



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information:

Randy Pullen

Tel: 888-330-9243

Rpullen@wagewatch.com

LODGING INDUSTRY SHOWS MODEST WAGE INCREASES FOR 2011

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, October 4, 2011 – “Pay increases for hotel workers in 2011 are not living up to expectations”, said Randy Pullen, President of WageWatch, Inc. After two years of pay cuts, wage freezes or miniscule increases, this year was expected to be one of modest pay increases for the hotel industry, based on a WageWatch survey of over 2,400 hotel properties across the nation conducted last November 2010. However, through September of this year, Pullen noted, “actual pay increases reported were about half of what they had planned.” This finding is based on WageWatch’s 2011 survey of over 4,200 hotels from around the country. The WageWatch compensation survey is the most comprehensive survey report for the hotel industry.

Last November, hotel management companies were planning no increases to a high of 5% for hourly and salary positions, with the average planned increases of 2.9% with a median and mode of 3%. “Currently, we are seeing pay increases averaging about 1.4% for hourly and salaried workers. I think the pull back from planned increases reflects the slower growth in the economy than was projected by most economists for 2011. Hotel management companies are being cautious and cost conscious after two tough years,” said Mr. Pullen.

Mr. Pullen commented that the performance of the economy the second half of 2011 will greatly impact next year’s planned pay increases in the hotel industry. Overall, 2011 has seen improvements in business travel and meeting participation as well as international travel to the U.S. over 2010.

The reported pay increases for key hourly hotel positions in the WageWatch survey for 2011 are as follow:

HOURLY POSITIONS	% Chg from 2010	
	Median	Average
Night Auditor	0.3%	0.2%
Steward	3.0%	4.2%
Bus Person	2.1%	3.1%
Line Cook	0.4%	1.3%
Front Desk Agent Full Service Property	0.1%	1.6%
Front Desk Agent Limited Service Property	1.1%	1.3%
Housekeeper Full Service Property	2.2%	3.2%
Housekeeper Limited Service Property	1.5%	1.4%



Overall, hotels have experienced above average increases in entry level positions in food service and housekeeping due to minimum wage increases that came into law in several states late last year and earlier this year. Hotels in gateway cities such as New York, Washington D.C. and San Francisco also experienced above average increases in the survey, while secondary markets were below average. Regardless, pay increases for the average worker are not keeping up with inflation, which is reported to be running at 3.6% as of July 2011.

ABOUT WAGEWATCH

WageWatch (www.wagewatch.com), the leading Web-based source for compensation and benefits data, provides instantly accessible industry wage, salary and benefits data, delivered to any Internet-enabled device. WageWatch surveys industries and provides companies with the data they need to make their compensation and benefits decisions. For more information on WageWatch, visit www.wagewatch.com or call 888-330-9243.

###