

WHAT CLEANING LABOUR COSTS, BY US STATE

Hourly pay for cleaners, housekeepers and laundry workers in all 50 states and DC, measured against each state's own average wage.

Hassam Rafkey · APXXO Data — labour · 15 September 2026

DATA AS AT	LAST CHECKED	MEASURED IN	ROWS
2025	2026-09-15	US dollars per hour	51

64.2%

IN NEVADA, CLEANING PAY IS THIS SHARE OF THE STATE AVERAGE

\$19.16 against a state-wide mean of \$29.83.

36.6%

IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IT IS THIS

\$19.54 against \$53.37 — a similar wage in a very different labour market.

1.59x

BETWEEN THE BEST AND WORST PAYING STATES

\$22.79 in Washington against \$14.32 in Mississippi.

AT A GLANCE

TOP 12 OF 51

The twelve best-paying states for cleaners, against what everyone in that state earns. The wider the green bar runs past the black one, the further cleaning sits from the middle of that labour market.

■ CLEANERS (\$/HOUR) ■ ALL OCCUPATIONS (\$/HOUR)



HOW THEY SPREAD OUT

Each bar counts how many of the 51 states fall in that band. Cleaning pay clusters tightly; the all-occupation average does not, which is why the ratio between them varies so much more than the wage itself.

CLEANERS



low \$14.32

1.59× from end to end

high \$22.79

ALL OCCUPATIONS



low \$24.43

2.18× from end to end

high \$53.37

WHAT THE FIGURES SHOW

The pay table and the ratio table are not the same ranking

Cleaners are paid most in Washington at \$22.79 an hour and least in Mississippi at \$14.32 — a spread of 1.59 times. That is the obvious reading, and it mostly tells you where wages in general are high.

The derived column asks a different question: what does cleaning pay come to as a share of what everyone in that state earns? On that measure Nevada leads at 64.2% and District of Columbia comes last at 36.6%, with a median of 57.3%.

A cleaner in District of Columbia earns about the same as one in Nevada. Relative to the people around them, they earn 28 percentage points less.

What the share is actually measuring

Nevada sits at the top because its economy is built on hospitality: cleaning is close to the middle of that labour market rather than at its edge. District of Columbia sits at the bottom because it is full of highly paid professional and government work, which pulls the average away from everyone else.

So the ratio is not a measure of generosity. It is a measure of how far cleaning sits from the middle of the local labour market — which is what determines how hard the work is to staff, and against whom an employer is competing for the same person.

The distribution explains the rest

Cleaning wages cluster tightly across the country. The all-occupation average does not: it ranges far more widely, because it carries the whole local economy in it.

That is why the share varies more than the wage. Almost all of the movement in the ratio comes from the denominator — the state around the cleaner — rather than from the cleaner's own pay.

What this is useful for, and what it is not

These are gross wages paid to employees. They are not the cost of employing someone, which adds payroll taxes, insurance, equipment, supervision and turnover, and they are not a contract rate.

OEWS is an establishment survey published once a year for the previous May, so it lags the market. In a year where wages moved quickly, this will be behind them.

The ratio is not about generosity. It is about how far cleaning sits from the middle of the local labour market, and therefore how hard it is to staff.

HOW WE WORKED THIS OUT

All figures are the hourly mean wage from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, 2025, for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The occupations are the official BLS categories: 37-2011 Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners; 37-2012 Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners; 51-6011 Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers.

"Share of state average" is the derived column: the cleaners' hourly mean divided by the hourly mean for All Occupations in the same state. It shows where cleaning labour is expensive relative to the local labour market, rather than simply where all wages are high.

That share runs from 36.6% in District of Columbia to 64.2% in Nevada, with a median of 57.3%.

These are gross wages paid to employees. They are not the cost of employing someone, which adds payroll taxes, insurance, equipment and supervision, and they are not a contract rate.

OEWS is an establishment survey published once a year, so it lags the market and does not capture very recent movements.

THE NUMBERS

51 ROWS · AS AT 2025

REGION	US DOLLARS PER HOUR	SHARE OF STATE AVERAGE WAGE (%)	HOUSEKEEPERS (\$/HOUR)	LAUNDRY WORKERS (\$/HOUR)	ALL OCCUPATIONS (\$/HOUR)
Washington	\$22.79	56.9	\$20.61	\$19.83	\$40.06
Massachusetts	\$21.75	52.8	\$20.38	\$18.34	\$41.16
New York	\$21.55	54.4	\$23.88	\$18.16	\$39.65
California	\$21.25	54.8	\$22.08	\$19.11	\$38.79
Connecticut	\$20.48	55.0	\$18.22	\$17.98	\$37.22
Vermont	\$20.35	61.3	\$18.63	\$18.54	\$33.20
Oregon	\$20.29	58.2	\$19.00	\$18.97	\$34.84
Colorado	\$20.11	54.2	\$18.99	\$21.52	\$37.11
Alaska	\$20.05	55.8	\$19.03	\$17.62	\$35.92
Minnesota	\$19.86	58.1	\$18.45	\$18.55	\$34.21
Maine	\$19.83	62.7	\$18.84	\$18.27	\$31.63
New Hampshire	\$19.76	57.6	\$18.31	\$18.15	\$34.31
Illinois	\$19.59	57.3	\$18.73	\$17.13	\$34.20
New Jersey	\$19.57	52.2	\$19.10	\$17.53	\$37.52
District of Columbia	\$19.54	36.6	\$21.83	\$20.04	\$53.37
Hawaii	\$19.44	57.5	\$25.18	\$18.77	\$33.78
Rhode Island	\$19.42	56.2	\$18.88	\$18.09	\$34.57
North Dakota	\$19.34	62.8	\$17.14	\$18.24	\$30.79
Nevada	\$19.16	64.2	\$20.89	\$17.90	\$29.83
Maryland	\$18.88	50.6	\$17.40	\$16.99	\$37.30
Montana	\$18.59	63.5	\$17.66	\$17.66	\$29.27
Wisconsin	\$18.53	60.0	\$17.13	\$16.89	\$30.90
Delaware	\$18.21	54.2	\$16.49	\$16.76	\$33.60
Arizona	\$18.17	55.9	\$17.67	\$17.49	\$32.51
Pennsylvania	\$18.16	57.5	\$16.23	\$16.24	\$31.60
Ohio	\$18.06	58.3	\$15.68	\$15.50	\$30.96
Wyoming	\$18.04	60.9	\$16.26	\$15.16	\$29.60

REGION	US DOLLARS PER HOUR	SHARE OF STATE AVERAGE WAGE (%)	HOUSEKEEPERS (\$/HOUR)	LAUNDRY WORKERS (\$/HOUR)	ALL OCCUPATIONS (\$/HOUR)
Idaho	\$18.01	61.2	\$16.94	\$16.51	\$29.41
Nebraska	\$17.95	59.8	\$16.45	\$17.18	\$30.00
Missouri	\$17.92	60.0	\$16.41	\$16.52	\$29.89
Michigan	\$17.81	57.1	\$16.36	\$17.08	\$31.21
Indiana	\$17.69	60.5	\$15.88	\$15.37	\$29.25
Iowa	\$17.64	61.3	\$15.88	\$16.43	\$28.76
Virginia	\$17.55	49.3	\$16.59	\$15.73	\$35.60
New Mexico	\$17.52	58.5	\$15.46	\$15.37	\$29.96
South Dakota	\$17.48	63.1	\$15.38	\$16.21	\$27.70
Florida	\$16.86	54.2	\$16.78	\$15.98	\$31.09
Kansas	\$16.80	57.6	\$15.41	\$14.94	\$29.15
Kentucky	\$16.71	58.9	\$15.35	\$14.35	\$28.36
Tennessee	\$16.66	57.0	\$15.24	\$15.70	\$29.23
Utah	\$16.64	52.2	\$17.65	\$17.05	\$31.87
Georgia	\$16.54	52.2	\$15.02	\$14.74	\$31.69
North Carolina	\$16.39	53.0	\$16.07	\$15.58	\$30.91
Texas	\$16.29	51.5	\$14.56	\$14.99	\$31.61
West Virginia	\$15.96	58.8	\$13.97	\$14.56	\$27.15
South Carolina	\$15.73	55.2	\$14.88	\$15.15	\$28.50
Oklahoma	\$15.52	56.7	\$14.21	\$13.99	\$27.38
Alabama	\$15.51	56.1	\$13.40	\$13.86	\$27.65
Arkansas	\$15.21	57.6	\$13.86	\$13.88	\$26.39
Louisiana	\$14.56	53.5	\$13.15	\$13.40	\$27.21
Mississippi	\$14.32	58.6	\$12.43	\$13.25	\$24.43

WHAT TO TAKE AWAY

Nominal cleaning pay varies 1.59 times across the states and tells you mostly where wages in general are high. Measured against each state’s own average it varies far

more — from 36.6% to 64.2% — and that ratio is the one that predicts how hard a site will be to staff.

WHERE IT CAME FROM

US Bureau of Labor Statistics — Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>)

US federal government — public domain · published annual

WHEN THIS PAGE CHANGES NEXT

OEWS publishes once a year, in the spring, for the previous May. This page changes then and not before. The pipeline checks every week and usually finds nothing, which is the expected result.

LAST CHECKED 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

This page is free to use and free to quote. If you cite it, please link back so readers can check the figures and the method for themselves.

CITE THIS PAGE

Free to quote, with or without permission. A link back means your readers can check the figures and the method for themselves. The chart can be embedded straight into your own page, and it carries the attribution with it.

Hassam Rafkey, "What cleaning labour costs, by US state", APXX0, 2026.
<https://apxxo.com/en-us/data/cleaning-labour-cost-by-state/>

MORE DATA FROM APXXO

AS AT 2026-06

What commercial electricity costs, by US state

Updated monthly. Free to download.

[\(/en-us/data/commercial-electricity-cost/\)](/en-us/data/commercial-electricity-cost/)

AS AT 2025 (PROVISIONAL) · BLS 2025 · FX 2026-09-15

What cleaning and laundry staff earn: London vs New York

Two governments, two classifications, one comparison. Free to download.

[\(/en-us/data/cleaning-wages-london-new-york/\)](/en-us/data/cleaning-wages-london-new-york/)

AS AT AUGUST 2026

What cleaning and laundry have actually cost

January 2016 to August 2026. Free to download.

[\(/en-us/data/cleaning-laundry-cost-index/\)](/en-us/data/cleaning-laundry-cost-index/)

ALL DATA PAGES → [\(/EN-US/DATA/\)](/EN-US/DATA/)