

8-2**Real-Life Career Activity****Payroll Clerk**

Payroll clerks are office workers who make sure a company's employees are paid the correct wages. They perform many duties, including the calculation of taxes and health benefits based on payroll checks.

Payroll clerks often must include commissions in the paychecks of their sales staff.

(A commission is a sum of money representing a percent of the price of items sold.) A commission is paid in addition to a base salary and usually changes from month to month. A payroll clerk can use the formula below to calculate the wages of a salesperson before taxes for each month.

$$m = b + \left(\frac{c}{100} \cdot s \right)$$

In this formula, m is the month's wages before taxes, b is the base pay, c is the percent of commission earned, and s is the sales income from inventory sold.

Suppose a salesperson earns a base pay of \$1,500 and makes sales of \$15,200, on which she earns 2% commission. What are her wages before taxes for that month?

$$\begin{aligned} m &= 1,500 + \left(\frac{2}{100} \cdot 15,200 \right) \\ &= 1,500 + 304 \\ &= 1,804 \end{aligned}$$

The salesperson earns wages of \$1,804 for that month.

Solve.

1. A salesperson earns a base pay of \$1,200 and makes sales of \$9,000, on which he earns 2% commission. Calculate his wages for that month before taxes.
2. A salesperson earns a base pay of \$1,300 and makes sales of \$12,000, on which he earns 2% commission. Calculate his wages for that month before taxes.
3. A salesperson earns a base pay of \$1,400 and makes sales on which she earns 2% commission. Her wages for that month before taxes are \$1,620. What was the amount of her sales that month?

