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## EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN THE MEAT INDUSTRY

The animal slaughtering and processing industry employs more than 515,000 individuals. More than 330,000 of those work in production occupations, such as production line supervisors and operating workers, food processing workers, and butchers and meat cutters. Nearly 70,000 workers are slaughterers and meat packers.<sup>1</sup>

Employees in meat packing and processing plants on average work a 40-hour week.

Hourly workers in animal slaughtering and processing on average earn an hourly wage of \$16.16.<sup>2</sup> For many companies, benefits, such as health insurance, retirement investment, *etc.* are provided in addition to wages.

These hourly wages translate into more than \$33,610 a year in annual wages.<sup>3</sup>

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### Helpful Links

North American Meat Institute  
<http://www.meatinstitute.org>

U.S. Department of Labor  
<http://www.dol.gov>

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### Resources

<sup>1,2,3</sup> May 2018 National Industry Specific Occupation Employment and Wage Estimates. [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics4\\_311600.htm#51-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics4_311600.htm#51-0000). Accessed July 12, 2019.