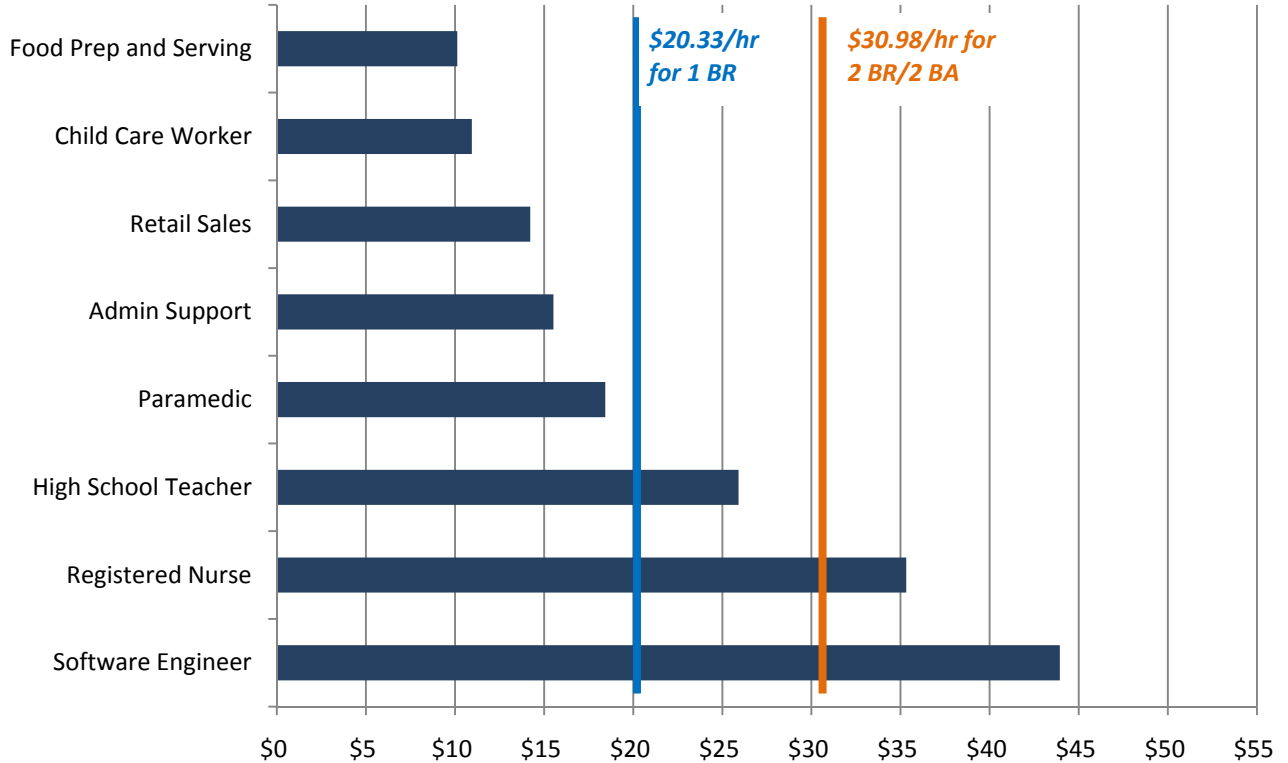


## Rental Affordability

*Many workers in the area cannot afford Seattle rents*

### Average Wages and Affordability of Average Rents



Source: Wage information for Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Metro area from State Employment Security Department, 2008; estimated average rents from Dupre+Scott Apartment Advisors, Spring 2009; affordability calculations by Seattle Office of Housing.

- Area workers in a number of different occupations cannot afford a one bedroom apartment in Seattle.** In each of these common low- to moderate-wage occupations – food server, child care worker, retail salesperson, paramedic, and administrative assistant – average wages are too low for Seattle Metro Area<sup>1</sup> workers to afford the average one bedroom apartment. The average one bedroom apartment in Seattle requires an hourly wage of \$ \$20.33 or an annual income of \$42,280.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The finest level geography for which detailed occupational wage estimates are available from the Washington Department of Employment Security is the Metro Area level. The department obtains the estimates from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey of employers.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of wages required to afford average rents assume each earner works 40 hours per week (or, for a teacher, divides the average annual salary by 2080 hours). An affordable rent is considered to be any amount less than or equal to 30% of one month's earnings.