

WHICH AVERAGE?

The Paymore Paper Company, with 36 employees, just released its annual report. The company president reported that the average annual wage for full-time employees was more than \$45,000 this year. However, the union representative reported that the average annual wage for full-time employees was \$15,000. Furthermore, a newspaper article stated that the average wage was \$25,000.

Could all three be telling the truth?
Support your answer with data.
Use a spreadsheet to help determine your solution.



Extension:

Write a report explaining how all three averages could be correct. Explain how you decided which of the wage figures was the arithmetic mean, the median, and the mode. Present the data you generated to match the average wage figures. Which average do you think best describes your data? Why?

If you worked for this company, how would you like your salary reported? Explain

[From *Math Explorations and Group Activity Project, Grade 8* by Carole Greens, Linda Schulman, Rika Spungin, Suzanne Chapin, Carol Findell, and Art Johnson. © 1996 by Dale Seymour, an imprint of Pearson Learning, a division of Pearson Education, Inc. Used by permission.]

A.135