



Exercise 4: Gender wage differentials

This table, based on [BLS data](#), shows the median weekly earnings for men and women. (Data were not available for all 20 occupations that you looked at in Exercises 1–3.) Using the data on earnings of men and women in each occupation, calculate the percentage that women earn compared to men. To do this, for each occupation, divide the women’s earnings by the men’s earnings, then multiply by 100 to get the percentage. Round each number to the nearest tenth of a percent.

Occupation	Men’s median weekly earnings	Women’s median weekly earning	Women’s earnings as a % of men’s
Bus driver	605	527	
Cashier	422	361	
Chief executive	1,384	1,002	
Computer programmer	1,267	1,182	
Cook	400	371	
Doctor	1,914	1,228	
Elementary school teacher	1,040	891	
Lawyer	1,934	1,449	
Maid	444	371	
Mail carrier	944	908	
Police officer	971	805	
Real estate agent	939	745	
Registered nurse	1,090	1,035	
Retail salesperson	624	443	
Secretary	666	619	
Social worker	864	774	
Waiter	419	363	

1. For what occupation do men’s and women’s wages most differ?
2. In what occupation are men’s and women’s wages most alike?
3. Does it matter if the occupation is male or female dominated?
4. What factors do you think lead women to earn less in every occupation, including those that are female-dominated fields?