.20
1989	0.93	-2.23	-1.38	-0.05	1.04	1.25	0.11	0.74
1990	0.34	-3.52	-2.73	-0.32	-0.08	0.72	-0.64	-3.93
1991	1.73	-1.85	-3.60	0.09	1.00	2.26	0.93	2.12
1992	1.87	-3.95	-2.17	0.87	1.76	3.49	1.64	-2.74
1993	-0.36	-1.49	-2.46	-1.30	-0.78	0.33	0.17	-0.01

**Table 7.—First quartile wage distribution amounts by age group and sex, 1980-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1980	\$2,808	\$365	\$1,760	\$4,306	\$5,664	\$6,274	\$5,523	\$1,650
1981	3,275	405	1,900	5,014	6,515	7,079	6,325	1,947
1982	3,682	375	1,906	5,624	7,208	7,649	6,631	1,917
1983	3,942	375	1,941	5,954	7,642	8,197	7,078	2,100
1984	4,085	381	2,103	6,267	7,999	8,506	7,103	1,975
1985	4,318	399	2,209	6,646	8,474	8,874	7,269	2,062
1986	4,400	402	2,225	6,849	8,655	9,167	7,259	2,080
1987	4,592	425	2,273	7,051	9,211	9,850	7,330	2,037
1988	4,660	423	2,230	7,155	9,385	10,227	7,411	2,000
1989	4,985	420	2,386	7,537	9,892	10,764	7,554	2,116
1990	5,316	430	2,430	7,942	10,299	11,196	7,790	2,016
1991	5,567	445	2,375	8,011	10,522	11,566	8,000	2,122
1992	5,694	450	2,392	8,223	10,850	12,093	8,096	1,870
1993	5,702	446	2,382	8,186	10,868	12,346	8,017	1,642
<b>Male</b>								
1980	4,157	388	2,216	6,726	10,511	11,159	9,360	1,959
1981	4,773	423	2,339	7,438	11,608	12,248	10,252	2,250
1982	5,201	392	2,229	7,866	12,457	12,965	10,638	2,189
1983	5,468	389	2,235	7,967	13,000	13,650	11,189	2,408
1984	5,790	391	2,482	8,560	13,708	14,435	11,528	2,293
1985	6,134	411	2,587	9,096	14,215	15,125	11,757	2,400
1986	6,154	408	2,570	9,222	14,307	15,571	11,894	2,514
1987	6,338	431	2,613	9,495	14,816	16,393	11,950	2,400
1988	6,213	432	2,449	9,436	14,736	16,875	11,882	2,400
1989	6,666	423	2,702	9,925	15,232	17,290	11,936	2,426
1990	7,066	431	2,772	10,324	15,484	17,539	12,048	2,400
1991	7,126	444	2,643	9,921	15,217	17,667	11,872	2,400
1992	7,286	448	2,648	10,120	15,426	18,200	11,846	2,332
1993	7,200	445	2,630	10,094	15,320	18,338	11,076	1,745
<b>Female</b>								
1980	1,869	337	1,376	2,610	3,069	3,694	3,384	1,362
1981	2,260	387	1,534	3,206	3,775	4,358	3,960	1,651
1982	2,628	356	1,608	3,833	4,338	4,846	4,274	1,636
1983	2,864	360	1,667	4,306	4,748	5,316	4,706	1,788
1984	2,924	368	1,763	4,418	4,920	5,428	4,772	1,665
1985	3,097	384	1,872	4,710	5,348	5,718	4,900	1,793
1986	3,226	400	1,930	4,955	5,631	6,000	5,057	1,712
1987	3,411	416	1,985	5,125	6,092	6,477	5,146	1,712
1988	3,586	416	2,031	5,361	6,500	6,958	5,271	1,614
1989	3,796	415	2,095	5,615	6,889	7,376	5,505	1,795
1990	4,081	428	2,137	6,004	7,330	7,826	5,712	1,647
1991	4,404	446	2,125	6,300	7,752	8,338	6,096	1,842
1992	4,519	451	2,152	6,547	8,081	8,862	6,184	1,457
1993	4,600	448	2,156	6,560	8,166	9,193	6,374	1,540

**Table 8.—Second quartile (median) wage distribution amounts by age group and sex, 1980-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1980	\$8,160	\$925	\$4,588	\$10,063	\$12,480	\$12,873	\$11,797	\$3,975
1981	9,253	978	4,930	11,205	13,914	14,200	13,000	4,500
1982	10,178	915	4,884	12,089	15,000	15,117	13,684	4,649
1983	10,829	877	4,958	12,595	16,019	16,275	14,686	5,104
1984	11,273	912	5,237	13,200	16,860	17,085	15,289	5,137
1985	11,872	954	5,505	13,853	17,692	17,915	15,880	5,460
1986	12,322	965	5,594	14,331	18,260	18,600	16,276	5,725
1987	12,938	1,027	5,590	14,803	19,124	19,718	16,753	5,760
1988	13,284	1,032	5,465	15,200	19,490	20,344	17,066	5,900
1989	13,887	1,027	5,811	15,685	20,273	21,250	17,604	6,064
1990	14,522	1,064	5,965	16,266	20,940	22,050	18,082	6,084
1991	15,000	1,081	5,809	16,480	21,413	22,894	18,565	6,329
1992	15,545	1,062	5,876	17,015	22,050	23,900	19,056	6,300
1993	15,736	1,072	5,849	17,142	22,204	24,374	19,132	6,197
<b>Male</b>								
1980	11,692	987	5,588	13,240	18,514	19,266	17,302	4,518
1981	12,988	1,046	5,911	14,400	20,240	20,968	18,642	5,066
1982	13,783	963	5,672	14,861	21,148	22,038	19,238	5,282
1983	14,594	919	5,675	15,385	22,428	23,670	20,458	5,793
1984	15,255	954	6,119	16,131	23,520	24,918	21,516	6,000
1985	15,986	983	6,424	16,854	24,405	25,971	22,298	6,382
1986	16,443	988	6,418	17,275	24,988	26,893	22,896	6,785
1987	17,108	1,060	6,399	17,779	25,704	28,085	23,611	6,650
1988	17,572	1,067	6,061	18,309	26,154	28,890	24,087	6,902
1989	18,012	1,047	6,531	18,592	26,754	29,945	24,604	7,001
1990	18,686	1,088	6,693	19,109	27,282	30,728	25,160	7,074
1991	18,954	1,088	6,394	19,072	27,482	31,475	25,225	7,200
1992	19,546	1,069	6,526	19,542	28,124	32,617	25,913	7,340
1993	19,684	1,078	6,481	19,645	28,120	32,920	25,748	6,912
<b>Female</b>								
1980	5,581	855	3,637	7,060	7,355	7,761	7,466	3,312
1981	6,549	913	3,969	8,207	8,525	8,852	8,496	3,830
1982	7,358	866	4,093	9,243	9,492	9,648	9,153	3,990
1983	7,995	839	4,256	9,950	10,411	10,537	10,057	4,363
1984	8,248	876	4,407	10,372	11,055	11,034	10,337	4,270
1985	8,721	925	4,660	10,915	11,788	11,610	10,664	4,572
1986	9,171	946	4,818	11,479	12,479	12,263	11,061	4,733
1987	9,725	999	4,865	11,950	13,347	13,225	11,494	4,898
1988	10,132	996	4,933	12,318	13,987	13,866	11,827	4,978
1989	10,674	1,003	5,078	12,811	14,715	14,729	12,366	5,236
1990	11,267	1,041	5,250	13,420	15,395	15,506	12,816	5,200
1991	11,920	1,068	5,225	13,945	16,130	16,385	13,408	5,550
1992	12,409	1,056	5,266	14,472	16,848	17,344	13,985	5,356
1993	12,656	1,064	5,266	14,644	17,090	17,888	14,281	5,510

**Table 9.—Third quartile wage distribution amounts by age group and sex, 1980-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1980	\$15,827	\$1,960	\$8,527	\$16,683	\$21,575	\$22,147	\$20,519	\$8,132
1981	17,526	2,050	9,196	18,173	23,543	24,037	22,320	9,166
1982	18,768	1,953	9,424	19,056	24,678	25,237	23,183	9,847
1983	20,027	1,859	9,560	19,960	26,213	27,004	24,674	11,210
1984	21,000	1,906	9,915	20,963	27,528	28,516	25,922	11,759
1985	22,027	1,965	10,384	21,905	28,658	29,733	27,026	12,561
1986	22,930	2,012	10,712	22,718	29,675	30,840	27,880	13,193
1987	23,913	2,110	10,892	23,351	30,538	32,144	28,608	13,239
1988	24,698	2,176	11,039	24,091	31,281	33,161	29,427	13,394
1989	25,693	2,184	11,359	24,874	32,509	34,718	30,486	13,809
1990	26,762	2,262	11,611	25,731	33,590	36,000	31,487	13,600
1991	27,723	2,283	11,370	26,222	34,504	37,362	32,356	14,045
1992	28,790	2,240	11,608	26,991	35,682	38,975	33,438	14,074
1993	29,223	2,287	11,687	27,241	35,999	39,816	33,818	13,924
<b>Male</b>								
1980	20,670	2,147	9,890	20,054	26,540	27,713	25,556	11,356
1981	22,672	2,240	10,510	21,667	28,922	30,130	27,874	12,600
1982	23,924	2,135	10,408	22,394	30,380	31,711	29,200	13,134
1983	25,500	1,987	10,415	23,503	31,946	33,690	30,741	15,275
1984	26,785	2,020	10,904	24,666	33,708	35,737	32,655	15,999
1985	27,958	2,072	11,408	25,779	35,076	37,411	34,080	17,146
1986	28,947	2,090	11,632	26,535	36,332	38,991	35,443	18,000
1987	29,952	2,200	11,786	27,177	37,115	40,309	36,261	17,882
1988	30,886	2,256	11,979	28,000	38,062	41,769	37,227	18,500
1989	31,826	2,258	12,206	28,642	39,139	43,456	38,568	18,752
1990	32,958	2,355	12,443	29,446	40,171	44,800	39,784	18,400
1991	33,875	2,350	12,035	29,788	41,009	46,168	40,666	18,476
1992	35,143	2,282	12,383	30,523	42,201	47,984	42,056	18,521
1993	35,542	2,332	12,574	30,676	42,601	48,946	42,783	17,500
<b>Female</b>								
1980	10,159	1,758	7,305	11,574	11,925	12,128	11,667	5,642
1981	11,629	1,858	7,980	13,160	13,781	13,751	13,208	6,522
1982	12,992	1,782	8,393	14,554	15,328	15,136	14,385	7,044
1983	14,087	1,721	8,652	15,522	16,800	16,496	15,615	8,118
1984	14,850	1,788	8,827	16,340	17,988	17,467	16,358	8,298
1985	15,711	1,861	9,264	17,254	19,166	18,465	17,188	8,865
1986	16,660	1,928	9,692	18,200	20,389	19,653	18,074	9,368
1987	17,620	2,021	9,884	18,876	21,696	21,045	18,769	9,716
1988	18,397	2,090	10,115	19,577	22,646	22,039	19,450	9,706
1989	19,366	2,101	10,383	20,433	23,870	23,365	20,473	10,178
1990	20,382	2,172	10,652	21,334	25,049	24,746	21,391	10,231
1991	21,515	2,226	10,609	22,184	26,309	26,240	22,465	10,839
1992	22,493	2,198	10,647	23,021	27,380	27,765	23,400	11,013
1993	23,009	2,240	10,636	23,395	27,833	28,740	24,000	11,364

**Table 10.—Percentage increase in the median wage, in 1994 dollars, over prior year's level, 1981-93**

Year	Total	Under age 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
<b>Total</b>								
1981	2.79	-4.21	-2.59	0.93	1.06	-0.01	-0.10	2.63
1982	3.61	-11.86	-6.68	1.63	1.55	0.28	-0.85	-2.69
1983	3.08	-7.12	-1.65	0.94	3.47	4.31	3.99	6.37
1984	-0.21	-0.31	1.26	0.46	0.89	0.64	-0.20	-3.53
1985	1.70	1.00	1.50	1.34	1.33	1.25	0.29	2.63
1986	1.90	-0.68	-0.24	1.56	1.33	1.93	0.62	2.94
1987	1.30	2.68	-3.58	-0.34	1.04	2.28	-0.69	-2.93
1988	-1.41	-3.51	-6.13	-1.40	-2.14	-0.92	-2.18	-1.64
1989	-0.26	-5.10	1.45	-1.55	-0.76	-0.35	-1.59	-1.95
1990	-0.79	-1.71	-2.61	-1.61	-2.01	-1.56	-2.55	-4.80
1991	-0.87	-2.49	-6.55	-2.78	-1.87	-0.36	-1.47	-0.17
1992	0.60	-4.59	-1.80	0.23	-0.03	1.34	-0.36	-3.37
1993	-1.71	-2.05	-3.35	-2.18	-2.23	-0.98	-2.52	-4.49
<b>Male</b>								
1981	0.69	-3.94	-4.11	-1.41	-0.90	-1.34	-2.33	1.62
1982	-0.04	-13.26	-9.61	-2.79	-1.58	-0.99	-2.79	-1.78
1983	2.59	-7.57	-3.07	0.30	2.75	4.06	3.03	6.26
1984	0.20	-0.44	3.36	0.51	0.53	0.92	0.82	-0.72
1985	1.19	-0.51	1.37	0.89	0.20	0.64	0.07	2.70
1986	0.98	-1.33	-1.91	0.63	0.52	1.66	0.81	4.39
1987	0.38	3.52	-3.81	-0.71	-0.76	0.76	-0.51	-5.45
1988	-1.37	-3.33	-9.04	-1.11	-2.29	-1.22	-2.04	-0.33
1989	-2.21	-6.43	2.81	-3.13	-2.41	-1.11	-2.55	-3.23
1990	-1.57	-1.36	-2.78	-2.48	-3.26	-2.65	-2.98	-4.14
1991	-2.66	-4.05	-8.33	-4.23	-3.34	-1.70	-3.79	-2.33
1992	0.11	-4.65	-0.92	-0.53	-0.65	0.60	-0.27	-1.03
1993	-2.22	-2.04	-3.57	-2.39	-2.92	-2.01	-3.53	-8.56
<b>Female</b>								
1981	6.37	-3.19	-1.07	5.37	5.07	3.39	3.16	4.84
1982	5.83	-10.68	-2.86	6.09	4.88	2.67	1.48	-1.86
1983	5.27	-6.17	0.75	4.30	6.27	5.82	6.45	5.94
1984	-1.10	0.16	-0.74	-0.07	1.79	0.38	-1.47	-6.18
1985	2.10	1.92	2.10	1.62	2.97	1.60	-0.38	3.38
1986	3.24	0.39	1.51	3.25	3.92	3.70	1.83	1.64
1987	2.31	1.88	-2.58	0.44	3.19	4.05	0.25	-0.16
1988	0.05	-4.22	-2.63	-1.02	0.63	0.68	-1.19	-2.41
1989	0.50	-3.93	-1.80	-0.78	0.37	1.34	-0.25	0.34
1990	0.15	-1.58	-1.91	-0.62	-0.74	-0.12	-1.67	-5.77
1991	1.52	-1.53	-4.50	-0.28	0.55	1.40	0.39	2.43
1992	1.06	-4.04	-2.15	0.74	1.40	2.75	1.25	-6.33
1993	-0.98	-2.15	-2.91	-1.75	-1.51	0.14	-0.85	-0.09

## Frequency Distributions by Wage Level

Table 11 presents frequency distributions of the number of wage earners by wage level for each year 1985-94 based on complete wage data from the Master Earnings File.

Based on data from table 11, the cumulative frequency distribution of the number of wage earners, as a percent of the total number with wages in each year, is presented for each year 1985-94 in table 12.

From table 12, quartiles of the wage distribution can be estimated and, except for 1994 values, can be compared to the corresponding values presented in tables

7, 8, and 9. From table 12, for example, the percentage of wage earners with less than \$5,000 in wages in 1993 is 23.123 percent, and 25.983 percent with wages under \$6,000. Thus the first quartile wage must be between \$4,999 and \$5,999, inclusive. By linear interpolation, the estimated first quartile is about \$5,655. The corresponding estimate from the CWS data, as shown in table 7, is \$5,702. The difference between the two estimates, \$47, is less than 1 percent. Second and third quartile estimates from table 12 will be less reliable, compared to first quartile estimates, because the second and third quartiles fall between \$5,000 increments, instead of \$1,000 increments, in the wage intervals.

**Table 11.—Frequency distribution of wage earners by wage level, 1985-94**  
[In thousands]

Wage level	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
\$1 — \$999	11,114	11,074	10,973	11,126	10,740	10,278	9,873	10,004	10,248	10,381
1,000 — 1,999	6,885	6,829	6,895	6,982	6,760	6,507	6,213	6,165	6,160	6,194
2,000 — 2,999	5,757	5,699	5,726	5,776	5,670	5,485	5,266	5,160	5,168	5,190
3,000 — 3,999	4,865	4,807	4,863	4,905	4,885	4,768	4,594	4,491	4,480	4,512
4,000 — 4,999	4,345	4,259	4,295	4,335	4,332	4,258	4,150	4,044	4,022	4,029
5,000 — 5,999	4,096	4,036	4,056	4,054	4,049	3,966	3,873	3,754	3,720	3,719
6,000 — 6,999	3,885	3,802	3,824	3,860	3,917	3,849	3,761	3,601	3,563	3,542
7,000 — 7,999	3,810	3,732	3,723	3,716	3,741	3,680	3,641	3,497	3,465	3,442
8,000 — 8,999	3,712	3,531	3,577	3,578	3,671	3,559	3,557	3,368	3,330	3,314
9,000 — 9,999	3,698	3,543	3,511	3,415	3,514	3,510	3,499	3,353	3,291	3,261
10,000 — 14,999	17,203	16,732	16,741	16,392	16,877	16,638	16,076	15,780	15,531	15,551
15,000 — 19,999	14,003	13,993	14,478	14,577	15,037	15,030	14,549	14,279	14,128	14,177
20,000 — 24,999	10,394	10,580	11,191	11,518	12,004	12,210	12,077	12,140	12,137	12,281
25,000 — 29,999	7,892	8,086	8,606	8,841	9,227	9,469	9,457	9,578	9,661	9,933
30,000 — 34,999	5,500	5,711	6,248	6,596	7,114	7,461	7,528	7,568	7,641	7,899
35,000 — 39,999	3,482	3,727	4,201	4,570	5,089	5,514	5,751	6,025	6,016	6,224
40,000 — 44,999	2,130	2,344	2,710	3,004	3,420	3,808	4,088	4,462	4,516	4,693
45,000 — 49,999	1,316	1,469	1,699	1,927	2,262	2,565	2,806	3,121	3,221	3,435
50,000 — 54,999	848	959	1,120	1,271	1,514	1,729	1,926	2,173	2,276	2,495
55,000 — 59,999	553	624	735	841	1,014	1,151	1,302	1,487	1,577	1,742
60,000 — 64,999	394	449	523	602	720	822	929	1,057	1,139	1,282
65,000 — 69,999	285	324	379	433	513	584	663	761	825	926
70,000 — 74,999	214	242	285	329	391	442	497	566	623	697
75,000 — 79,999	166	189	220	254	302	343	389	436	478	533
80,000 — 84,999	133	150	173	199	231	263	298	341	377	412
85,000 — 89,999	104	119	137	158	182	206	232	263	295	325
90,000 — 94,999	87	99	116	133	151	170	192	214	240	261
95,000 — 99,999	72	81	95	111	124	139	158	176	197	212
\$100,000 and over	644	730	895	1,078	1,182	1,302	1,383	1,584	1,752	1,845
Total	117,588	117,919	121,995	124,580	128,633	129,705	128,727	129,448	130,079	132,509

**Table 12.—Cumulative frequency distribution of wage earners as a percent of their total number by wage level, 1985-94**

Wage less than or equal to...	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
\$999	9.452	9.391	8.995	8.931	8.349	7.924	7.670	7.728	7.878	7.834
1,999	15.308	15.182	14.647	14.535	13.604	12.941	12.496	12.491	12.614	12.509
2,999	20.203	20.015	19.340	19.172	18.012	17.169	16.587	16.477	16.587	16.426
3,999	24.341	24.092	23.326	23.109	21.809	20.845	20.155	19.946	20.031	19.831
4,999	28.035	27.704	26.846	26.588	25.177	24.128	23.379	23.071	23.123	22.872
5,999	31.518	31.127	30.171	29.843	28.325	27.186	26.388	25.971	25.983	25.678
6,999	34.822	34.351	33.306	32.941	31.370	30.153	29.309	28.753	28.722	28.351
7,999	38.062	37.516	36.357	35.924	34.278	32.990	32.137	31.454	31.386	30.949
8,999	41.219	40.510	39.289	38.796	37.132	35.734	34.900	34.056	33.946	33.450
9,999	44.365	43.515	42.168	41.537	39.864	38.441	37.618	36.646	36.476	35.911
14,999	58.994	57.704	55.890	54.695	52.984	51.268	50.106	48.836	48.416	47.647
19,999	70.903	69.571	67.758	66.396	64.674	62.856	61.409	59.867	59.277	58.346
24,999	79.742	78.543	76.931	75.641	74.006	72.270	70.791	69.246	68.608	67.615
29,999	86.454	85.400	83.986	82.738	81.179	79.570	78.137	76.645	76.035	75.111
34,999	91.131	90.243	89.107	88.033	86.709	85.322	83.986	82.491	81.909	81.072
39,999	94.092	93.403	92.551	91.701	90.666	89.573	88.453	87.145	86.534	85.769
44,999	95.904	95.391	94.772	94.112	93.324	92.509	91.630	90.592	90.005	89.310
49,999	97.023	96.637	96.165	95.659	95.083	94.487	93.809	93.003	92.482	91.903
54,999	97.745	97.450	97.084	96.679	96.260	95.820	95.306	94.682	94.231	93.785
59,999	98.215	97.979	97.686	97.354	97.048	96.707	96.317	95.830	95.444	95.100
64,999	98.550	98.360	98.115	97.838	97.608	97.341	97.039	96.647	96.319	96.067
69,999	98.792	98.634	98.425	98.185	98.007	97.791	97.554	97.235	96.953	96.766
74,999	98.974	98.840	98.659	98.449	98.311	98.132	97.940	97.672	97.432	97.292
79,999	99.115	99.000	98.839	98.653	98.546	98.396	98.242	98.009	97.800	97.694
84,999	99.228	99.127	98.981	98.813	98.725	98.599	98.474	98.272	98.090	98.005
89,999	99.317	99.227	99.093	98.939	98.867	98.758	98.654	98.475	98.317	98.250
94,999	99.391	99.312	99.188	99.046	98.984	98.889	98.803	98.641	98.501	98.447
99,999	99.452	99.381	99.266	99.135	99.081	98.996	98.926	98.777	98.653	98.607
Total	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000

To make comparisons across years, it is useful to tabulate the number of workers by real wage levels. The 1994 wage levels were chosen as the standard, and corresponding inflation-adjusted wage intervals were computed for earlier years. Because no 100-percent data are available by the resulting 1994-dollar wage levels for 1985-93, data from the CWS were used to redistribute the number of workers from the 100-percent data. The results are shown in table 13.

Compared to table 12, table 13 exhibits much less variability across years for a given wage level. For example, the percentage of workers earning less than \$60,000 in 1994 dollars ranges from 95.1 percent to 95.5 percent over the 10-year period. In nominal dollars, the corresponding percentage ranges from 95.1 percent to 98.2 percent.

**Table 13.—Cumulative frequency distribution of wage earners as a percent of their total number by 1994-dollar wage level, 1985-94**

1994-dollar wage less than or equal to...	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
\$999	7.434	7.488	7.365	7.555	7.311	7.241	7.226	7.433	7.745	7.834
1,999	12.211	12.284	12.158	12.413	12.011	11.865	11.783	12.033	12.402	12.509
2,999	16.166	16.292	16.114	16.468	15.955	15.777	15.669	15.892	16.318	16.426
3,999	19.684	19.755	19.568	19.933	19.366	19.176	19.043	19.241	19.706	19.831
4,999	22.765	22.826	22.613	22.994	22.432	22.229	22.121	22.257	22.755	22.872
5,999	25.532	25.618	25.378	25.786	25.256	25.055	24.955	25.072	25.579	25.678
6,999	28.130	28.183	28.009	28.462	27.877	27.696	27.660	27.754	28.257	28.351
7,999	30.681	30.679	30.579	31.048	30.457	30.316	30.316	30.316	30.852	30.949
8,999	33.086	33.070	32.967	33.440	32.906	32.809	32.895	32.803	33.373	33.450
9,999	35.443	35.409	35.256	35.784	35.308	35.248	35.403	35.271	35.844	35.911
14,999	46.938	46.577	46.199	46.760	46.669	46.833	47.202	46.954	47.573	47.647
19,999	57.602	57.020	56.667	57.042	57.261	57.586	57.948	57.660	58.262	58.346
24,999	66.912	66.272	65.874	66.235	66.570	67.004	67.210	66.908	67.552	67.615
29,999	74.492	73.881	73.483	73.819	74.148	74.623	74.831	74.500	75.061	75.111
34,999	80.567	79.993	79.684	79.965	80.214	80.674	80.812	80.469	80.992	81.072
39,999	85.498	84.952	84.751	85.003	85.171	85.580	85.729	85.317	85.715	85.769
44,999	89.283	88.780	88.647	88.790	88.981	89.345	89.451	89.065	89.328	89.310
49,999	92.064	91.610	91.511	91.626	91.766	92.039	92.100	91.827	91.928	91.903
54,999	94.048	93.627	93.609	93.675	93.746	93.954	93.991	93.774	93.806	93.785
59,999	95.454	95.074	95.081	95.068	95.146	95.331	95.342	95.148	95.116	95.100
64,999	96.429	96.090	96.123	96.077	96.139	96.281	96.271	96.123	96.066	96.067
69,999	97.139	96.850	96.867	96.803	96.848	96.973	96.954	96.818	96.765	96.766
74,999	97.651	97.402	97.396	97.326	97.374	97.448	97.453	97.333	97.269	97.292
79,999	98.035	97.808	97.799	97.728	97.764	97.832	97.839	97.724	97.667	97.694
84,999	98.324	98.131	98.114	98.024	98.074	98.134	98.141	98.041	97.978	98.005
89,999	98.550	98.384	98.359	98.262	98.324	98.361	98.371	98.285	98.221	98.250
94,999	98.730	98.586	98.563	98.472	98.517	98.544	98.562	98.472	98.420	98.447
99,999	98.879	98.750	98.729	98.637	98.679	98.701	98.712	98.629	98.585	98.607
Total	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000