

## Research

### Value of Volunteer Time

**The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$18.04 per hour for 2005.**

Below is a table that provides a historical look at volunteering and its estimated dollar value. Assuming that the same number of volunteer hours was served in 2005 as in 2000, the total dollar value of volunteer time for 2005 is estimated at \$280 billion.

Learn more about these figures, including how they are calculated and how nonprofit organizations often use them, at the [bottom of the page](#).

- [Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour: 1980-2005](#)
- [Volunteers—Number, Hours, and Dollar Value: 1989-2000](#)
- [Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour, by State: 2004](#)
- [Giving and Volunteering in the United States](#) report series

**Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour: 1980 - 2005**

<b>1980:</b> \$7.46	<b>1990:</b> \$11.41	<b>2000:</b> \$15.68
<b>1981:</b> \$8.12	<b>1991:</b> \$11.76	<b>2001:</b> \$16.27
<b>1982:</b> \$8.60	<b>1992:</b> \$12.05	<b>2002:</b> \$16.74
<b>1983:</b> \$8.98	<b>1993:</b> \$12.35	<b>2003:</b> \$17.19
<b>1984:</b> \$9.32	<b>1994:</b> \$12.68	<b>2004:</b> \$17.55
<b>1985:</b> \$9.60	<b>1995:</b> \$13.05	<b>2005:</b> \$18.04
<b>1986:</b> \$9.81	<b>1996:</b> \$13.47	
<b>1987:</b> \$10.06	<b>1997:</b> \$13.99	
<b>1988:</b> \$10.39	<b>1998:</b> \$14.56	
<b>1989:</b> \$10.82	<b>1999:</b> \$15.09	

*Please note: Values for 1990-2005 were adjusted to reflect a new data series released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

**Volunteers—Number, Hours, and Dollar Value: 1989 - 2000**

<b>Volunteer Indicator</b>	<b>2000*</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1989</b>
Civilian noninstitutional population 18 years old or older (March 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1999, in millions)	N/A	197.1	190.5	187.1	184.4	180.9
Volunteers (percentage of population)	44%	55.5%	48.8%	47.7%	51.1%	54.4%
Volunteers (in millions)	83.9	109.4	93.0	89.2	94.2	98.4
Average weekly hours per volunteer	3.6	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Average annual hours per volunteer	N/A	182.0	218.4	218.4	217.6	208.0
Annual hours volunteered (in billions)	N/A	19.9	20.3	19.5	20.5	20.5
Annual hours volunteered, excluding informal volunteering (in billions)	15.5	15.8	15.7	15.0	15.2	15.7
Full-time equivalent employment, excluding informal volunteering, at 1,700 hours per year per employee (in millions)	9.1	9.3	9.2	8.8	9.0	9.2
Dollar value of a volunteer hour	\$15.40	\$14.30	\$12.84	\$12.13	\$11.58	\$10.82

Total assigned dollar value of volunteer time, excluding informal volunteering (in billions)	\$239.2	\$225.9	\$201.5	\$182.3	\$176.4	\$169.6
<i>Please note: All volunteering numbers for 2000 are for individual adults aged 21 or older. All other years, 1989 to 1998, include individual adults aged 18 or older. Other significant changes were also introduced in the 2001 Giving and Volunteering survey, including survey methodology, which makes comparison to prior years difficult.</i>						

### Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour, by State: 2004

*Please note that 2004 is the latest year for which state-by-state numbers are available.*

Alabama: \$14.71	Indiana: \$15.57	Nebraska: \$13.91	South Carolina: \$13.50
Alaska: \$16.90	Iowa: \$14.19	Nevada: \$16.17	South Dakota: \$12.45
Arizona: \$16.22	Kansas: \$14.80	New Hampshire: \$17.71	Tennessee: \$15.62
Arkansas: \$13.35	Kentucky: \$14.75	New Jersey: \$21.35	Texas: \$17.53
California: \$19.74	Louisiana: \$14.22	New Mexico: \$13.49	Utah: \$14.17
Colorado: \$18.02	Maine: \$14.08	New York: \$22.77	Vermont: \$14.66
Connecticut: \$23.14	Maryland: \$18.39	North Carolina: \$15.52	Virginia: \$17.97
Delaware: \$18.97	Massachusetts: \$22.07	North Dakota: \$12.82	Washington: \$17.39
Dist. of Columbia: \$26.52	Michigan: \$18.11	Ohio: \$16.10	West Virginia: \$13.26
Florida: \$15.43	Minnesota: \$18.18	Oklahoma: \$13.66	Wisconsin: \$15.41
Georgia: \$17.15	Mississippi: \$12.56	Oregon: \$15.71	Wyoming: \$13.75
Hawaii: \$15.06	Missouri: \$15.71	Pennsylvania: \$17.06	Puerto Rico: \$9.35
Idaho: \$13.19	Montana: \$11.93	Rhode Island: \$16.13	Virgin Islands: \$13.19
Illinois: \$18.97			

Notes: The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics). Independent Sector takes this figure and increases it by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits.

Charitable organizations most frequently use the value of volunteer time for recognition events or communications to show the amount of community support an organization receives from its volunteers.

According to the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the value of volunteer services can also be used on financial statements – including statements for internal and external purposes, grant proposals, and annual reports – only if a volunteer is performing a specialized skill for a nonprofit. The general rule to follow when determining if contributed services meet the FASB criteria for financial forms is to determine whether the organization would have purchased the services if they had not been donated. Accounting specialists, may visit FASB's website for regulations on use of the value of volunteer time on financial forms: <http://www.fasb.org/pdf/fas116.pdf>.

It is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time. Volunteers provide many intangibles that can not be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects.

The value of volunteer time presented here is the average wage of non-management, non-agricultural workers. This is only a tool and only one way to show the immense value volunteers provide to an organization. The Bureau of Labor Statistics does have [hourly wages by occupation](#) that can be used to determine the value of a specialized skill.

It is important to remember that when a doctor, lawyer, craftsman, or anyone with a specialized skill volunteers, the value of his or her work is based on his or her volunteer work, not his or her earning power. In other words, volunteers must be performing their special skill as volunteer work. If a doctor is painting a fence or a lawyer is sorting groceries, he or she not performing his or her specialized skill for the nonprofit, and their volunteer hour value would not be higher.

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