

# Occupational Employment and Wages, 2009

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U.S. Department of Labor  
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Preface



*This chartbook, Occupational Employment and Wages, 2009, is a product of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for more than 800 occupations by geographic area and industry.*

For every occupation, the OES program has data on the total U.S. employment and the distribution of wages, including the mean wage and the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentiles. Occupational data for geographic areas include employment and wages for each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Local area data are available for 377 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), 34 metropolitan divisions within 11 of the largest MSAs, and 174 nonmetropolitan areas. National industry-specific estimates are available by industry sector and for 334 industries.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and the State workforce agencies. Employment and wage data for more than 800 occupations were collected from a sample of 1.2 million business establishments, employing more than 80 million workers, in 6 semiannual panels between November 2006 and May 2009. Wage data for all establishments were updated to the May 2009 reference period, and employment data were updated to the average of the November 2008 and the May 2009 reference periods. Information on OES sampling and estimation methodology is provided in the survey methods and reliability statement at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf).

Data users can create customized tables using the OES database search tool, or download complete OES data in zipped Excel format from [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_dl.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_dl.htm). Material in this publication is in the public domain and, with appropriate citation, may be reproduced without permission. Questions about OES data can be directed to the information phone line at (202) 691-6569 or sent to [OESinfo@bls.gov](mailto:OESinfo@bls.gov).

## Acknowledgments

The information in this chartbook is possible due to the cooperation of more than a million business establishments that provide information on their workers to their State workforce agency and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). State workforce agencies within each State collect and verify almost all data provided. BLS selects the sample, produces the estimates, and provides technical procedures and financial support to the States. BLS also collects a small portion of the data from employers. BLS produced this chartbook with contributions from Benjamin Cover, John Jones, Joe Kane, Clayton Lindsay, Laurie Salmon, Michael Soloy, George Stamas, Zachary Warren, and Audrey Watson. Cover art, typesetting, and layout were performed by Bruce Boyd and editorial services were provided by Maureen Soyars, both in the Office of Publications and Special Studies.





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## Organization of charts and applications of OES data

*The presentation of figures in this chartbook is intended to demonstrate a variety of applications of OES data. Figures are organized into four categories: the first focuses on detailed occupations, the second highlights patterns of specific industries, and the third and fourth focus on labor markets of States and local areas. Some examples of useful applications of OES data:*

Detailed occupational data can be used by jobseekers or employers to study wages for workers in certain occupations and to assess wage variation within and across occupations. Wage variation within an occupation can result from several factors, including industry, geographic location, or a worker's individual experience or qualifications. Useful data for jobseekers include information on the industries or geographic areas that have the highest employment or the highest average wages for an occupation. Career and guidance counselors can use OES data to examine information on the possible occupational choices of their clients.

Industry-specific occupational data can be used by human resources professionals in salary negotiations or to ensure that their wages are competitive with those of other businesses in their area or industry. Information on the types of jobs within an industry can be used to compare average staffing patterns with that of one's own company. Occupational employment statistics by industry may be useful in assessing the impact of shifts in technology and other macroeconomic trends on the types of jobs available. BLS and State government employment projections programs use OES data as an input to their employment projections, which can be used to predict training and education demands.

Geographic area information can be used to assess labor market features of a particular area. OES State-level data can be used to make assessments about the diversity of a

State's economy or to make comparisons among States. The occupational composition of employment—the mix of employment by occupation in a particular geographic area or industry—can provide clues to how a State or regional economy can hold up in adverse conditions that affect a certain sector of the economy. Differences in both occupational composition and occupational wage rates also help explain differences in average wages across States. For example, States with high average wages may have larger employment shares of high-paying occupations, higher wages within each occupation, or some combination of both factors.

Like State data, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area data can be used to study the diversity of local area economies. Businesses can use data to see whether it might be beneficial to relocate to a particular area. OES wage data can be used to compare wages across different areas as part of an analysis of labor costs. OES occupational employment data may indicate whether workers are available in occupations that the business will need. For example, businesses that require computer specialists or skilled production workers may want to identify areas that have high levels of employment in these occupations.

## OES survey coverage, scope, and concept definitions

*The OES survey covers all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The survey does not include the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, workers in private households, or unpaid family workers.*

An occupation is a set of activities or tasks that employees are paid to perform. Employees who perform essentially the same tasks are in the same occupation, whether or not they are in the same industry. Workers who may be classified in more than one occupation are classified in the occupation that requires the highest level of skill. If there is no measurable difference in skill requirements, workers are included in the occupation in which they spend the most time. All occupations are classified by the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

An industry is a group of establishments that have similar production processes or provide similar services. For example, all establishments that manufacture automobiles are in the same industry. A given industry, or even a particular establishment in that industry, might have employees in many different occupations. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups similar establishments into industries.

The employment shown in some of the figures is the average employment for May 2009 and November 2008. Employment is defined for the OES survey as the number of workers who can be classified as full- or part-time employees, including workers on paid vacations or other types of paid leave; workers on unpaid short-term absences; salaried officers, executives, and staff members of incorporated firms; employees temporarily assigned to other units; and employees for whom the reporting unit is their permanent duty station, regardless of whether that unit prepares their paycheck.

Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Included are base rate; cost-of-living allowances; guaranteed pay; hazardous-duty pay; incentive pay, including commissions and production bonuses; tips; and on-call pay. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, non-production bonuses, employer cost for supplementary benefits, and tuition reimbursements.

Respondents are asked to report the number of employees paid within specific wage intervals, regardless of whether the employees work part time or full time. The responding establishment can reference either the hourly or the annual rate for full-time workers but are instructed to report the hourly rate for part-time workers. Intervals are defined both as hourly rates and the corresponding annual rates, where the annual rate for an occupation is calculated by multiplying the hourly wage rate by a typical work year of 2,080 hours.

Geographic areas are defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are also surveyed; their data are not included in this publication, but are published on the OES Web site. The nationwide response rate for the May 2009 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.5 percent based on employment. More information on sampling and estimation methodology can be found in the survey methods and reliability statement on the OES Web site at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf).





## Occupation Focus

## Figure 1

- Twelve of the largest occupations had wages below the U.S. mean annual wage of \$43,460. General and operations managers; elementary school teachers, except special education; and registered nurses had wages above the U.S. average.

- The two largest occupations, retail salespersons and cashiers, were sales occupations. Five of the 15 largest occupations were office and administrative support occupations, with combined employment of over 10.4 million.

- Some of the largest occupations were concentrated in specific industries, while others were found in a wide variety of industries. For example, about 75 percent of waiters and waitresses were employed in full-service restaurants, and nearly all elementary school teachers were employed in elementary and secondary schools. General office clerks, however, were found in many industries, with their largest employer—local government—accounting for less than 7 percent of jobs in this occupation.

### Employment and mean wages for the largest occupations in the United States, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Percent of U.S. employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Retail salespersons	4,209,500	3.22	\$11.84	\$24,630
Cashiers	3,439,380	2.63	9.15	19,030
Office clerks, general	2,815,240	2.15	13.32	27,700
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	2,695,740	2.06	8.71	18,120
Registered nurses	2,583,770	1.98	31.99	66,530
Waiters and waitresses	2,302,070	1.76	9.80	20,380
Customer service representatives	2,195,860	1.68	15.58	32,410
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	2,135,790	1.63	12.16	25,290
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	2,090,400	1.60	11.60	24,120
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,864,410	1.43	11.28	23,460
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	1,797,670	1.38	14.93	31,060
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,757,870	1.35	16.71	34,750
General and operations managers	1,689,680	1.29	53.15	110,550
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	1,550,930	1.19	18.87	39,260
Elementary school teachers, except special education	1,544,300	1.18	( <sup>1</sup> )	53,150

<sup>1</sup> Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries, depending on how they are typically paid.

## Figure 2

- The 17 occupations shown in figure 2 accounted for less than 0.2 percent of U.S. employment.

- Twelve of the 17 occupations had wages similar to or below the U.S. annual mean wage of \$43,460. Of the five occupations with above-average wages, three were life, physical, and social science occupations: astronomers, industrial-organizational psychologists, and geographers. Prosthodontists and locomotive firers also had above-average wages.

- Several of the smallest occupations were specialized construction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; or transportation and material moving occupations, including segmental pavers, fabric menders, wood model makers, and dredge operators.

### Employment and mean wages for the smallest occupations in the United States, May 2009

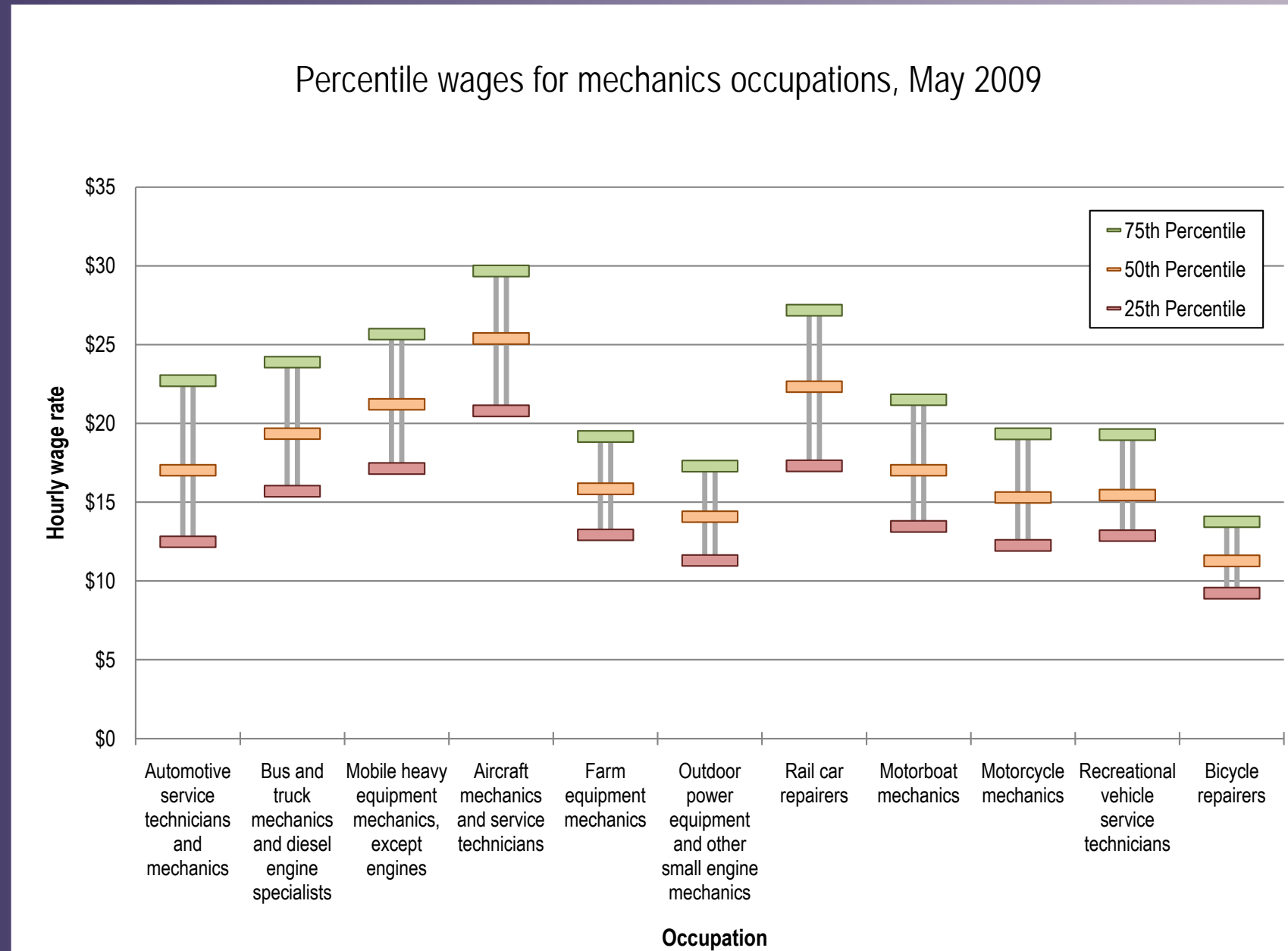
Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Prosthodontists	660	\$60.29	\$125,400
Fabric menders, except garment	840	13.28	27,630
Radio operators	870	20.86	43,400
Locomotive firers	960	24.71	51,400
Farm labor contractors	1,000	17.37	36,130
Segmental pavers	1,040	13.81	28,730
Mathematical technicians	1,090	21.27	44,230
Geographers	1,170	34.33	71,420
Astronomers	1,240	49.40	102,740
Models	1,510	17.51	36,420
Patternmakers, wood	1,540	18.53	38,540
Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists	1,540	18.36	38,180
Animal breeders	1,700	16.93	35,210
Industrial-organizational psychologists	1,710	49.31	102,570
Model makers, wood	1,900	16.33	33,970
Makeup artists, theatrical and performance	1,930	21.64	45,010
Dredge operators	1,990	18.43	38,330

<sup>1</sup> Omits some occupations that are concentrated in private households and the agricultural sector (except logging and support activities for crop and animal production), which are not covered by the OES survey.

Employment opportunities for people interested in repairing mechanical devices are found in a number of related fields, each with differing ranges of remuneration.

Figure 3

- Among the mechanics occupations, aircraft mechanics and service technicians had the highest average wage at \$25.47 per hour, followed by rail car repairers at \$22.32 per hour. Bicycle repairers and outdoor power equipment and small engine mechanics had the lowest average hourly wages at \$11.65 and \$14.61, respectively.
- Automotive service technicians had the greatest spread in wages, with a 10th percentile wage of \$9.54 per hour and a 90th percentile wage of \$28.81.
- The most common of the mechanics occupations was automotive service technicians, with 606,990 workers employed nationally. Bicycle repairers (9,290 workers) and recreational vehicle service technicians (10,860) were the least common.







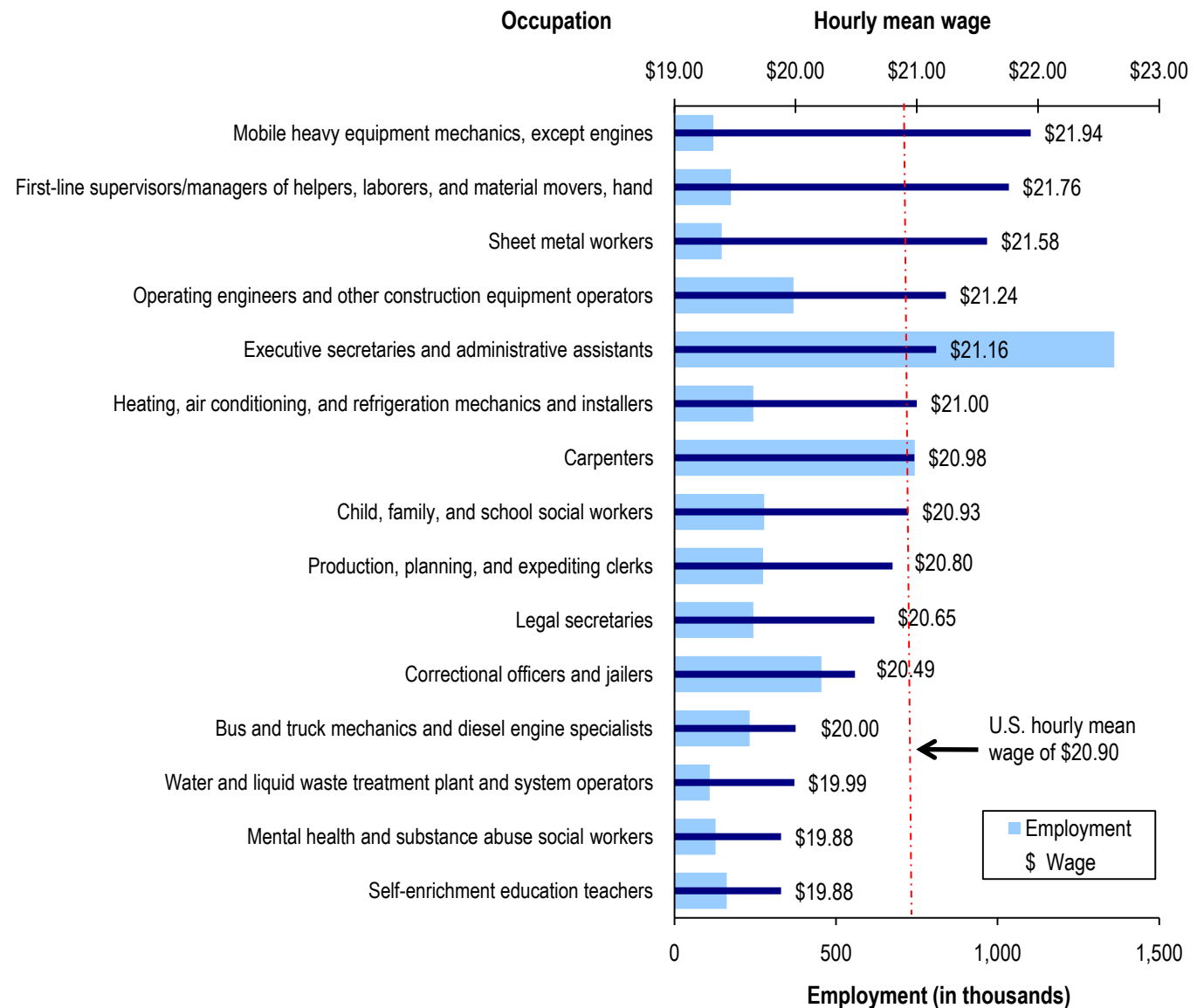
Many of the largest occupations with wages near the U.S. mean were skilled manufacturing jobs or skilled trades.

## Figure 4

- Executive secretaries and administrative assistants and carpenters were the two largest occupations with mean wages within 5 percent of the U.S. all-occupations mean of \$20.90 per hour.

- The construction and extraction major occupational group and the installation, maintenance, and repair major occupational group both had three detailed occupations represented among the 15 largest occupations with wages near the U.S. mean.

### Employment and hourly mean wages of largest occupations with wages near the U.S. mean, May 2009



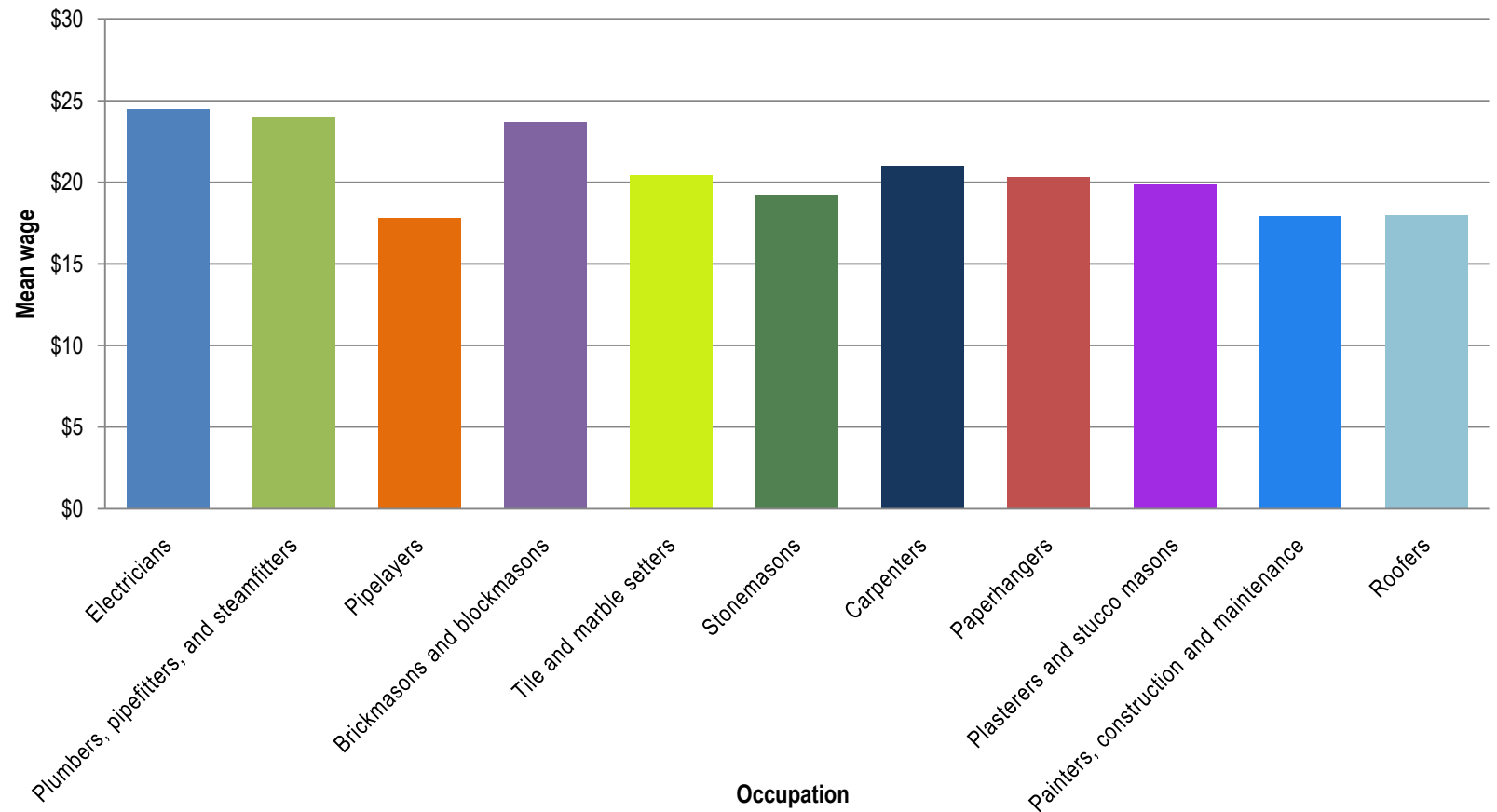


Workers in skilled construction trade occupations earned between 34 and 83 percent more than workers in those occupations that assist them.

## Figure 5

- Mean wages were higher than \$20.00 per hour for 6 of the 11 construction trade occupations shown, but mean wages were lower than \$15.00 per hour for all of the accompanying helper occupations.
- Although the mean wage for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters (\$23.97) was significantly higher than the mean wage for their helpers (\$13.24), the mean wage for pipelayers (\$17.81) was only 34 percent higher than the helpers' wages and represented one of the lowest wages among the construction trade occupations shown.

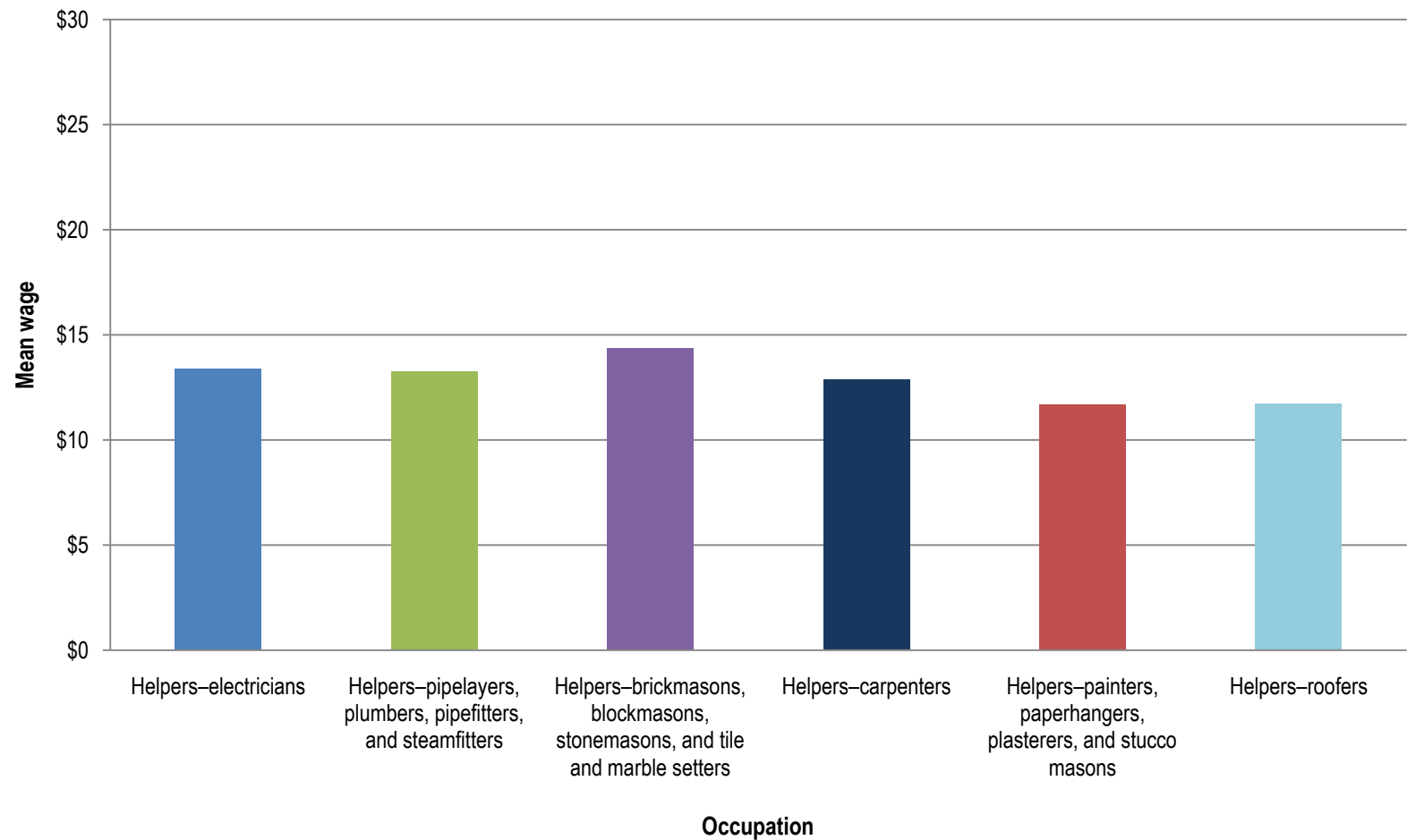
### Hourly mean wages for selected construction trade occupations, May 2009



## Figure 6

- Average wages varied more among some construction trade occupations than among helpers for the same occupations. For example, while electricians had a higher mean hourly wage (by \$6.47, or 36 percent) than roofers, electricians' helpers had a mean hourly wage that was only \$1.69 (14 percent) higher than the wage earned by roofers' helpers.
- Electricians; plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; and brickmasons and block masons were among the highest paid construction trade occupations, and their helpers were the highest paid helpers.
- While nearly all of the construction trade occupations shown, including carpenters and paperhangers, receive training through apprenticeship programs or have moderate-term and long-term on-the-job training, their helpers have only short-term on-the-job training.

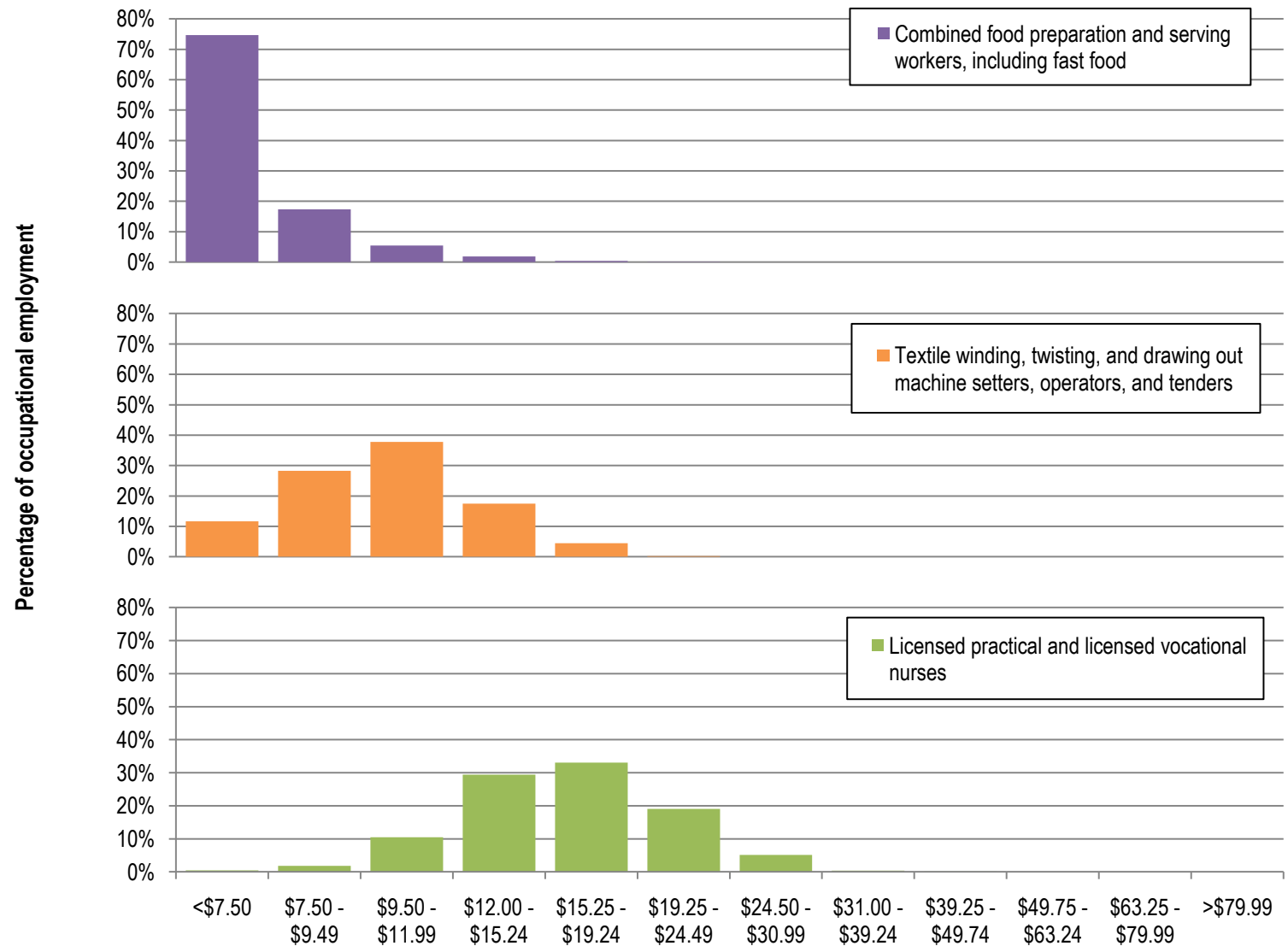
Hourly mean wages for selected construction helper occupations, May 2009



## Figure 7

- Occupations with low wages had a narrow wage range.
- For example, the lowest paying occupation shown, combined food preparation and serving workers, was clustered near the minimum wage, with a median wage of \$8.28 per hour.
- Psychiatrists showed the largest variability in wages, ranging from \$7.50 per hour to greater than \$80 per hour.

Distribution of employment by wage range for selected occupations, May 2009

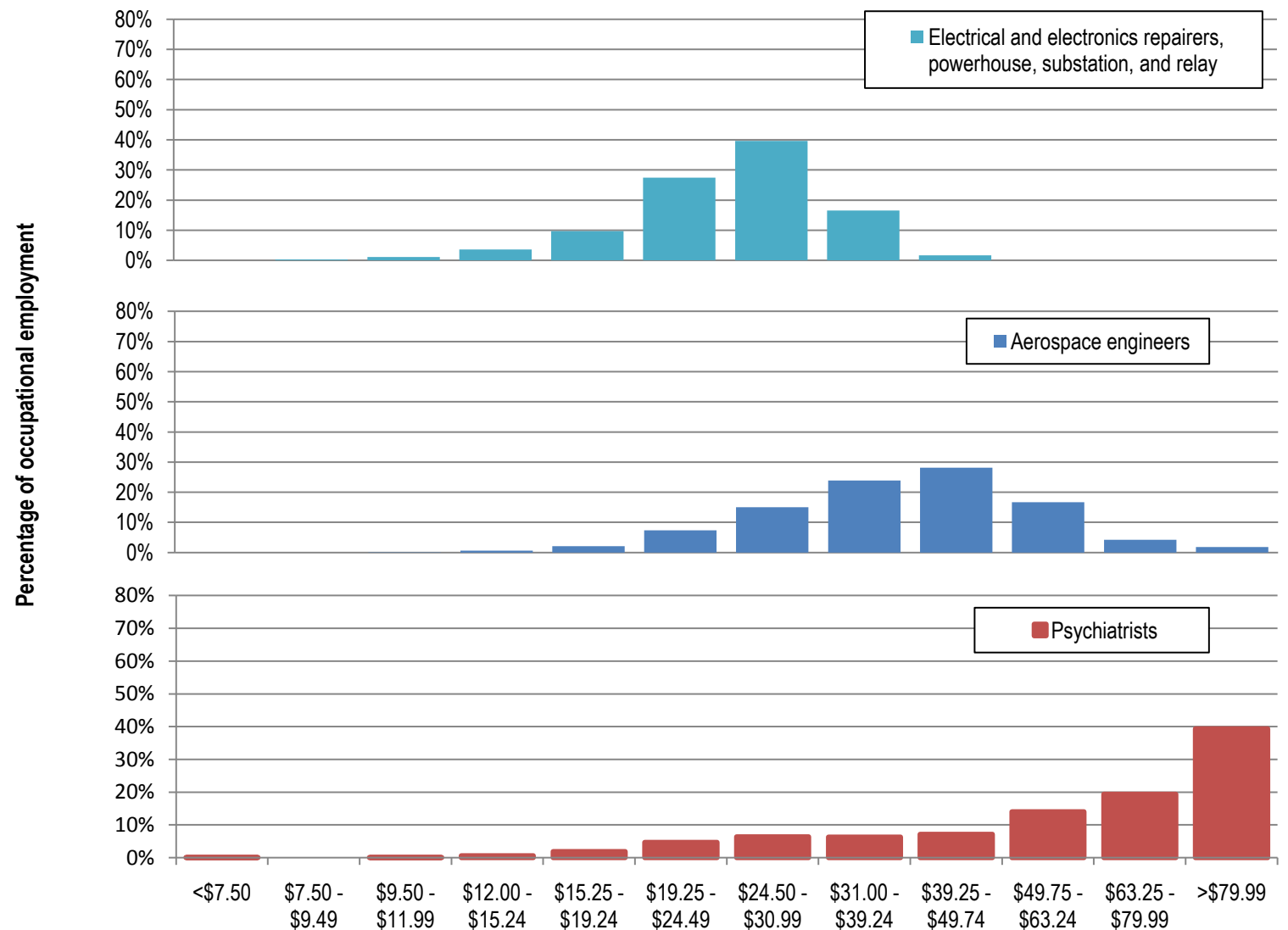


# Figure 7

Continued

• The majority of workers within an occupation did not earn a wage in the closest range to the occupation median, but within the nearest few ranges above and below the median. Overall, only 12 percent of workers earned a wage in the same range as the median, but 58 percent were within two wage ranges above and below the range that contains the median.

Distribution of employment by wage range for selected occupations, May 2009



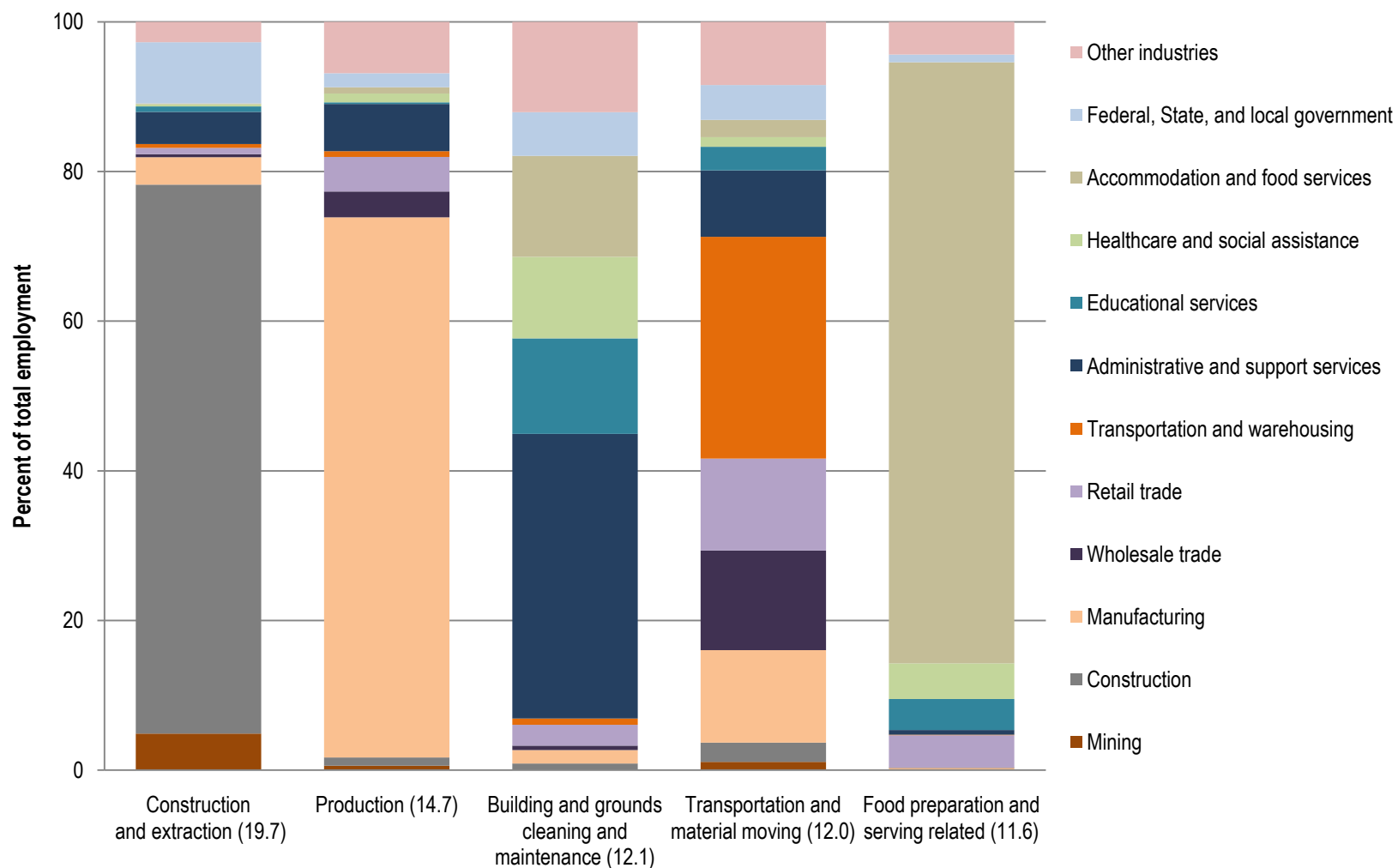
Three of the five occupational groups with high unemployment rates had 70 percent or more of their employment in a single industry sector: construction and extraction, production, and food preparation and serving related occupations.

Figure 8

- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations and transportation and material moving occupations were distributed more evenly across industry sectors than the other occupational groupings. The administrative and support services sector, which includes janitorial services and facilities support services, had higher employment of building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations than any other sector, but accounted for only 38 percent of employment in this group. Similarly, the largest employer of transportation and material moving occupations, the transportation and warehousing sector, employed less than 30 percent of this group.

- Of the occupational groups shown in the chart, food preparation and serving related occupations was the largest, with total employment of more than 11.2 million. Production occupations and transportation and material moving occupations each had employment of nearly 9 million.

Distribution of employment by industry sector for selected occupational groups with high unemployment rates, May 2009



Note: The numbers in parentheses represent the unemployment rates for selected occupational groups.



Two of the occupational groups with low unemployment rates had their employment concentrated in the healthcare and social assistance sector, and a third had employment concentrated in educational services.

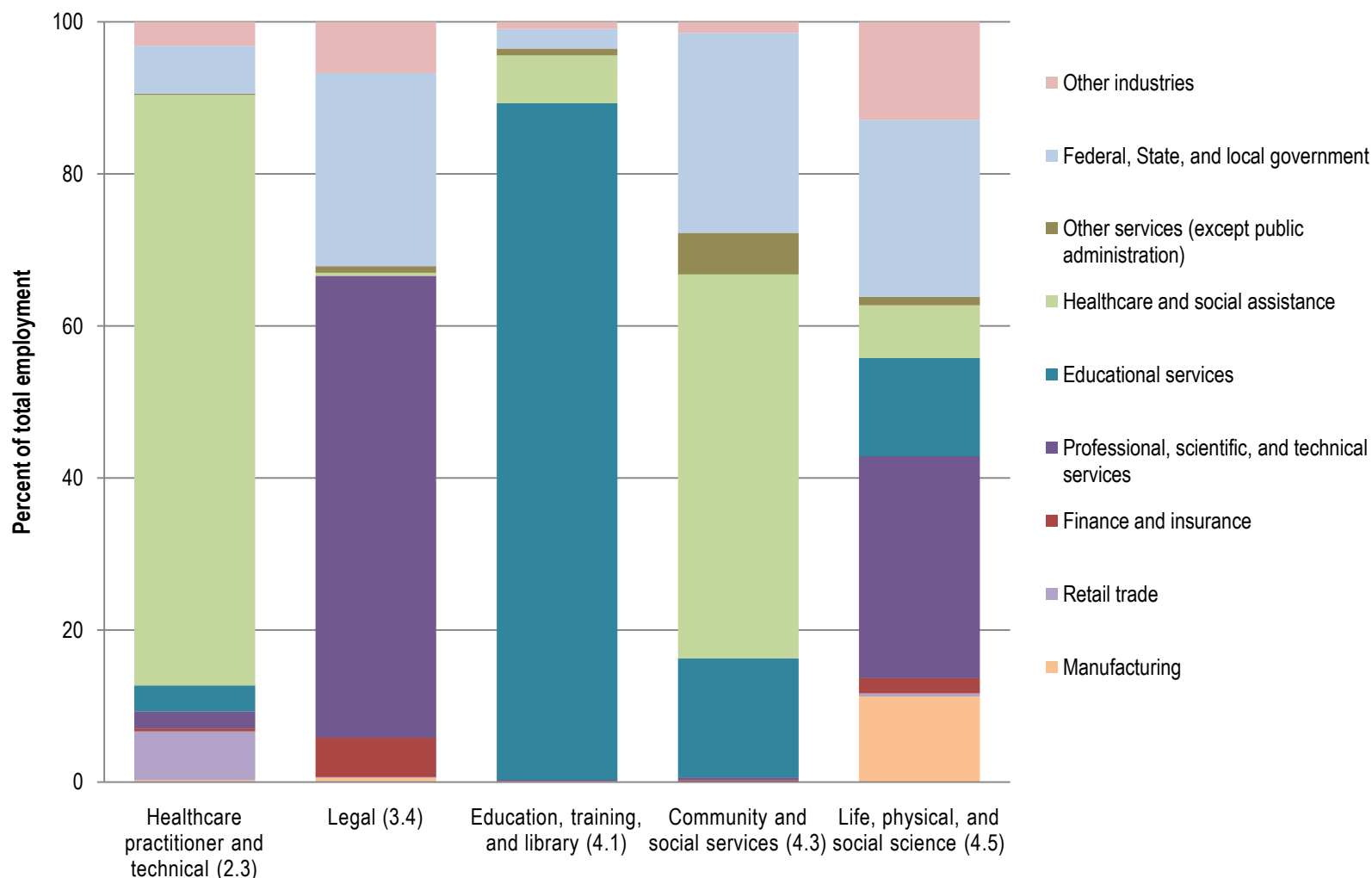
## Figure 9

- Total employment in education, training, and library occupations was approximately 8.5 million, and total employment in healthcare practitioner and technical occupations was approximately 7.2 million. The remaining three groups each had employment of less than 2 million.

- Community and social services; legal; education, training, and library; and healthcare practitioner and technical occupations each had half or more of their employment in a single industry sector. The most concentrated group was education, training, and library occupations, with 89 percent of this group employed in the educational services sector.

- Of the groups shown, the life, physical, and social science occupations group was the least concentrated in a single sector. About 29 percent of this group was employed in professional, scientific, and technical services, and about 23 percent in Federal, State, and local government.

Distribution of employment by industry sector for selected occupational groups with low unemployment rates, May 2009



Note: The numbers in parentheses represent the unemployment rates for selected occupational groups.

Political scientists had one of the highest geographic concentrations of any occupation. About two-thirds of political scientists were employed in a single metropolitan area—Washington, D.C.

## Figure 10

- The figure shows some of the most geographically concentrated occupations, based on the Herfindahl-Hirschman index, commonly used to measure market concentration among firms in an industry. Here, high values of the Herfindahl-Hirschman index show that an occupation is concentrated in just a few geographic areas, while low values indicate the occupation is spread more evenly across areas.

- Nearly 96 percent of subway and streetcar operators—an occupation associated with urban public transportation—were employed in just 10 metropolitan areas.

- Three of the occupations with high geographic concentrations were associated with mining and natural resource extraction: petroleum engineers; loading machine operators, underground mining; and shuttle car operators.

- Several other occupations were associated with textile and apparel manufacturing, including fashion designers and fabric and apparel patternmakers.

Employment, mean hourly wages, and measures of concentration for selected occupations with high geographic concentrations, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Mean hourly wage	Herfindahl-Hirschman index	Percent of occupational employment in the 10 metropolitan or nonmetropolitan areas with highest employment of this occupation
Political scientists	3,970	\$48.58	4748.9	89.2
Subway and streetcar operators	6,050	25.38	2783.8	95.9
Fashion designers	15,780	35.78	2327.8	78.0
Fabric and apparel patternmakers	6,640	20.64	1643.8	68.8
Prosthodontists	660	60.29	1357.1	80.3
Economists	13,160	46.31	1275.8	57.4
Petroleum engineers	25,540	57.67	1226.8	63.1
Agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes	11,700	42.04	1123.4	68.4
Loading machine operators, underground mining	3,570	21.14	1109.1	68.4
Film and video editors	17,550	30.62	1040.3	59.1
Shuttle car operators	3,520	22.31	980.5	77.0
Gaming supervisors	24,760	23.52	889.2	57.7
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	12,980	11.82	880.2	55.6
Astronomers	1,240	49.40	877.9	69.3
Segmental pavers	1,040	13.81	854.0	76.3

Postmasters and mail superintendents was one of the most geographically dispersed occupations. The 10 areas with the highest employment of this occupation accounted for less than 12 percent of occupational employment.



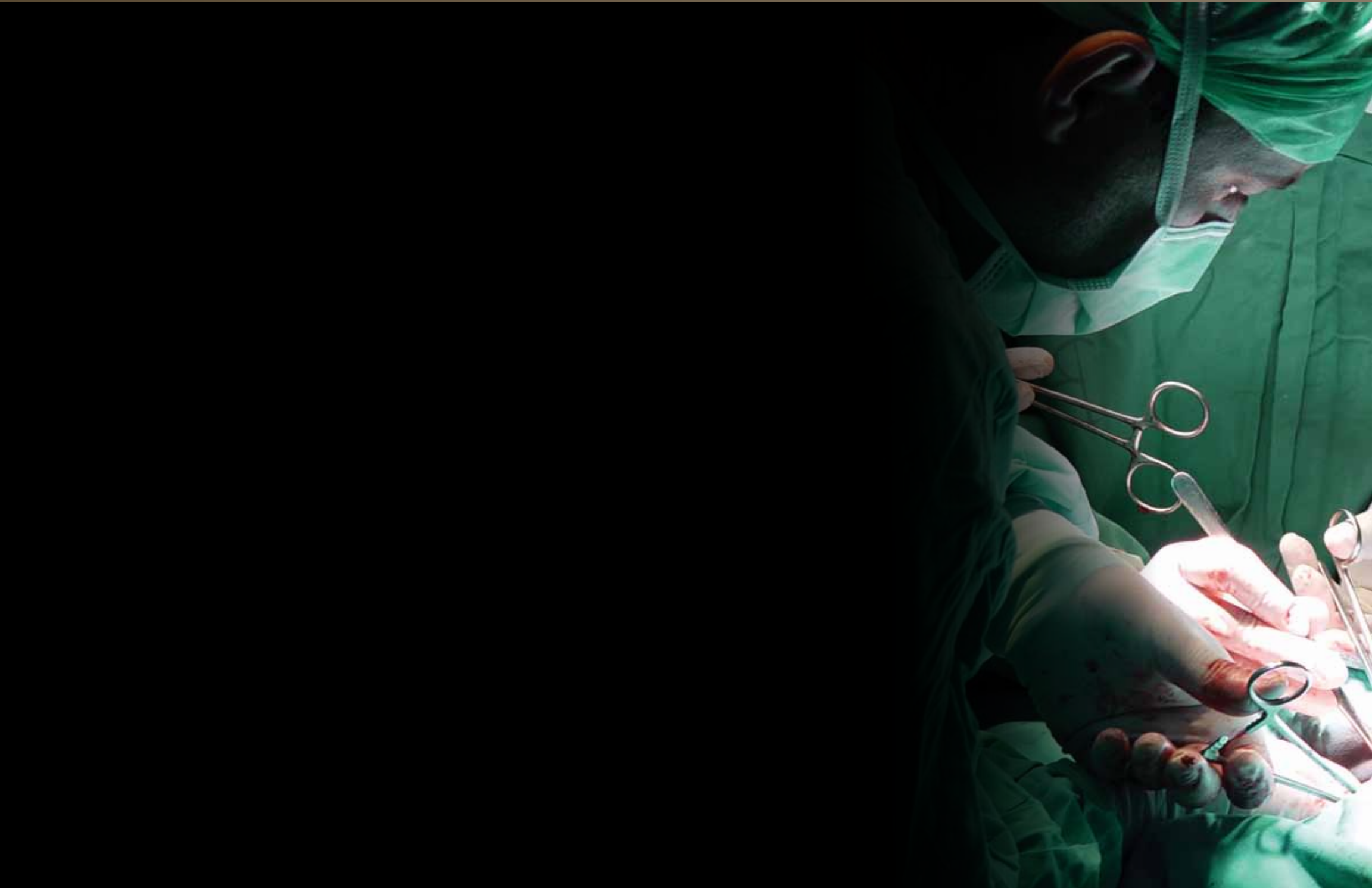
Figure 11

• Several of the occupations shown have job duties specifically associated with building, maintaining, and operating utilities and other infrastructure, including highway maintenance workers, electrical power line installers and repairers, and water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators. Two other occupations—excavating and loading machine and dragline operators, and operating engineers and other construction equipment operators—also had significant employment in utility systems construction and highway, street, and bridge construction.

• The figure also includes three occupations associated with natural resource preservation: foresters, fish and game wardens, and conservation scientists.

Employment, mean hourly wages, and measures of concentration for selected occupations with low geographic concentrations, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Mean hourly wage	Herfindahl-Hirschman index	Percent of occupational employment in the 10 metropolitan or nonmetropolitan areas with highest employment of this occupation
Postmasters and mail superintendents	24,890	\$28.65	44.4	11.9
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	57,990	18.53	55.7	14.2
Agricultural inspectors	14,030	20.12	58.4	15.0
Highway maintenance workers	139,490	16.98	59.5	15.6
Electrical power-line installers and repairers	108,980	26.86	59.6	16.1
Outdoor power equipment and other small engine mechanics	26,010	14.61	60.2	16.2
Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators	109,090	19.99	60.6	16.9
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	41,750	13.12	63.9	15.0
Fish and game wardens	7,530	26.42	65.2	17.4
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	383,540	11.48	65.5	18.0
Foresters	10,230	26.55	66.9	15.9
Correctional officers and jailers	455,350	20.49	68.3	16.7
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	368,200	21.24	69.4	19.2
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	224,360	10.16	70.1	19.4
Conservation scientists	16,810	29.41	71.9	19.8





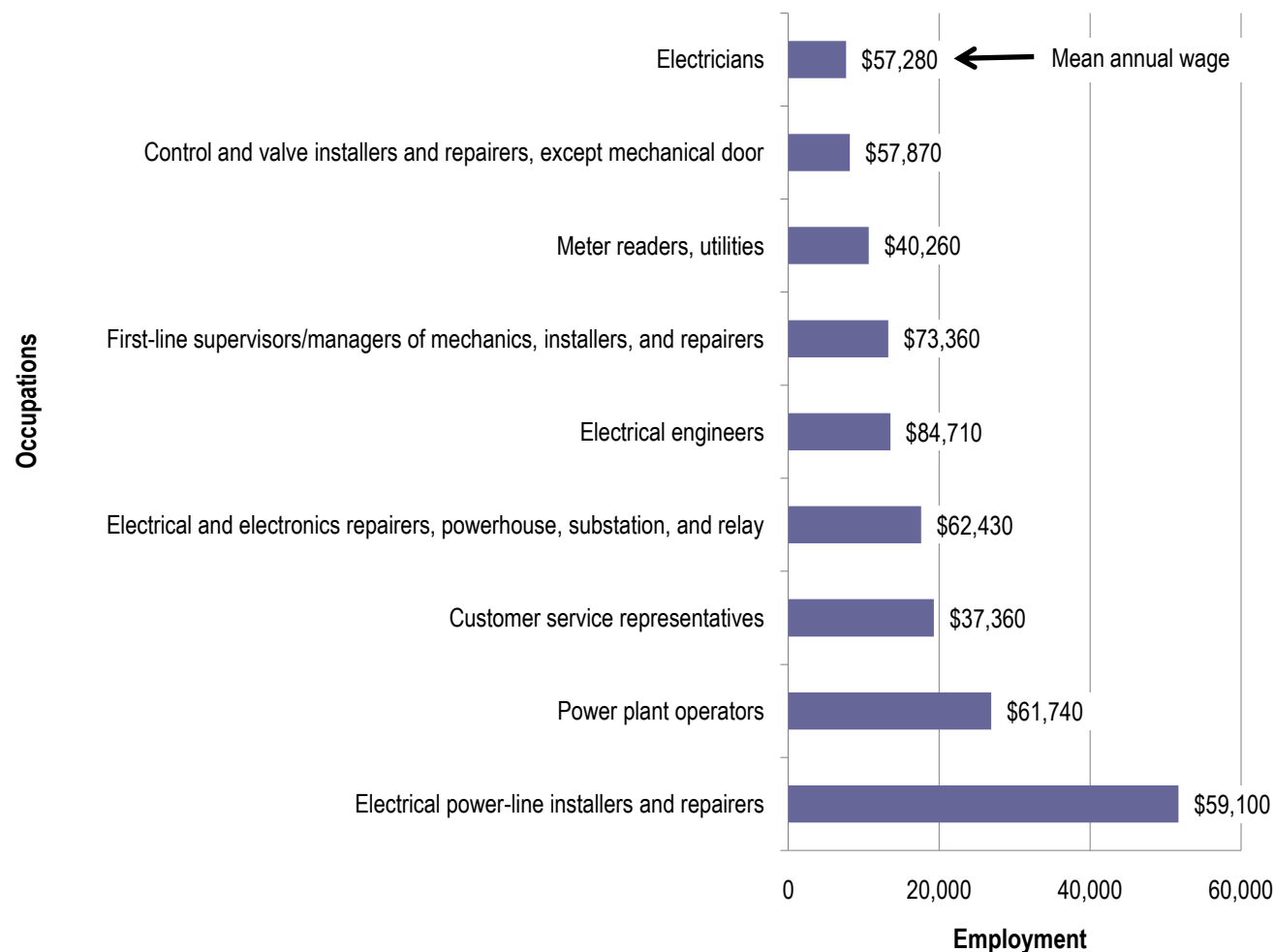
## Industry Focus

Out of all the industries, the electric power generation industry had one of the highest annual mean wages with \$63,400, and made up approximately 72 percent of the employment in the utilities sector.

## Figure 12

- The five occupations with the highest employment made up nearly a third of the total employment in this industry. The occupation with the largest employment, electrical power-line installers and repairers, made up nearly 13 percent of the total employment in this industry.
- Some of the higher paying occupations in this industry were various types of managers; lawyers (\$145,900); petroleum engineers (\$125,850); securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents (\$106,080); economists (\$102,320); nuclear engineers (\$97,060); and computer hardware engineers (\$94,110).
- The annual mean wage for the industry was \$63,400. Ninety-five out of 370 reported occupations had wages higher than the industry average.

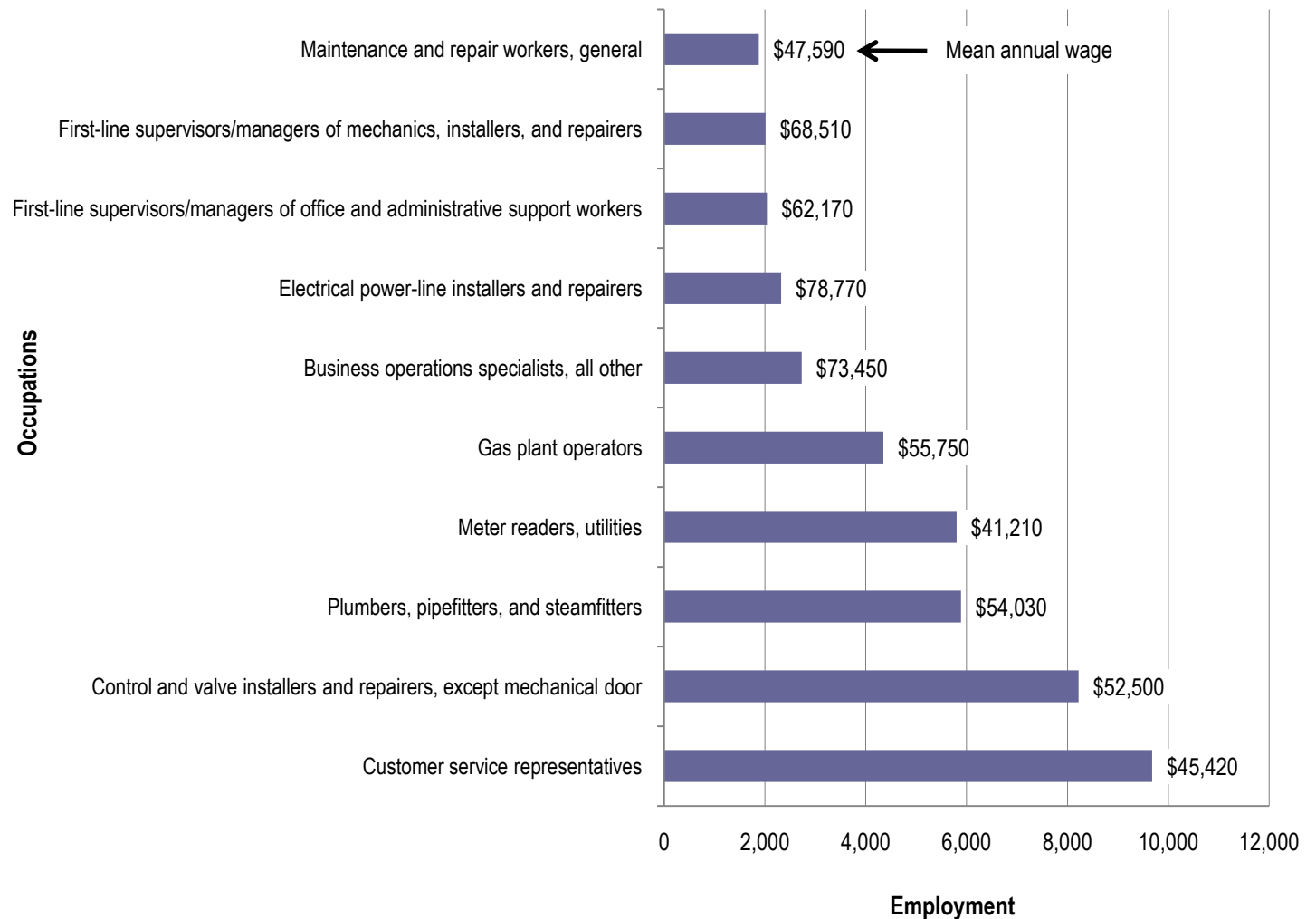
Employment and wages for occupations with the largest employment in the electric power generation industry, May 2009



## Figure 13

- Many of the occupations in this industry are specific to the industry.
- The 10 occupations with the highest employment made up almost 42 percent of the total employment in this industry. Electrical power-line installers and repairers made up only 2 percent of the total employment in this industry. This is in contrast to the electric power generation industry where electrical power-line installers and repairers had the highest employment.
- Some of the highest paying occupations in this industry were various types of managers; lawyers (\$155,530); petroleum engineers (\$105,470); securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents (\$104,380); computer software engineers, systems software (\$98,570); sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products (\$97,820); and network systems and data communications analysts (\$93,270). There were 92 out of 284 reported occupations with annual mean wages greater than \$62,030, the annual mean wage of the industry.

Employment and wages for occupations with the largest employment in the natural gas distribution industry, May 2009



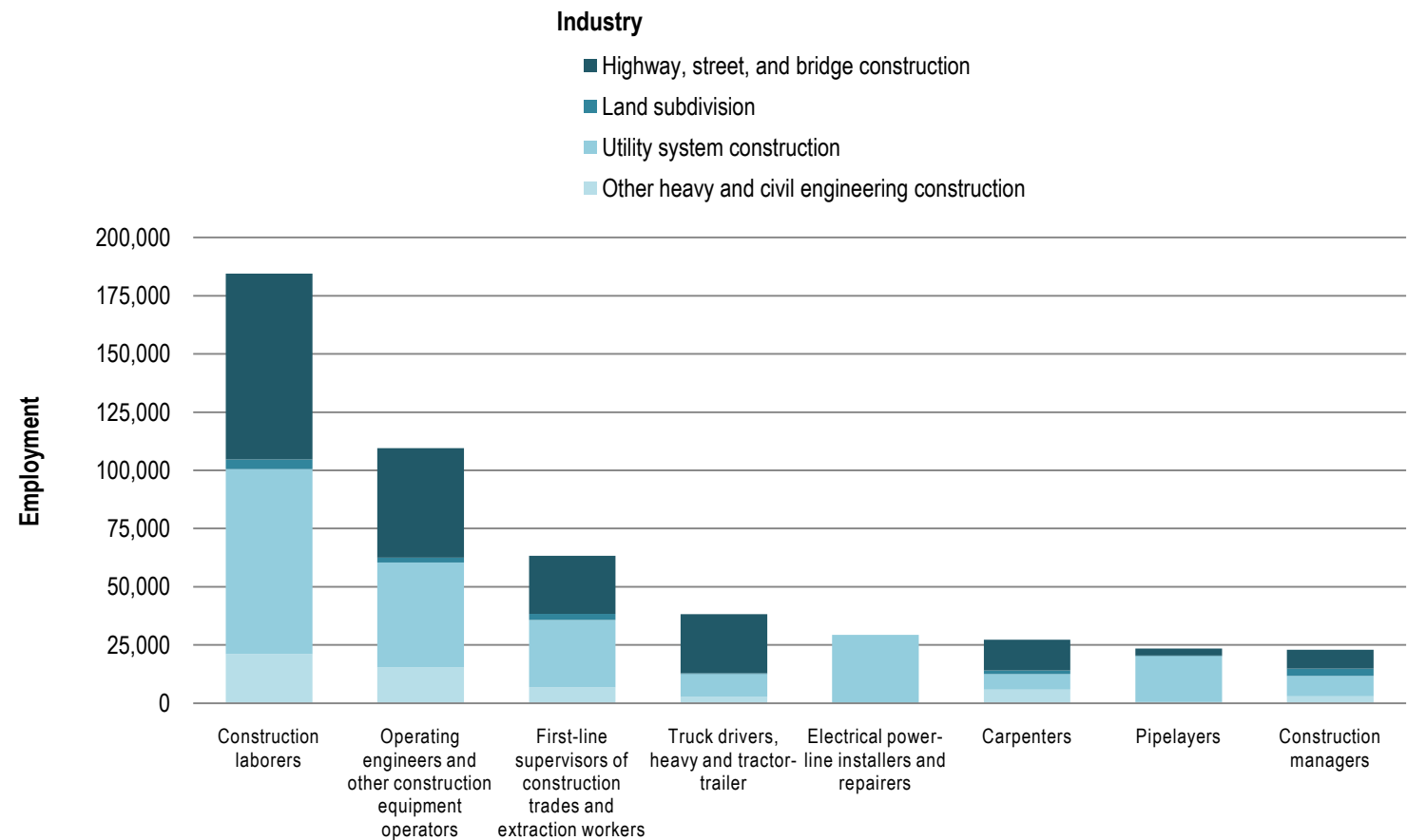
## Figure 14

- Heavy and civil engineering construction accounted for nearly 922,000 jobs in May 2009. Over one-half of those jobs consisted of the eight occupations shown in figure 14. These occupations represent the types of jobs that are associated with infrastructure investment projects, such as construction of water systems, highways, bridges, electric power lines, subways, and dams.

- Construction laborers was one of the largest occupations in each of the heavy and civil engineering construction industries. Of the four industries, highway, street, and bridge construction had the highest share of construction laborers—about 25 percent of industry employment.

- Other occupations were more concentrated in specific heavy and civil engineering construction industries. For example, nearly all electrical power-line installers and repairers employed in heavy and civil engineering construction worked in utility system construction, while about two-thirds of truck drivers in heavy and civil engineering construction worked in highway, street, and bridge construction.

Employment of the largest occupations in the heavy and civil engineering construction industry, May 2009





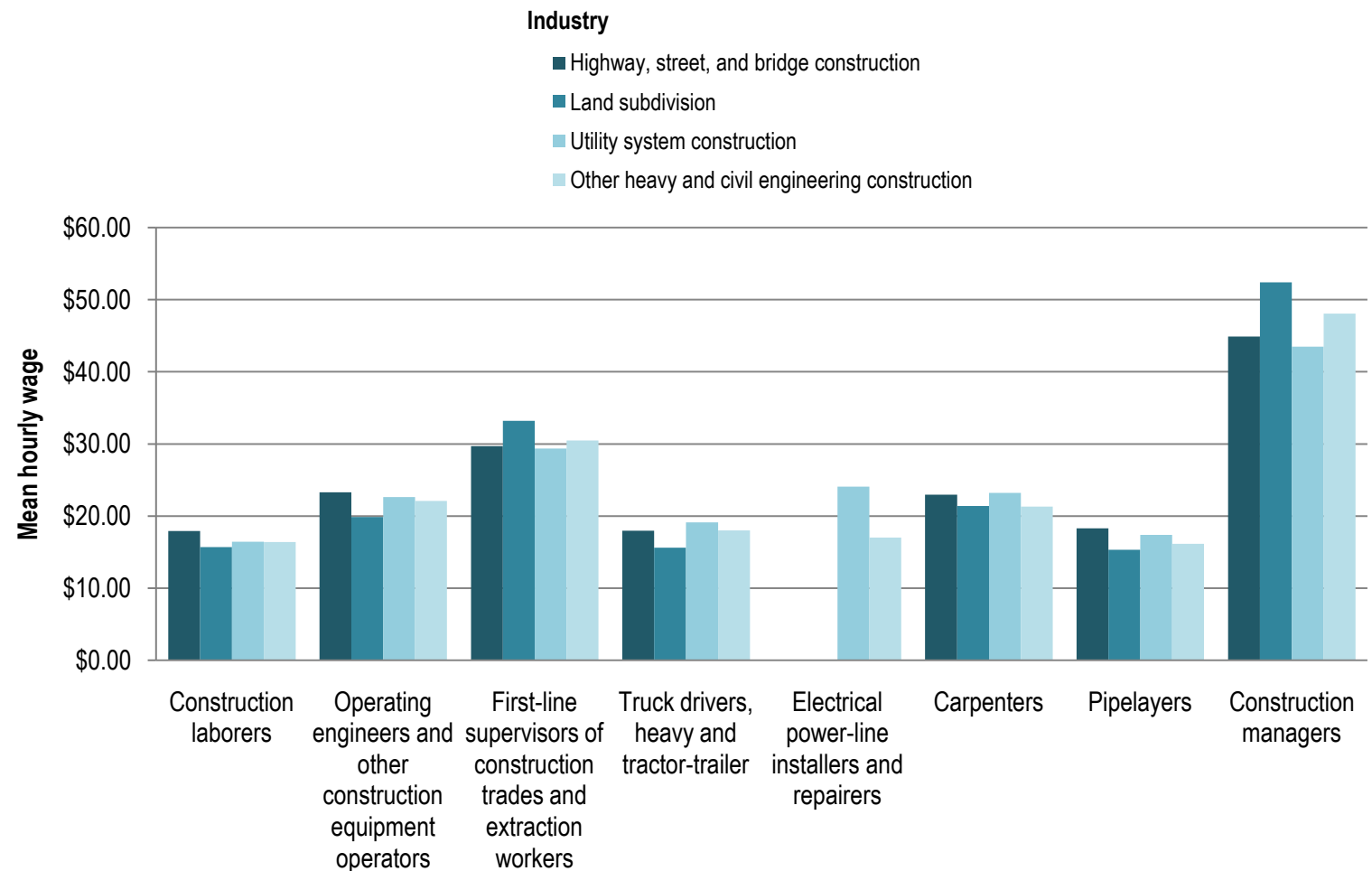
## Figure 15

- Five of the eight occupations shown in figure 15 had wages that were above the U.S. all-occupations mean of \$20.90 per hour or \$43,460 per year. Construction laborers; pipelayers; and truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer, had wages below the U.S. average.

- Truck drivers and electrical power-line installers and repairers earned less in heavy and civil engineering construction than they did across all industries. For the remaining occupations shown, wages in the heavy and civil engineering construction industry were above or similar to the wages for these occupations across all industries.

- Construction laborers, pipelayers, and operating engineers earned slightly more in highway, street, and bridge construction than in the other heavy and civil engineering construction industries. Land subdivision was the highest paying heavy and civil engineering construction industry for construction managers and first-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers.

Mean hourly wages of the largest occupations in the heavy and civil engineering construction industry, May 2009

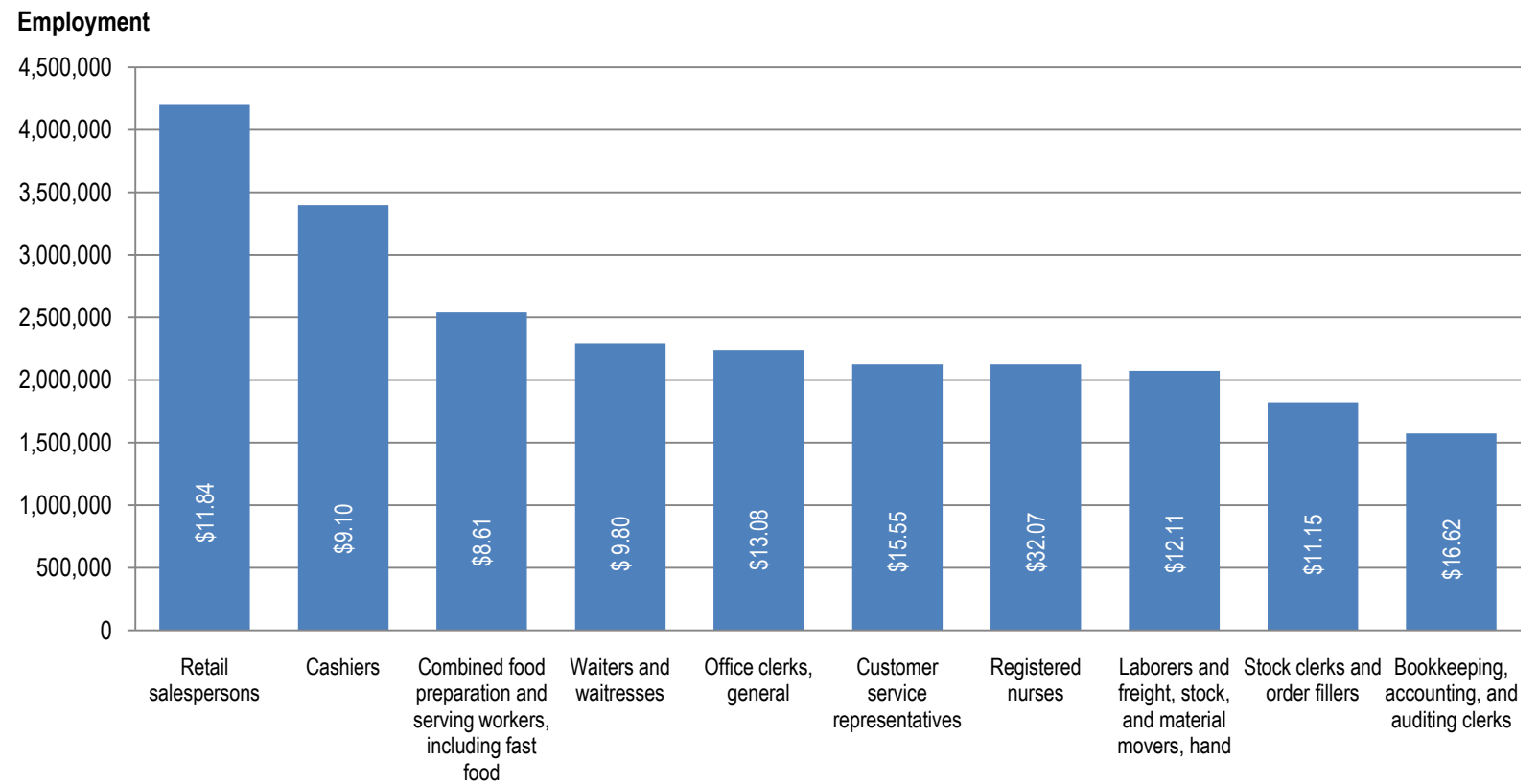


The largest occupations in the private sector tended to be lower paying occupations, while the largest occupations in the public sector tended to have above-average wages.

## Figure 16

- The largest occupations in the private sector, such as cashiers and food service workers, were relatively low-paying occupations, with wages for all but registered nurses below the U.S. mean wage.
- Most of the large occupations were service-related occupations or office and administrative support occupations.
- Employment in the private sector was more widely dispersed by occupation than the public sector, with the largest occupations accounting for 22 percent of employment.

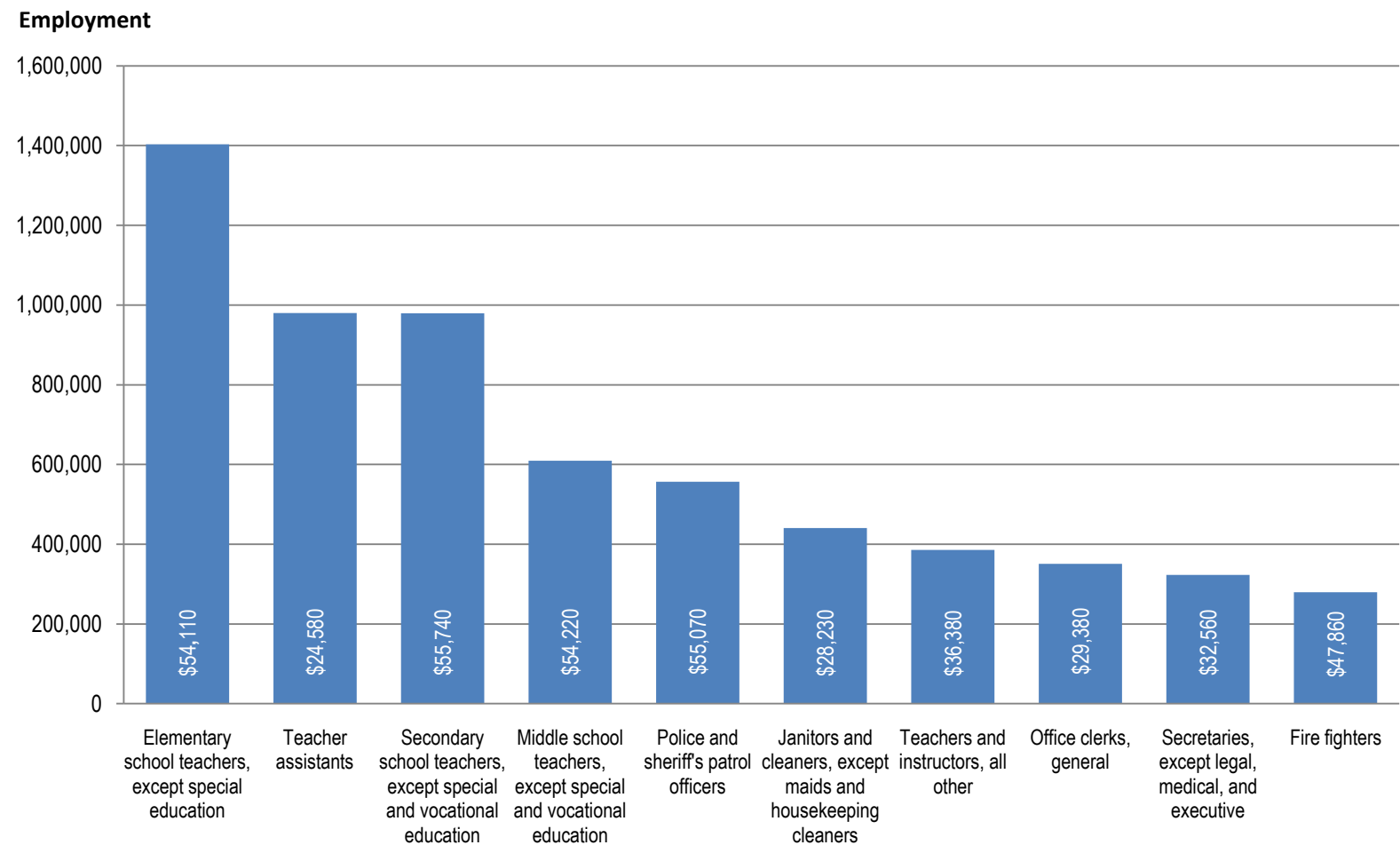
Employment and wages for the largest occupations in the private sector



## Figure 17

- The education occupations shown in figure 17 accounted for 30 percent of employment in local government. Other occupations in local government were related to education and include school bus drivers, special education teachers, education administrators, and kindergarten teachers, among others.
- Protective service occupations, such as police and sheriff's patrol officers, fire fighters, and correctional officers, were among the largest occupations in local government.
- Wages for many of the largest occupations in local government were above the U.S. average.

### Employment and wages for the largest occupations in local government



Registered nurses was one of the largest occupations in both the private and public sectors.

## Figure 18

- Many of the largest occupations in State government were occupations with above-average wages.
- Of the government sectors, State government had the widest dispersion of employment by occupation, with the largest occupation accounting for 27 percent of employment.
- Most of the largest occupations in the government sectors were related to education or protective services.
- Education occupations in State government were predominantly in postsecondary education.

Employment and wages for the largest occupations in State government

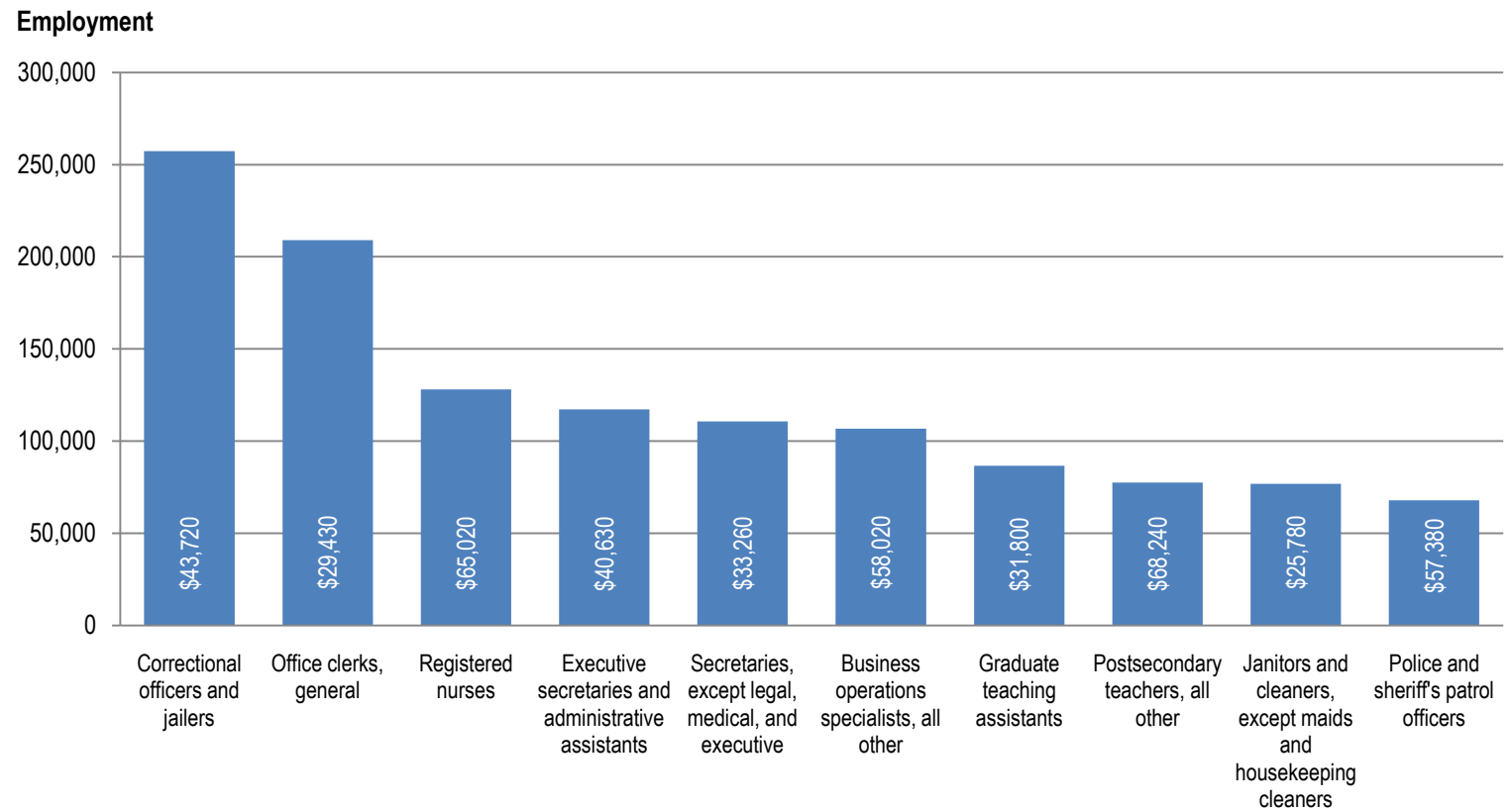
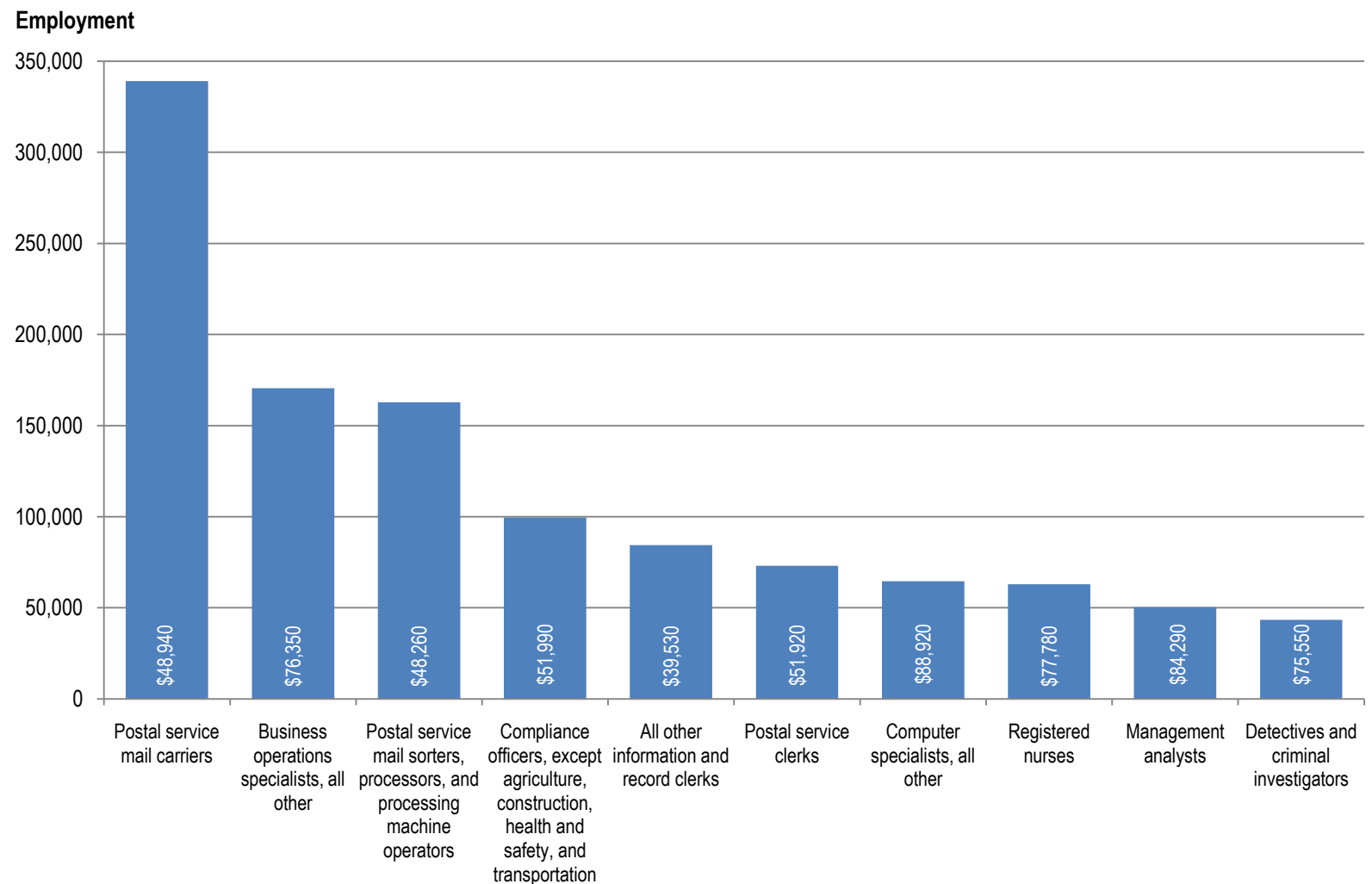


Figure 19

- The largest occupations in the Federal Government were in the Postal Service, including Postal Service mail carriers (12.7 percent), Postal Service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators (6.1 percent), and Postal Service clerks (2.7 percent).

- As compared with other sectors, most of the large occupations were higher paying in the Federal Government, including computer specialists, all other (\$88,920), management analysts (\$84,290), and registered nurses (\$77,780).

Employment and wages for the largest occupations in Federal Government

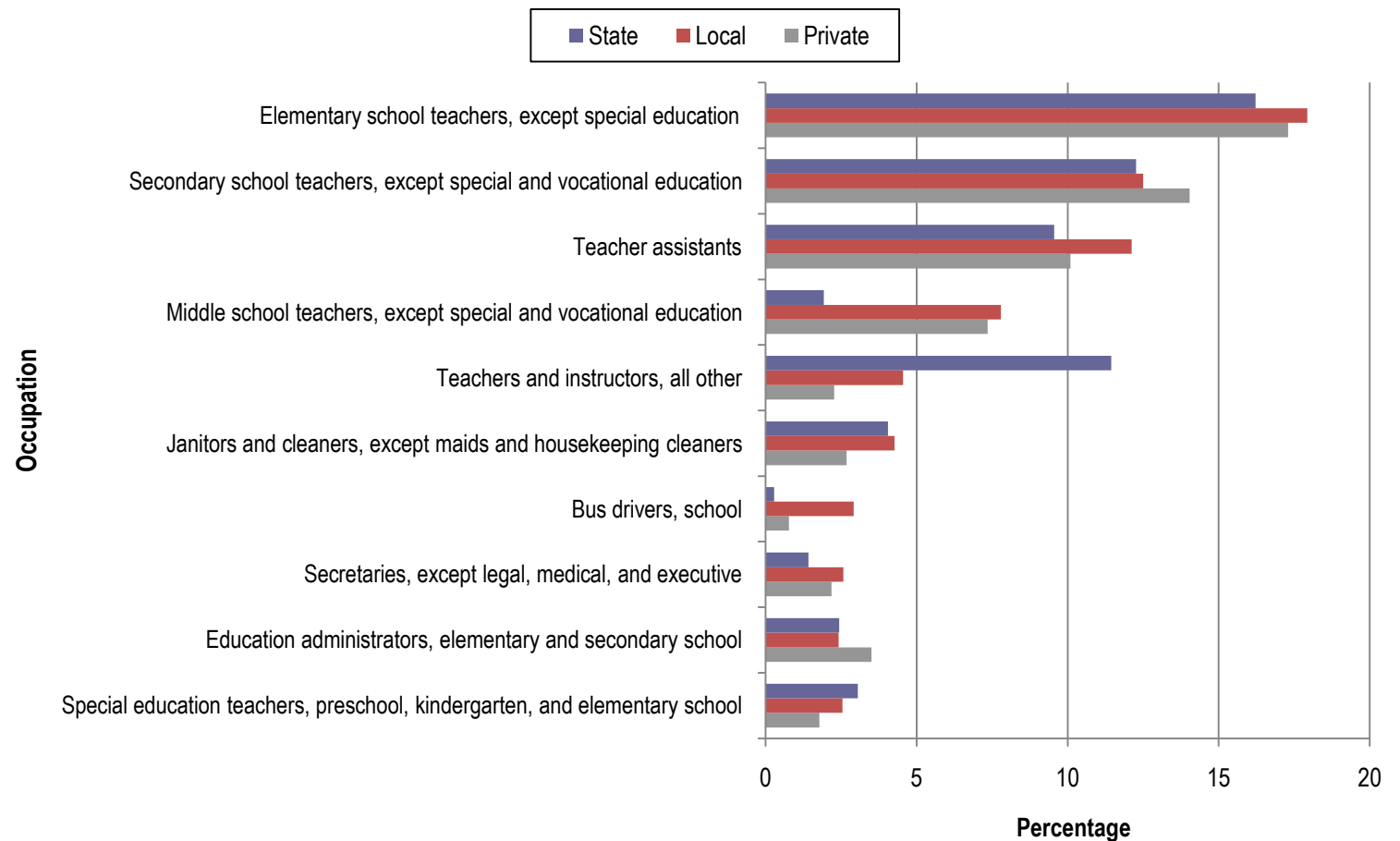


Elementary school teachers, except special education, was the largest occupation in elementary and secondary schools, and accounted for 16 to 18 percent of employment in the industry, depending on the ownership of the school.

## Figure 20

- The next largest occupation, secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education, was relatively more prevalent in private schools than State or local government schools.
- School bus drivers made up 2.9 percent of employment in local government elementary and secondary schools, and only 0.8 percent and 0.3 percent in private and State government schools, respectively.
- Local government schools employed a significantly higher share of teacher assistants in this industry. Teacher assistants made up 12 percent of the employment for local government elementary and secondary schools, while they made up 10 percent of private schools and 9.6 percent of State government-owned schools.
- Privately owned schools employed the largest share of education administrators, elementary and secondary school.

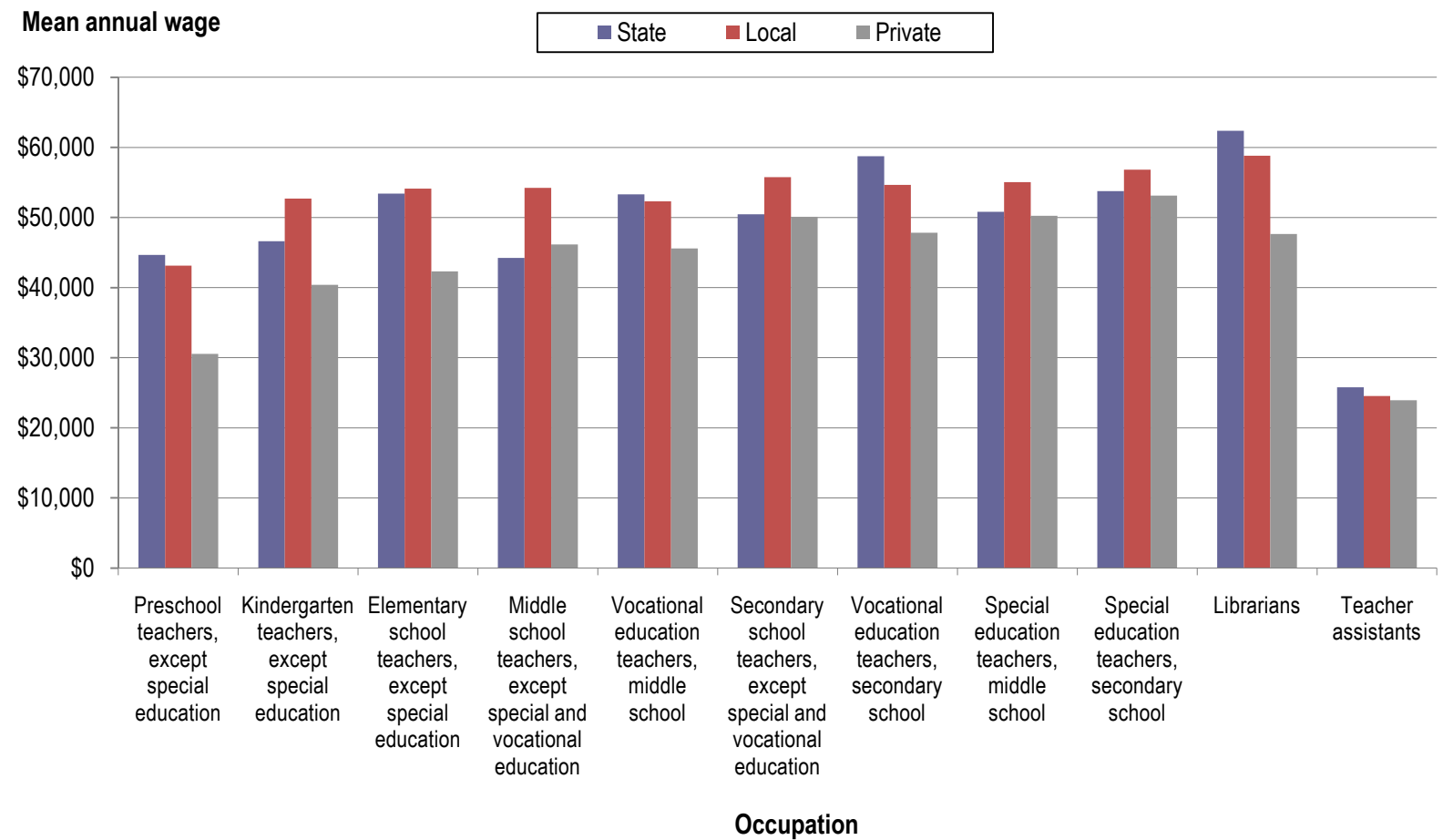
Employment shares of selected teaching occupations in elementary and secondary schools by ownership, May 2009



## Figure 21

- This wage difference was greatest in lower grades.
- Wages were higher for vocational education teachers and preschool teachers in State government-owned schools than in local government or privately owned schools.
- Librarians in privately owned schools had lower wages than librarians in State and local government-owned elementary and secondary schools.
- Mean wages for teacher assistants did not vary much by ownership, ranging from \$23,920 in private schools to \$25,780 in State elementary and secondary schools.
- Among private elementary and secondary schools, teachers in more advanced levels of education generally earned higher wages.
- Special education teachers in the private sector had higher wages than those teachers in the same grade levels who did not teach special education.

Wages of selected teaching occupations in elementary and secondary schools by ownership, May 2009



Employment in smaller, more specialized occupations was generally concentrated in one industry while employment in less specialized occupations was found in many industries.

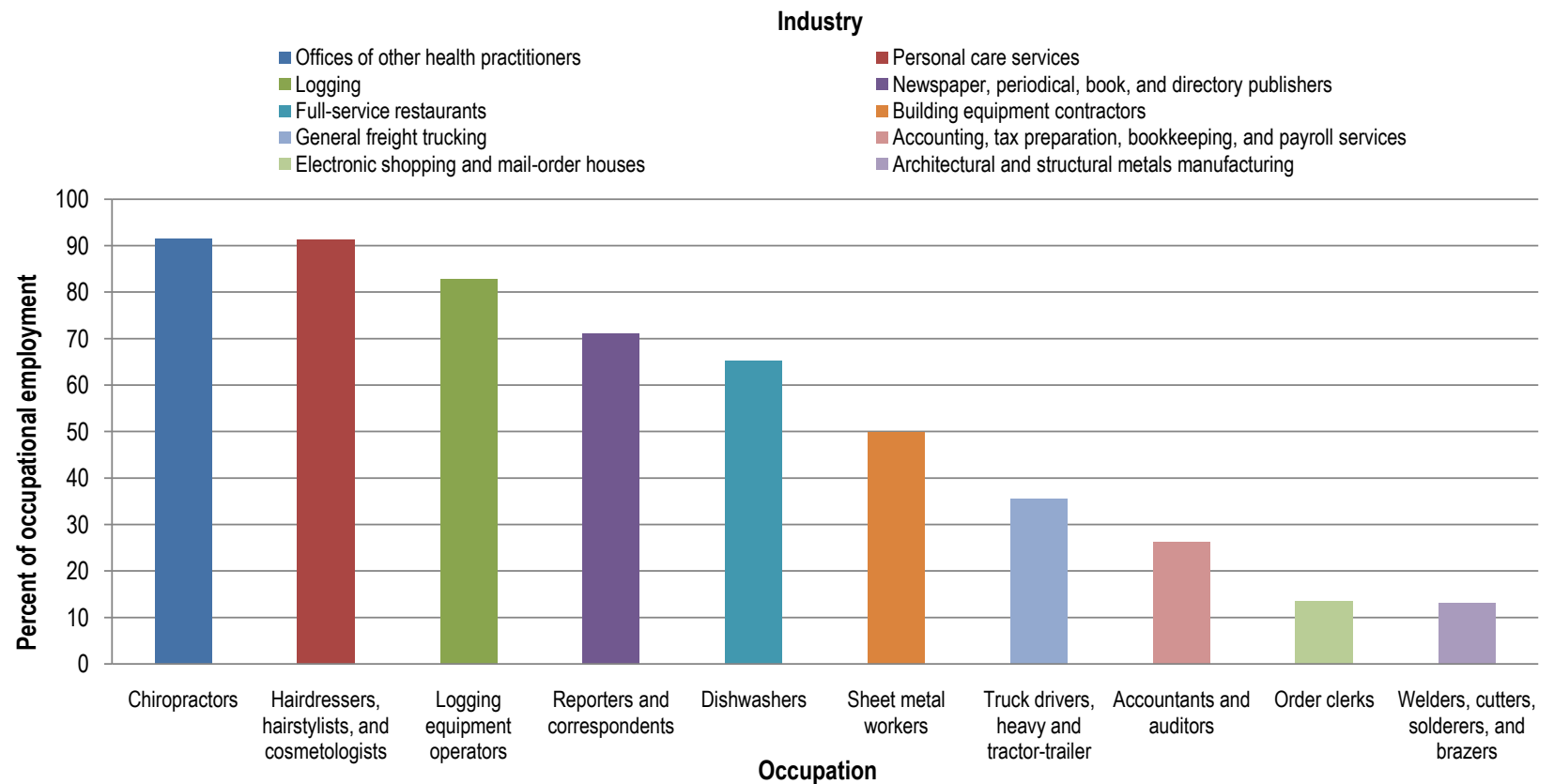
## Figure 22

- More than half a million heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers were employed in general freight trucking, which accounted for 36 percent of this occupation's total national employment. Twenty-six percent of accountants and auditors, another fairly large occupation, were employed in accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services.

- Logging equipment operators had the lowest level of employment (23,630) among all the occupations shown in figure 22, and the logging industry employed 83 percent of logging equipment operators.

- Sheet metal workers and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers frequently work with metal materials, but the industries with the highest employment for each occupation differed markedly. While building equipment contractors employed nearly half of all sheet metal workers, architectural and structural metals manufacturing employed only 13 percent of welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers.

Industries with the highest employment concentrations for selected occupations, May 2009





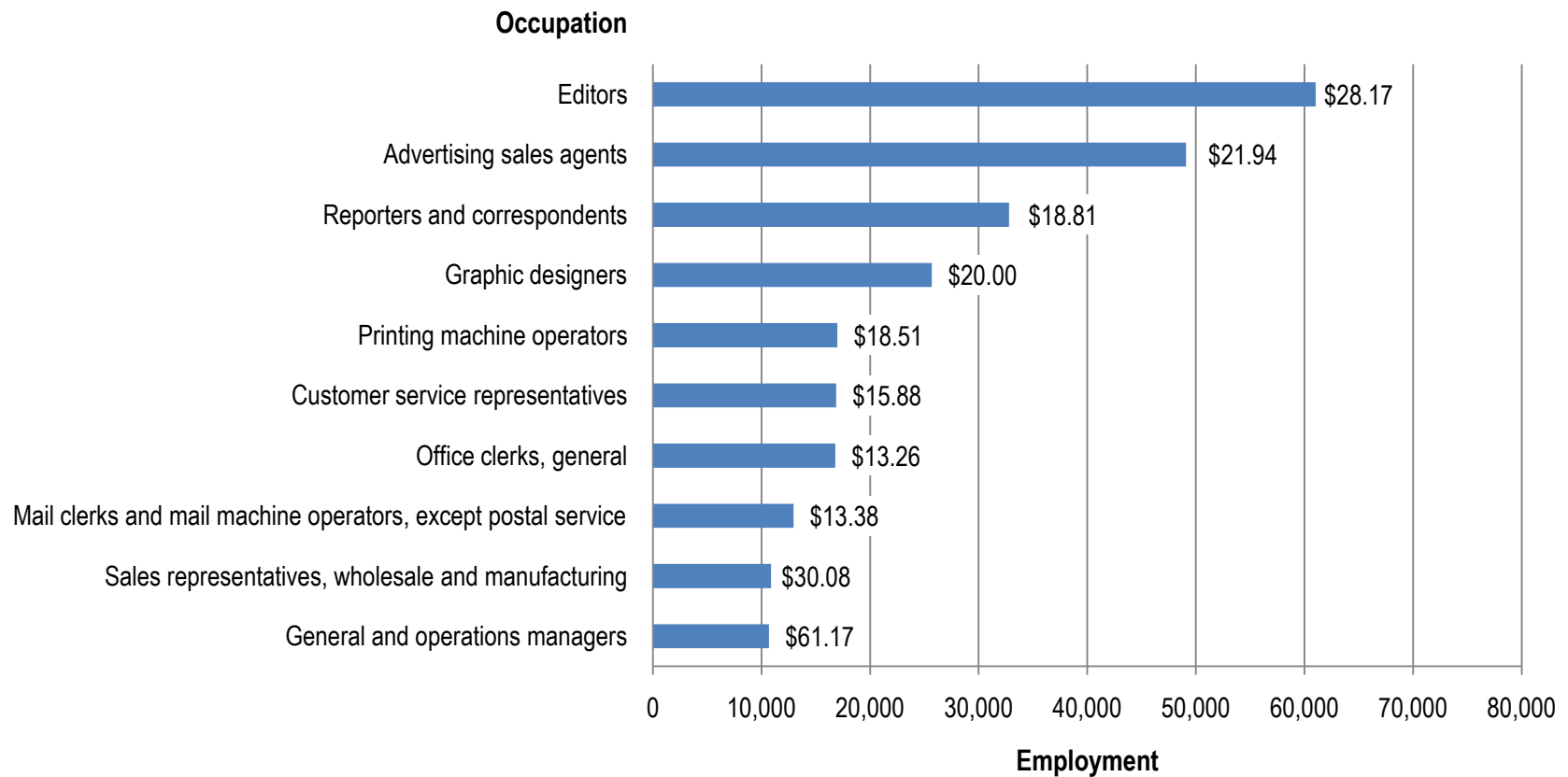


Editors accounted for 11 percent of employment in the newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers industry.

## Figure 23

- Two of the largest occupations in the industry were editors (employment of 61,110) and advertising sales agents (49,090).
- Of the 46,130 reporters and correspondents nationwide, 71 percent of them, or 32,810, were employed in this industry.
- Only 3 of the 10 largest occupations had hourly wages above the average for all occupations in this industry (\$23.54): editors; general and operations managers; and sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products.

Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in the newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers industry, May 2009





Press room





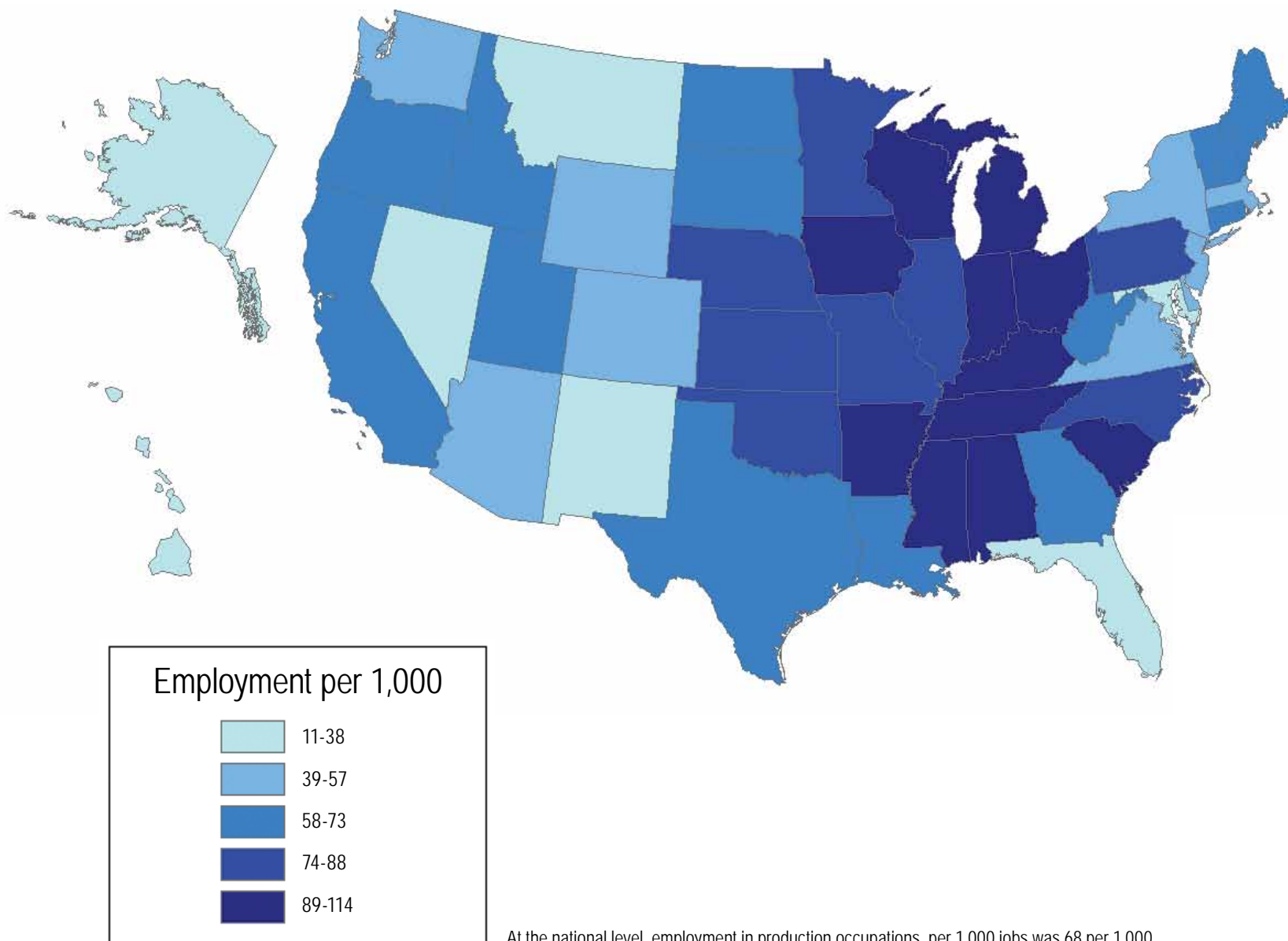
## State and Area Focus

States with higher concentrations of employment in production occupations were in the Midwest along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Production workers accounted for at least 10 percent of employment in Wisconsin, Indiana, Arkansas, Iowa, Alabama, and South Carolina.

## Figure 24

- Montana, Florida, Alaska, New Mexico, Maryland, Nevada, and Hawaii had less than 4 percent of their total employment in these occupations.
- Wisconsin had a high level of employment in the following production occupations: team assemblers (35,320); first-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers (19,780); machinists (15,920); and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (15,420).
- The largest production occupations in Hawaii were bakers (1,380), laundry and dry-cleaning workers (1,290), and first-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers (1,280).
- Team assembler was one of the largest production occupations in most States.

Employment in production occupations, per 1,000 jobs, by State, May 2009

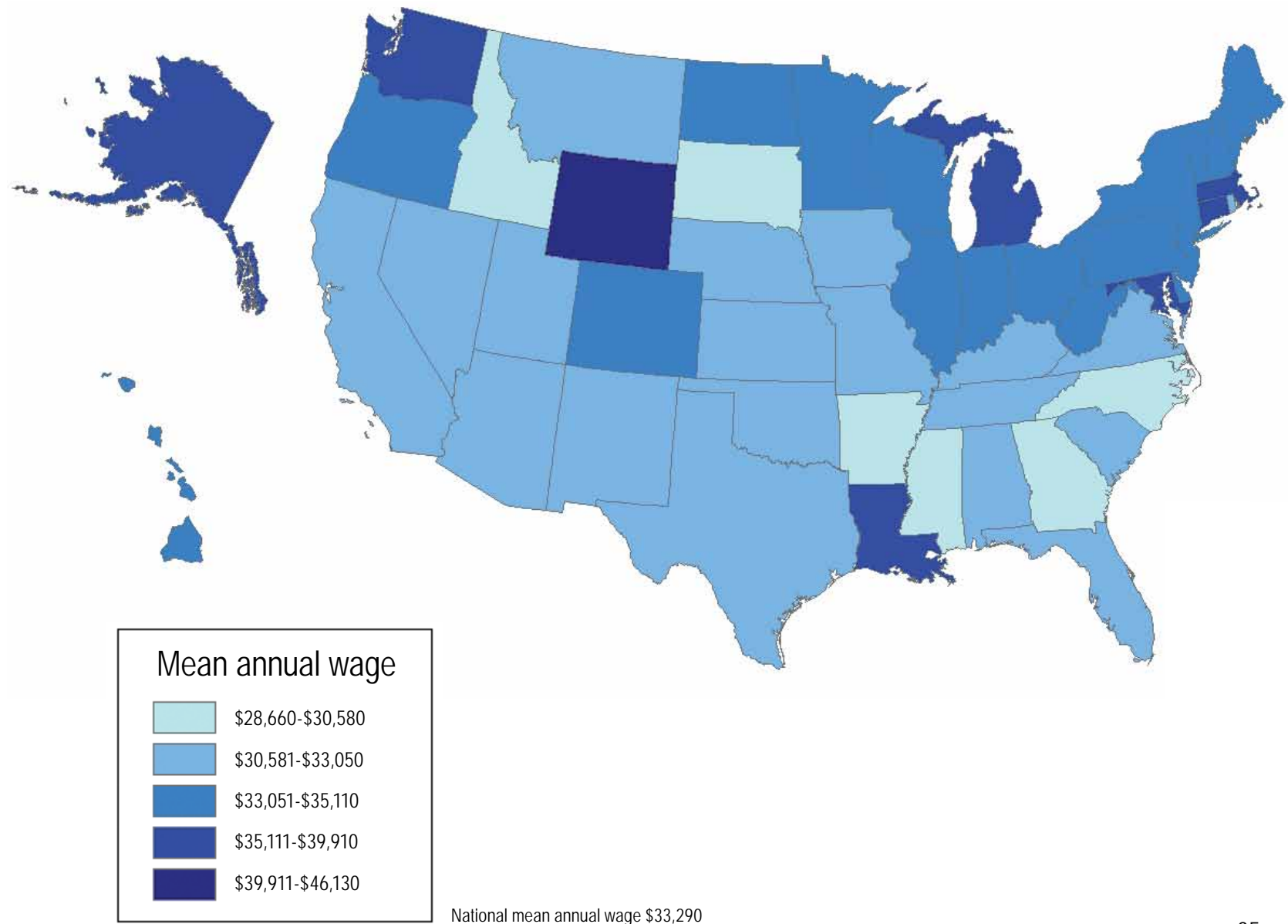


At the national level, employment in production occupations, per 1,000 jobs was 68 per 1,000.

## Figure 25

- The States with the highest average wages for production occupations were Wyoming (\$42,680), Alaska (\$39,910), Washington (\$38,640), Connecticut (\$38,190), and Michigan (\$37,500).
- The States with the lowest average wages for these occupations were Arkansas (\$28,660), South Dakota (\$28,710), Mississippi (\$29,420), Georgia (\$29,990), and Idaho (\$30,480).
- The highest average wages in Wyoming, Alaska, Washington, Connecticut, and Michigan may be explained by their dominant industries. Wyoming and Alaska have high-paying production occupations in the oil and gas extraction industries. Washington and Connecticut have high-paying production occupations in the aerospace product and parts manufacturing industries, and Michigan has high-paying jobs in motor vehicle manufacturing and related industries.

Mean annual wage of production occupations by State, May 2009



The five States bordering the Gulf of Mexico—Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas—represented about 17 percent of the total employment in the United States.

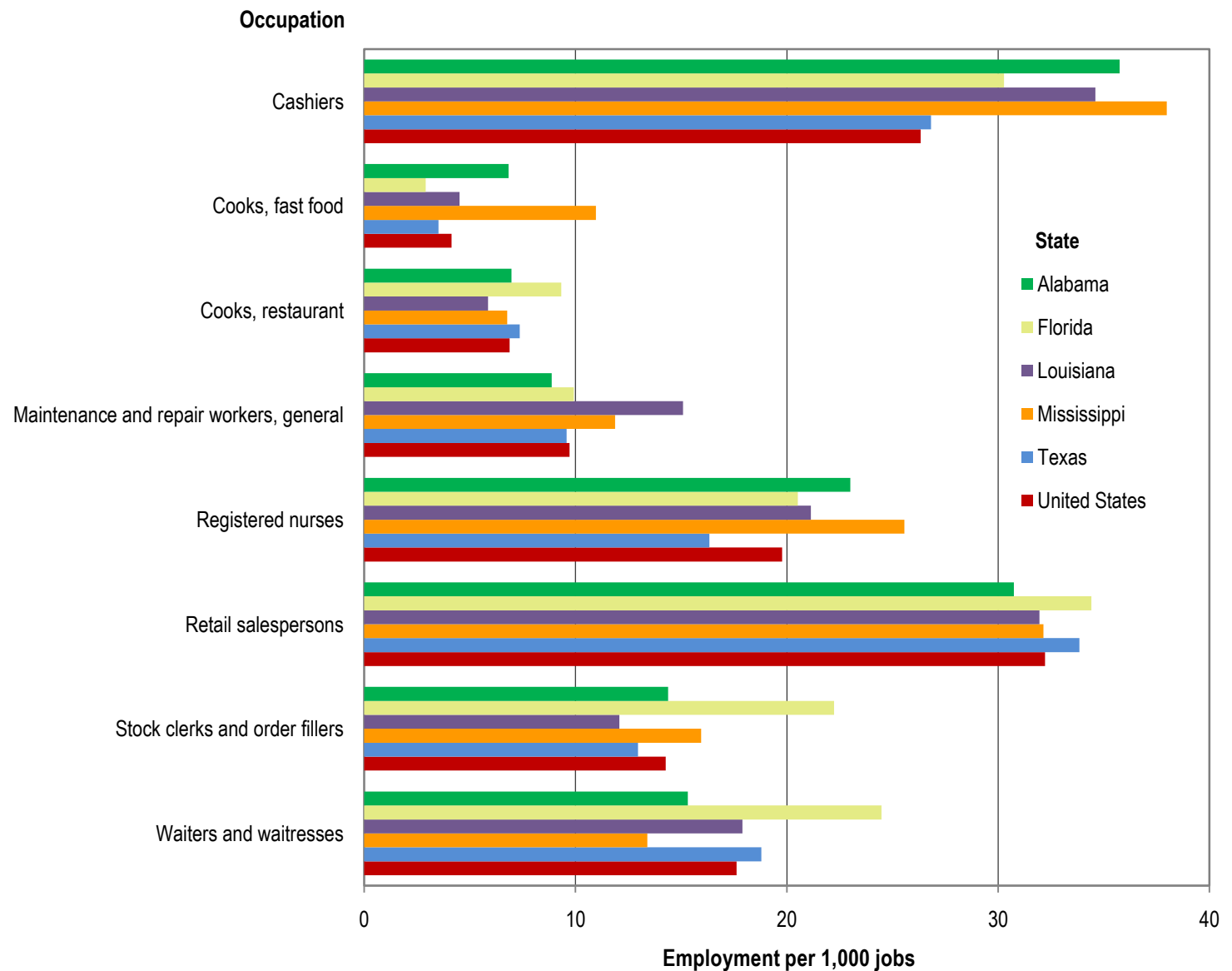
## Figure 26

- Employment concentration of cashiers in all five Gulf States was higher than the average employment concentration of cashiers in the United States. Measured as employment per 1,000 jobs, Mississippi had the highest concentration of employment in this occupation, and Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida had the third, fourth, and seventh highest concentrations respectively. Over 19 percent of the total U.S. employment in this occupation was located in these five States.

- Only Florida and Texas had concentrations of retail salespersons that were higher than the U.S. average. Although Florida had the highest concentration of employment in this occupation among the five Gulf States, it had only the 15th highest concentration when compared with all States.

- Mississippi had the highest concentration of fast-food cooks among all States, with almost 11 out of every 1,000 jobs in the State in this occupation, over twice the average U.S. concentration.

Employment concentrations for select occupations in the Gulf States, May 2009







New York had the highest concentration of fashion designers. With 6,990 fashioner designers, New York employed over 44 percent of the fashion designers in the country.

## Figure 27

- States had higher concentrations of different occupations depending on the dominant industries in each State.

- California had the highest concentration of parking enforcement workers of all States, with over twice the employment in this occupation per 1,000 jobs compared with the U.S. average. California employed over 25 percent of the parking enforcement workers in the Nation.

- Telemarketers accounted for more employment in Utah than in any other State, accounting for almost 8 in 1,000 jobs in Utah, compared with just over 2 per 1,000 jobs in the United States.

- Montana had the highest concentration of bartenders in the country, with over three times as many bartenders per 1,000 jobs as the U.S. average.

- South Dakota had the highest concentration of bill and account collectors, with almost four times the national average.

States with the highest concentrations of selected occupations, May 2009

Occupation	State	Employment per 1,000 jobs in State	Employment per 1,000 jobs in United States	Employment level in State
Industrial production managers	Michigan	2.16	1.13	8,410
Meeting and convention planners	District of Columbia	3.03	0.39	1,930
Insurance underwriters	Connecticut	2.20	0.75	3,620
Atmospheric and space scientists	Colorado	0.55	0.06	1,220
Mental health counselors	Pennsylvania	2.75	0.82	15,340
Fashion designers	New York	0.82	0.12	6,990
Optometrists	Hawaii	0.49	0.20	290
Home health aides	North Carolina	19.50	7.31	75,990
Parking enforcement workers	California	0.17	0.07	2,420
Crossing guards	New Jersey	1.44	0.52	5,540
Bartenders	Montana	12.34	3.77	5,330
Pest control workers	Florida	1.32	0.49	9,730
Gaming dealers	Nevada	18.99	0.67	22,400
Telemarketers	Utah	7.79	2.36	9,240
Bill and account collectors	South Dakota	11.80	3.09	4,640
Mine cutting and channeling machine operators	West Virginia	2.33	0.06	1,640
Slaughterers and meat packers	Nebraska	6.47	0.75	5,930



Several engineering occupations, including electronics, environmental, petroleum, aerospace, and chemical engineers were most highly concentrated in small States.

## Figure 28

- Petroleum engineers accounted for more jobs per thousand in Alaska than in any other State. Alaska had over 3.5 petroleum engineers for every 1,000 jobs. Alaska also had the highest concentration of civil engineers and health and safety engineers.
- Michigan had the highest concentration of industrial engineers and mechanical engineers. Michigan employed over three times the number of industrial engineers and over four times the number of mechanical engineers per 1,000 jobs compared with the U.S. average.
- The highest concentration of marine engineers and naval architects was found in Virginia. Virginia employed over eight times the number of workers in this occupation per 1,000 jobs as the U.S. average, and accounted for 23 percent of U.S. employment in this occupation.
- Nuclear engineers were also most highly concentrated in Virginia, with four times as many nuclear engineers employed in Virginia per 1,000 jobs as the U.S. average.

States with the highest concentrations in each engineering occupation, May 2009

Occupation	State	Employment per 1,000 jobs in State	Employment per 1,000 jobs in United States	Employment level in State
Aerospace engineers	Kansas	2.46	0.54	3,320
Agricultural engineers	North Dakota	0.15	0.02	50
Biomedical engineers	Utah	0.52	0.11	620
Chemical engineers	Delaware	1.26	0.22	520
Civil engineers	Alaska	4.58	1.99	1,410
Computer hardware engineers	Colorado	1.45	0.50	3,240
Electrical engineers	Idaho	2.59	1.16	1,590
Electronics engineers, except computer	Rhode Island	2.35	1.04	1,080
Environmental engineers	Wyoming	1.51	0.39	430
Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors	Alaska	0.50	0.18	160
Industrial engineers	Michigan	5.14	1.60	20,000
Marine engineers and naval architects	Virginia	0.34	0.04	1,210
Materials engineers	Washington	0.50	0.17	1,400
Mechanical engineers	Michigan	7.53	1.78	29,330
Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers	Wyoming	0.79	0.05	220
Nuclear engineers	Virginia	0.52	0.13	1,860
Petroleum engineers	Alaska	3.58	0.20	1,100

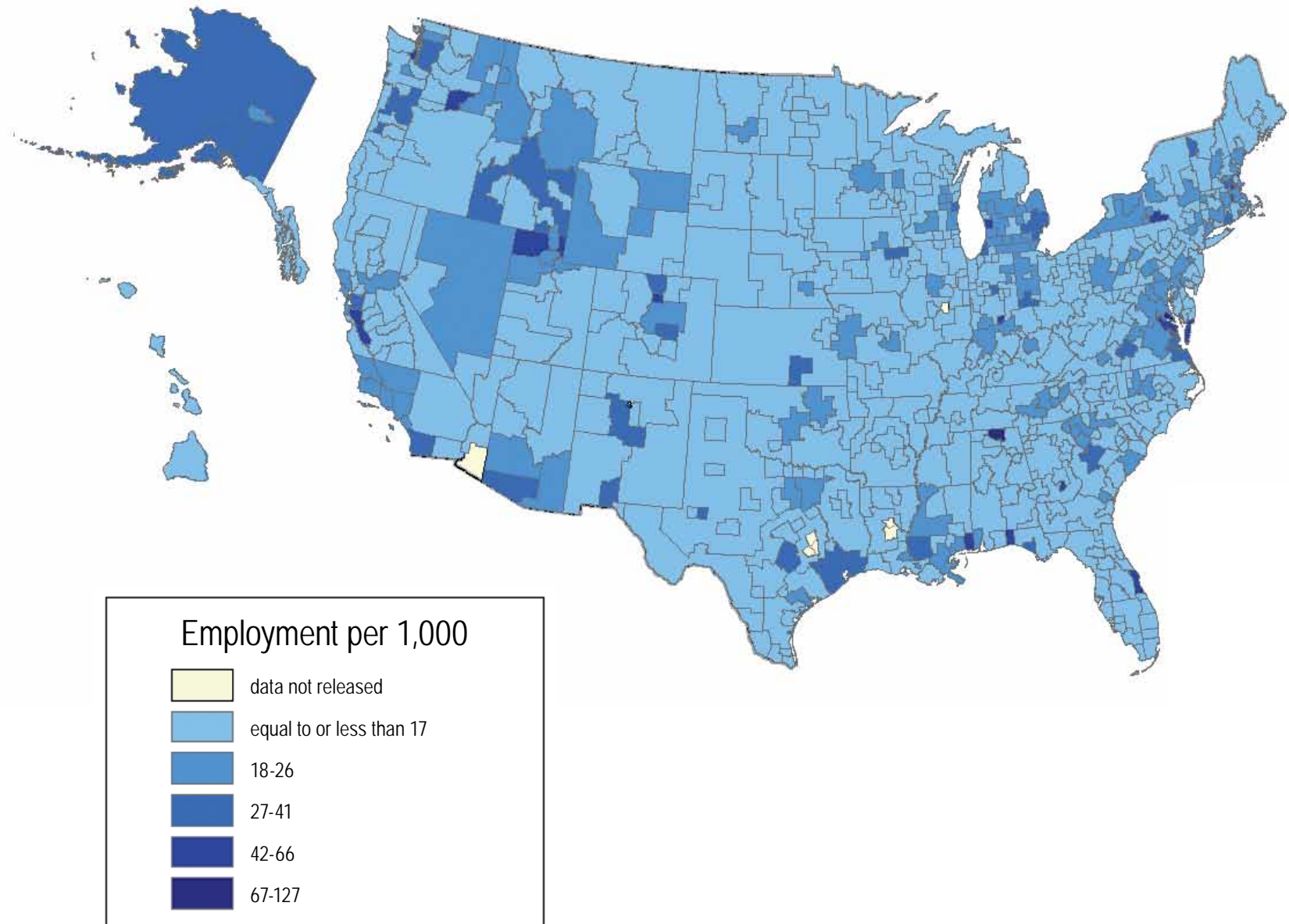


Architecture and engineering occupations accounted for 13 percent of employment in the St. Mary's County, MD, but only 0.4 percent of the total employment in the Merced, CA, metropolitan area.

## Figure 29

- St. Mary's County, MD, had a total of 5,060 architecture and engineering jobs. Three of the largest architecture and engineering occupations in the area were aerospace engineers (with employment of 850); electronics engineers, except computer (840); and electrical and electronic engineering technicians (560).
- Other areas with high concentrations of employment in architecture and engineering occupations were Huntsville, AL (85 employed per 1,000 jobs); Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL (66 per 1,000 jobs); Columbus, IN (61 per 1,000 jobs).
- Nationally, the largest architecture and engineering occupations were civil, mechanical, and industrial engineers. In contrast, some of the areas with high concentrations of architecture and engineering occupations had more employment in different types of engineers, such as computer engineers in the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA, metropolitan area and aerospace engineers in St. Mary's County, MD, and Huntsville, AL.

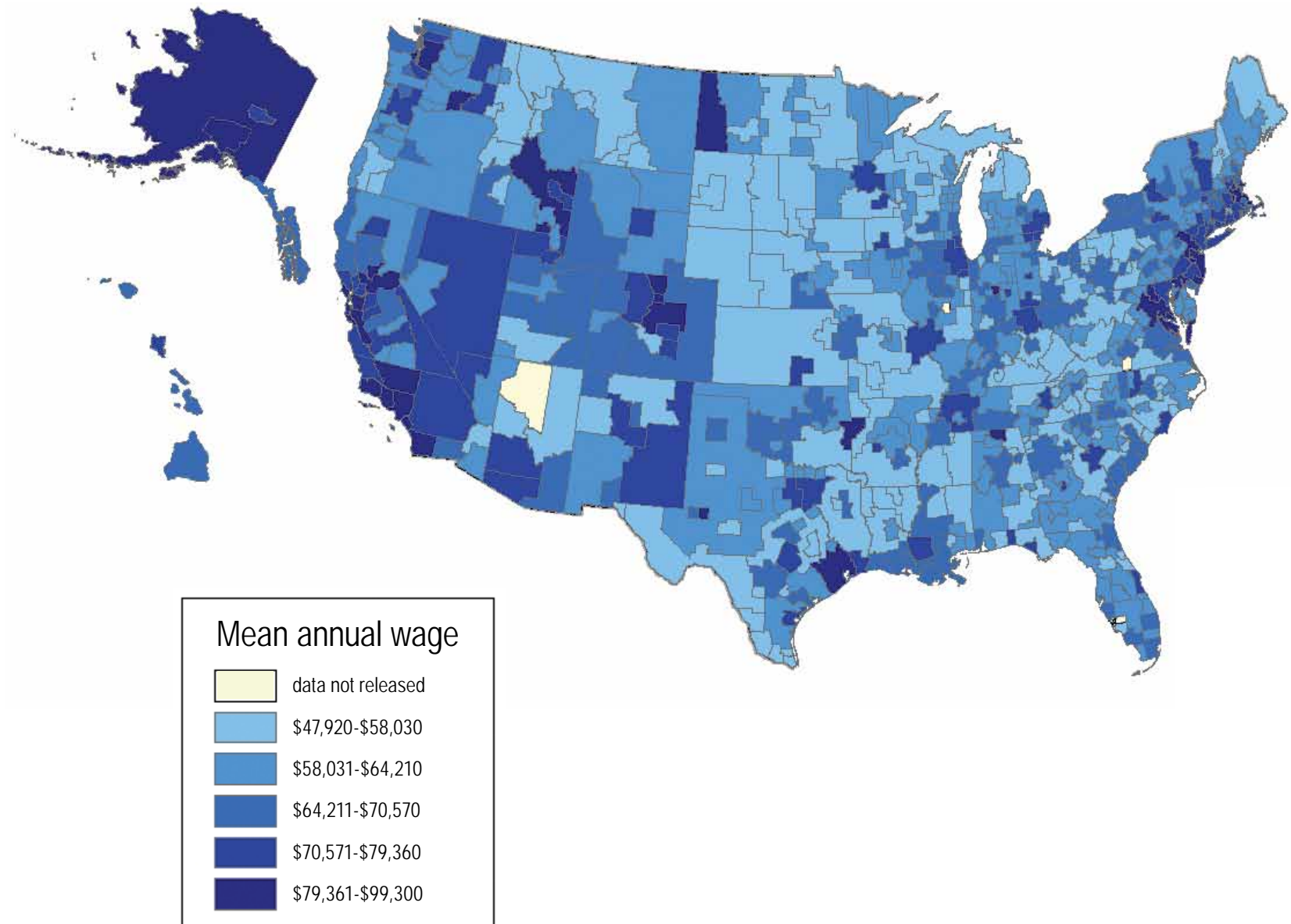
Employment in architecture and engineering occupations, per 1,000 jobs, by area, May 2009



## Figure 30

- The areas with the highest mean wages for architecture and engineering occupations included San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA, (\$99,300), which also had one of the highest employment concentrations; Anchorage, AK (\$95,330); and the northeastern Virginia nonmetropolitan area (\$92,890).
- In the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA, metropolitan area, occupations with high wages included chemical engineers (\$121,220); aerospace engineers (\$120,460); computer hardware engineers (\$119,880); and nuclear engineers (\$115,020).

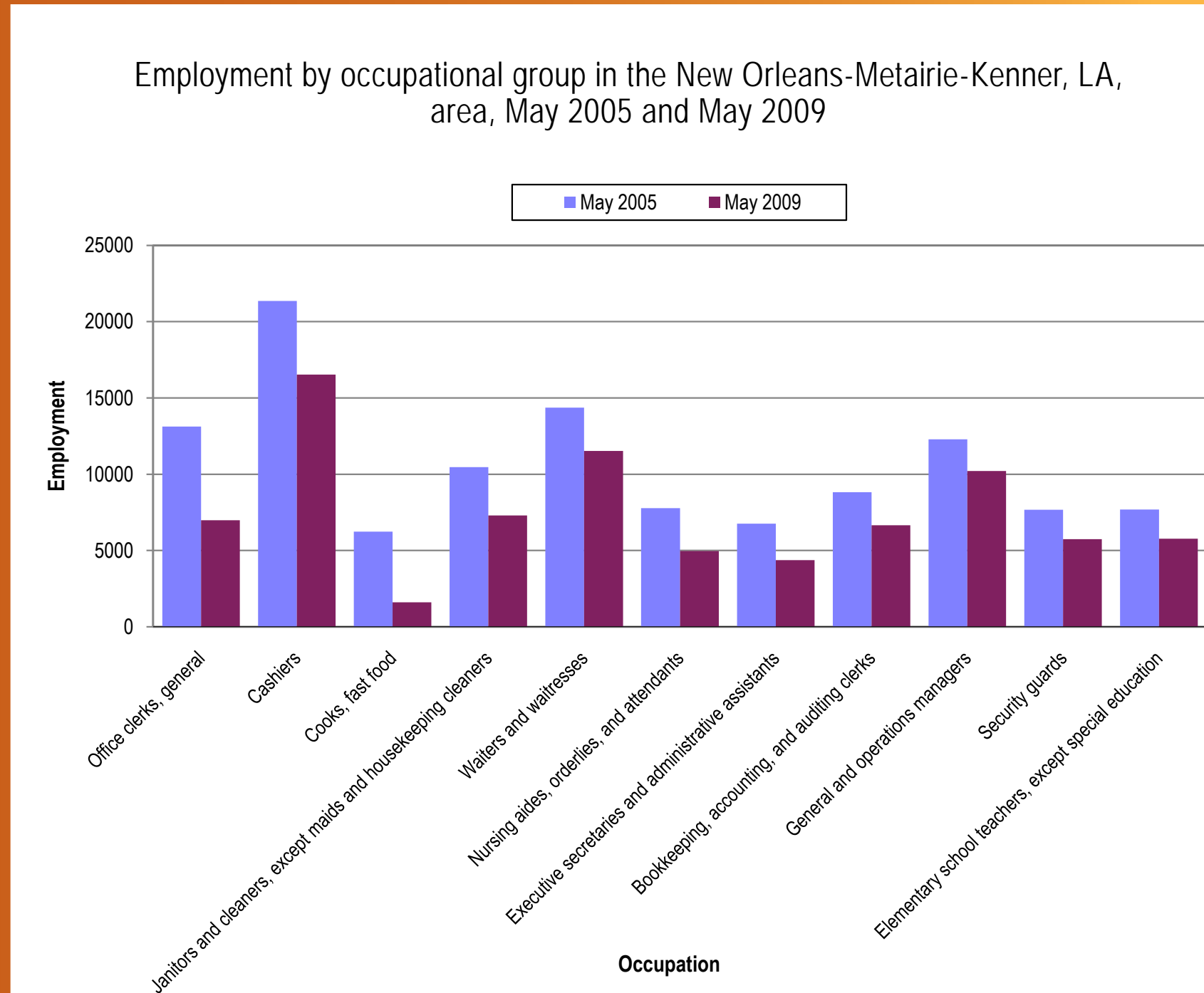
Mean annual wage of architecture and engineering occupations, by area, May 2009



Employment declined in almost all occupational groups in the New Orleans metropolitan area between May 2005 and May 2009.

### Figure 31

- The greatest employment declines were in office and administrative support occupations, which dropped by 24,130, from 105,580 jobs to 81,450.
- Other groups with large declines included food preparation and serving occupations and sales and related occupations.
- Personal care and service occupations had the largest percent decrease, dropping 38 percent, from 18,440 jobs to 11,430.
- Architecture and engineering occupations was the only occupational group with significant growth, as employment increased over 18 percent, from 8,960 jobs to 10,630.



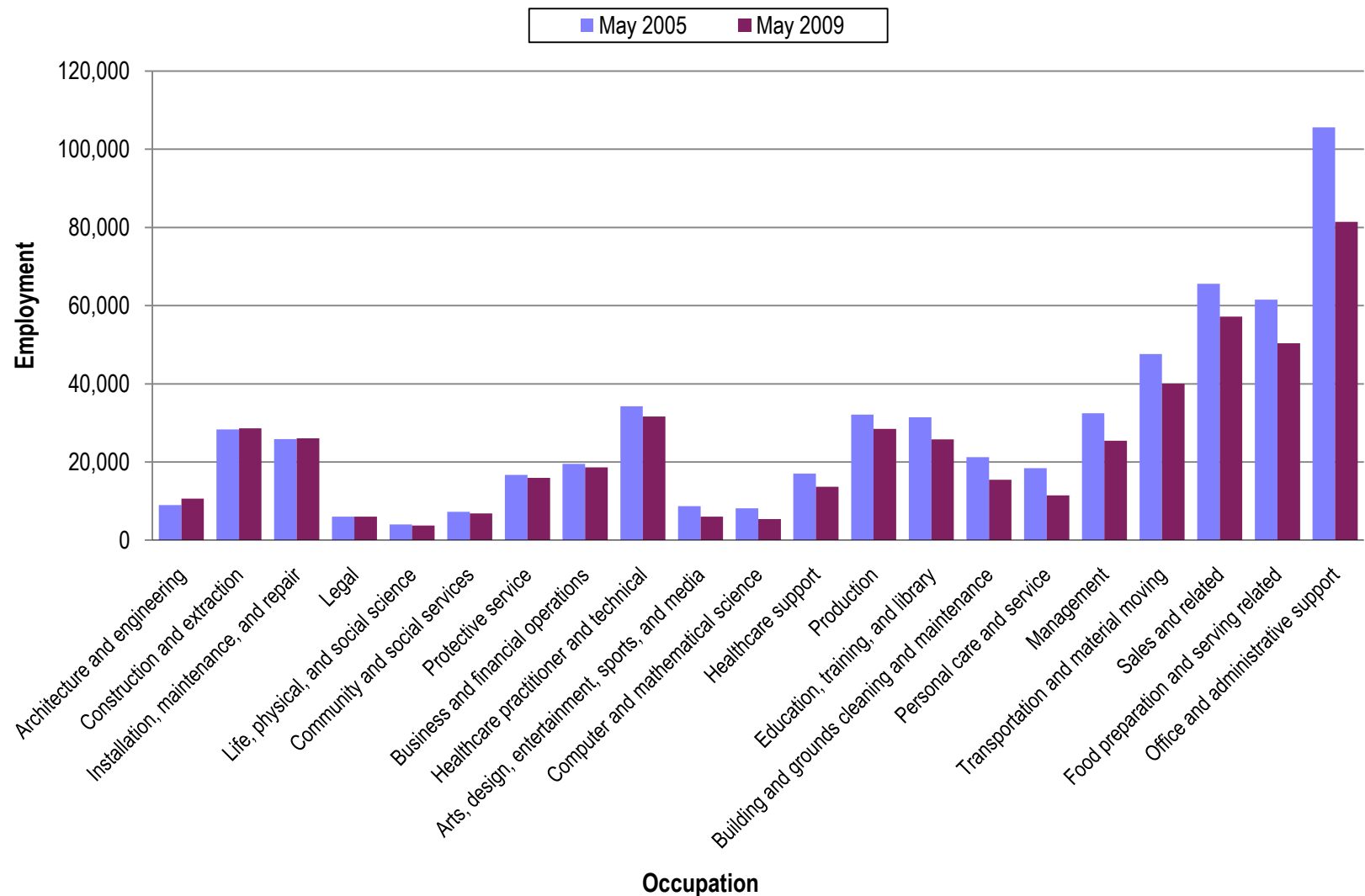




## Figure 32

- General office clerks was the occupation with the largest decline, with employment declining by 6,150, from 13,130 jobs to 6,980.
- Merchandise display and window trimmers had the largest decline in percent of employment, falling over 80 percent, from 410 jobs to 80.
- The occupations with the largest declines were service-related occupations such as food service, transportation services and office and administrative services.
- Detailed occupations with increases in employment included construction-related occupations such as construction laborers and electricians, and petroleum-related occupations such as petroleum engineers and petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers.

Occupations in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, area, with large declines in employment between May 2005 to May 2009

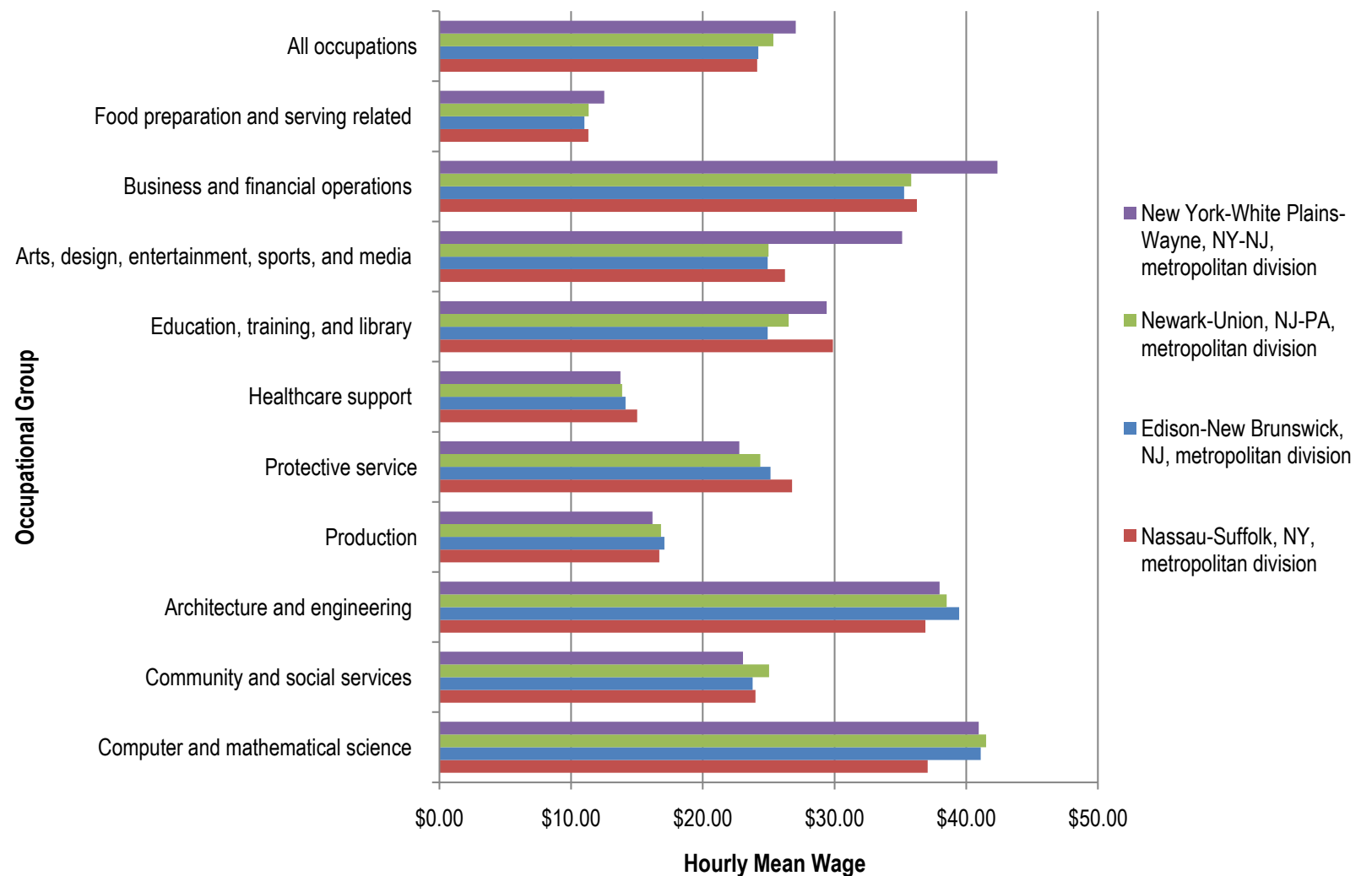


Within the New York metropolitan area, the New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ, division had the highest wages overall and in 12 of the 22 occupational groups.

### Figure 33

- The New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ, division had the lowest wages in four occupational groups including community and social services occupations; healthcare support occupations; production occupations; and protective service occupations.
- The Nassau-Suffolk, NY, metropolitan division had the lowest overall average wages, but had the highest wages for six groups, including healthcare support occupations; protective service occupations; education, library, and training occupations; and building and groundskeeping occupations.
- The Edison-New Brunswick, NJ, metropolitan division had the lowest average wages for 12 of the 22 major occupational groups and the highest average wages for architecture and engineering occupations and production occupations.
- The Newark-Union, NJ-PA, metropolitan division had the highest wages for computer and mathematical science occupations; life, physical, and social science occupations; and community and social services occupations.

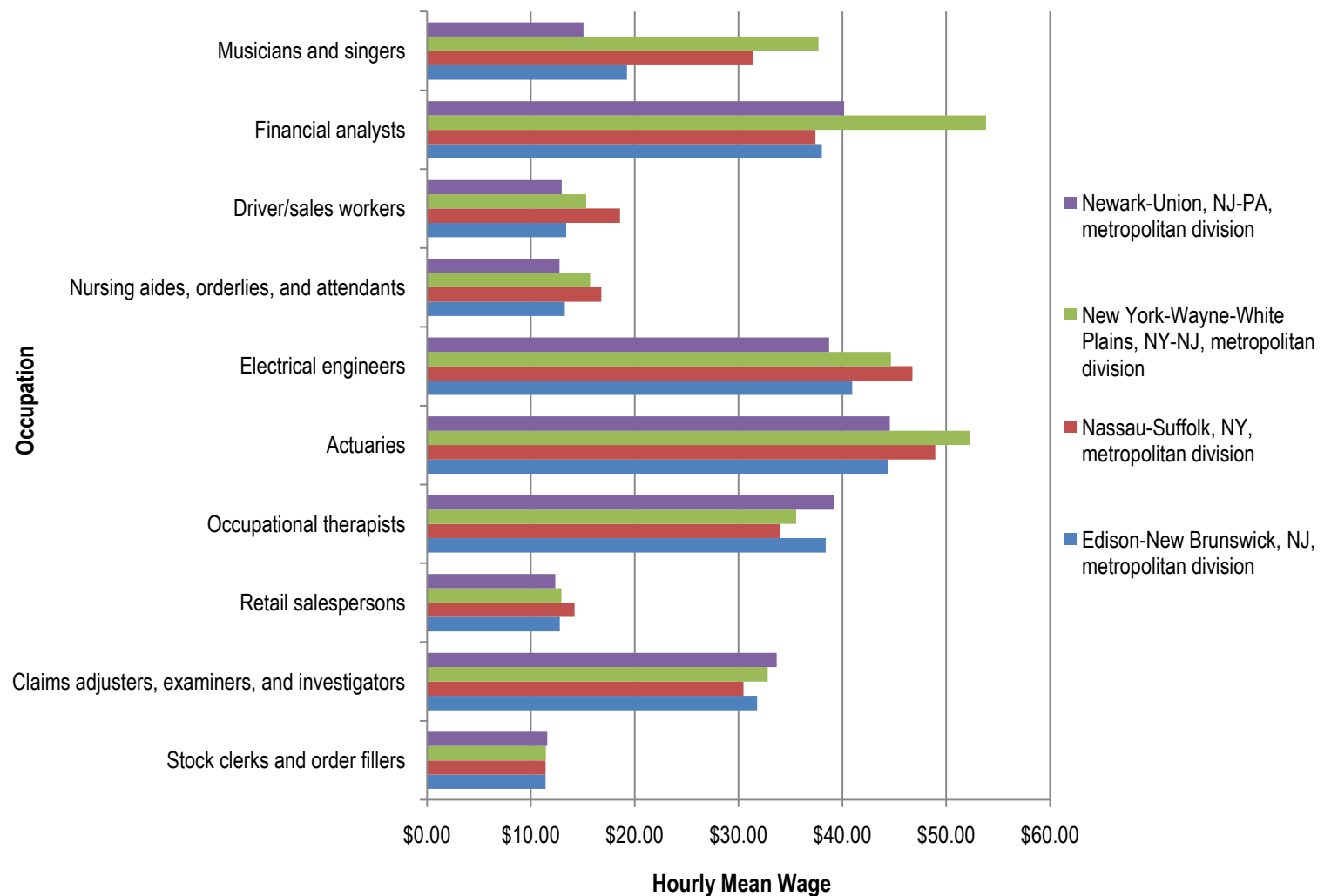
Hourly mean wages for occupational groups in the New York metropolitan divisions



## Figure 34

- Financial analysts in the New York-Wayne-White Plains, NY-NJ, metropolitan division earned an average of \$53.83 an hour, while those in Newark-Union, NJ-PA, Edison-New Brunswick, NJ, and Nassau-Suffolk, NY, earned \$40.18, \$38.03, and \$37.40, respectively.
- The hourly average wage of \$37.71 for musicians and singers in New York-White Plains, NY-NJ, metropolitan division was more than twice as high as the estimate of \$15.06 in the Newark-Union, NJ-PA, metropolitan division.
- An hourly wage of \$18.58 for driver/sales workers in Nassau-Suffolk, NY, metropolitan division was significantly higher than the other divisions of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, metropolitan statistical area.
- Average hourly wages for stock clerks and order fillers were very similar among the four areas, ranging from \$11.42 to \$11.57.

Wages of selected occupations in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, metropolitan statistical area divisions, May 2009



Both Palm Coast, FL, a fast-growing metropolitan area, and Weirton-Steubenville, a slow-growing area, had below-average employment shares of most high-paying occupational groups.

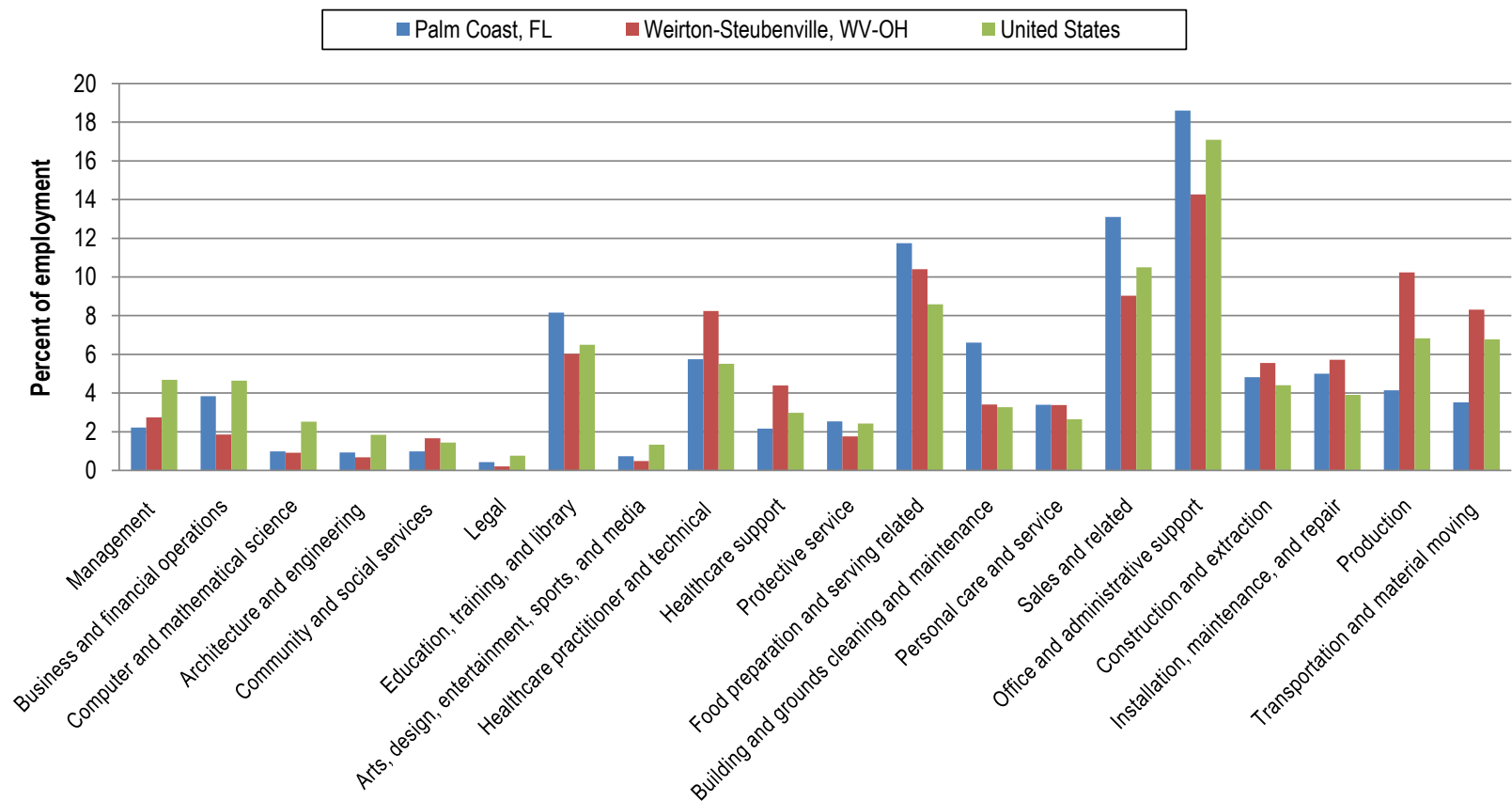
### Figure 35

- Palm Coast, FL, was one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in recent years: between 2000 and 2009, its population increased by nearly 84 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH, had one of the most rapid population declines over the same period, with its population falling by more than 8 percent.

- Compared with the United States, both Palm Coast and Weirton-Steubenville had below-average employment shares of most of the highest paying occupational groups, including management, business and financial operations, computer and mathematical science, architecture and engineering, and legal occupations.

- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations made up 6.6 percent of employment in Palm Coast, double the U.S. employment share of 3.3 percent for this group. Production occupations made up over 10 percent of employment in Weirton-Steubenville, compared with less than 7 percent of U.S. employment.

Distribution of employment in Palm Coast, FL; Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH; and the United States, by occupational group, May 2009



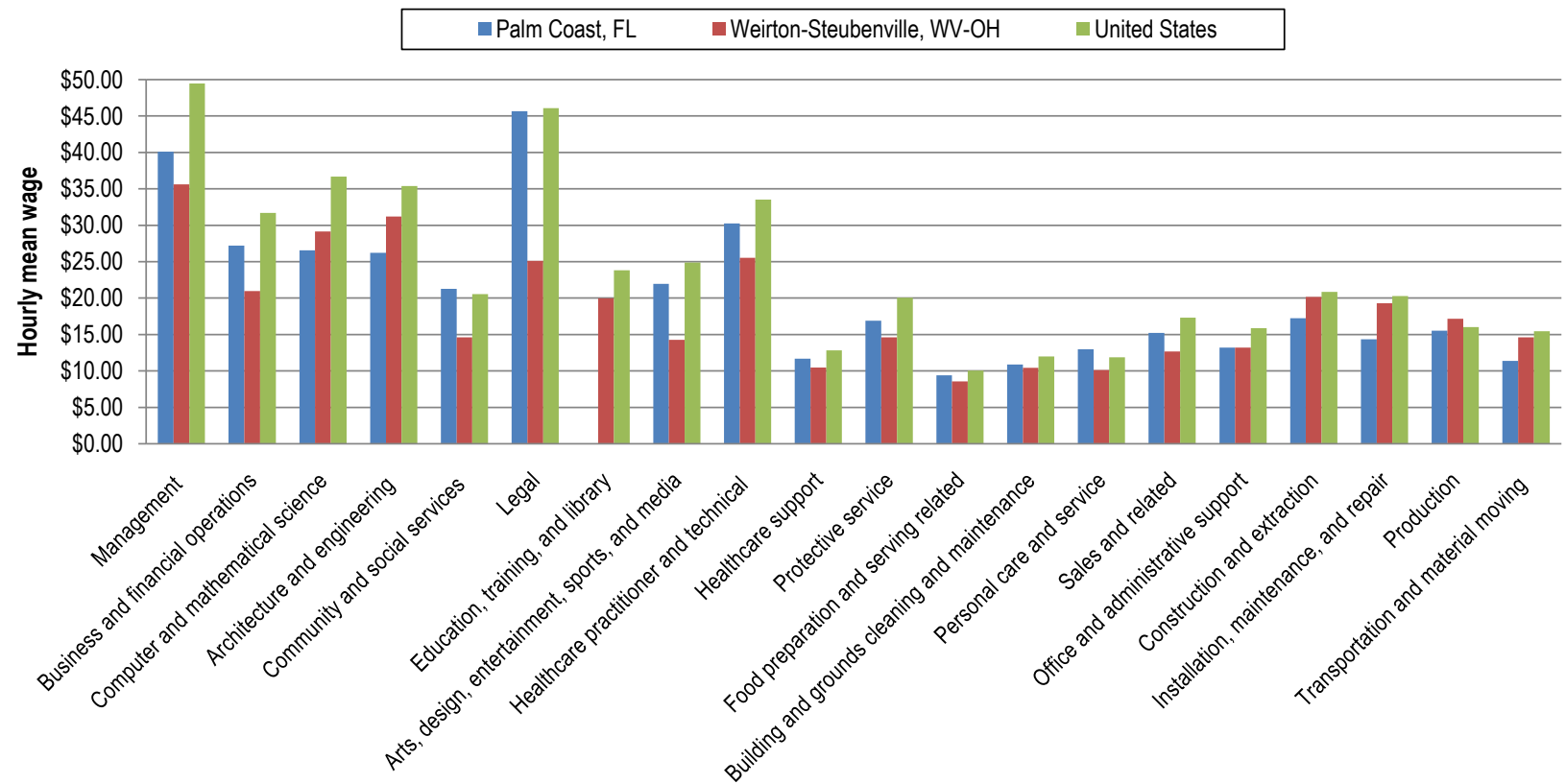
## Figure 36

- In both Palm Coast, FL, and Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH, wages were below or similar to the corresponding U.S. averages for nearly all occupational groups. Production occupations in Weirton-Steubenville were the sole exception.

- Palm Coast had higher wages than Weirton-Steubenville for the majority of occupational groups. Mean wages in Palm Coast were at least \$6.00 higher than in Weirton-Steubenville for legal, arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; community and social services; and business and financial operations occupations.

- Mean wages were nearly \$5.00 higher in Weirton-Steubenville than in Palm Coast for architecture and engineering occupations and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.

Hourly mean wages in Palm Coast, FL; Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH; and the United States, by occupational group, May 2009



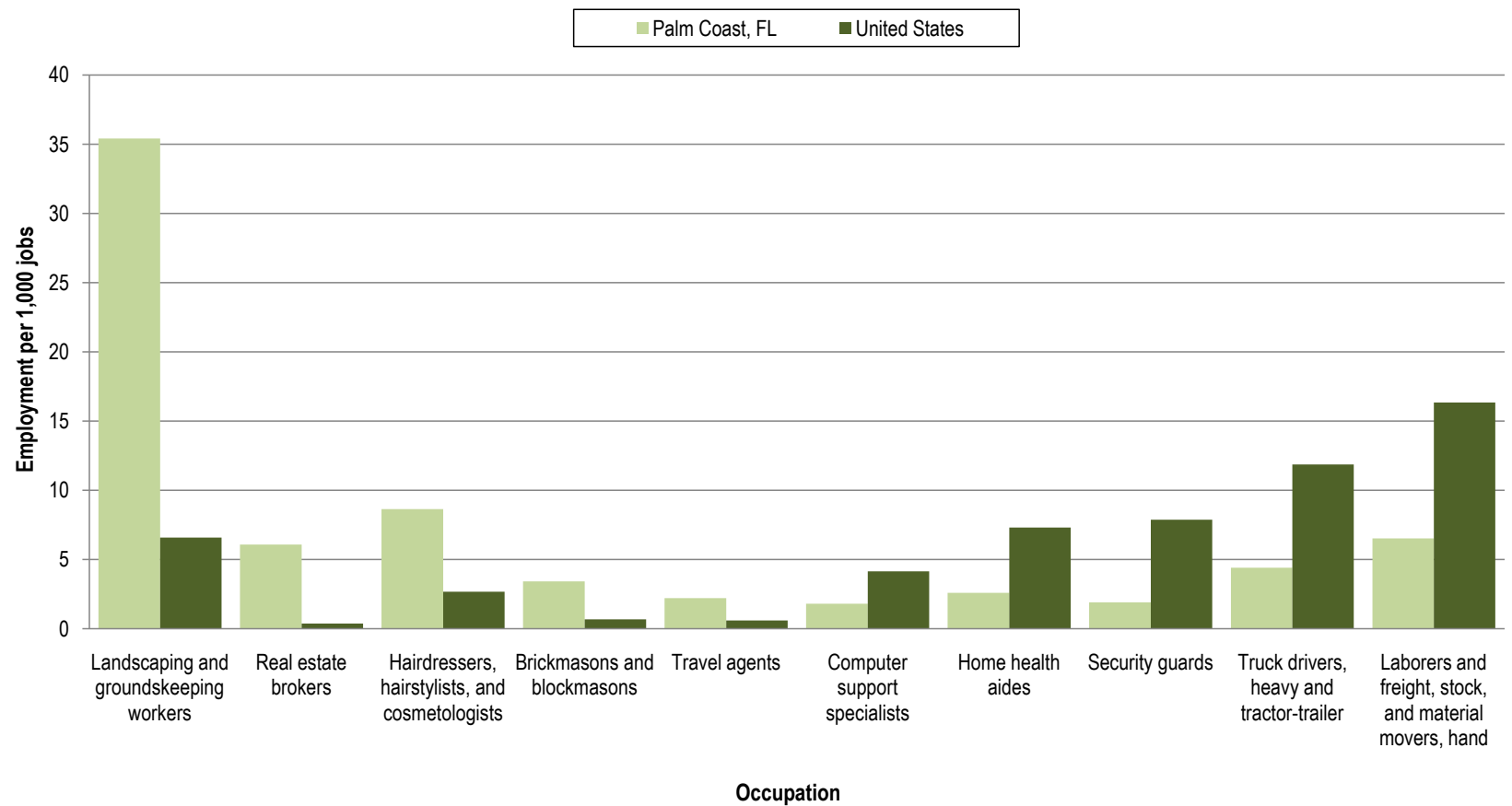
Palm Coast, FL, had an above-average employment share of landscaping and groundskeeping workers, while Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH, had above-average shares of several production occupations.

### Figure 37

- As a share of total employment, Palm Coast, FL, had approximately 16 times as many real estate brokers and 5 times as many landscaping and groundskeeping workers as the United States as a whole. Palm Coast also had above-average employment shares of hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists; brickmasons and blockmasons; and travel agents.

- Security guards accounted for only about 2 out of every 1,000 jobs in Palm Coast, compared with 8 out of every 1,000 jobs in the United States. Employment shares in Palm Coast were less than half of those in the United States for computer support specialists; home health aides; heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; and laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers.

Employment shares for selected occupations in Palm Coast, FL, and the United States, May 2009

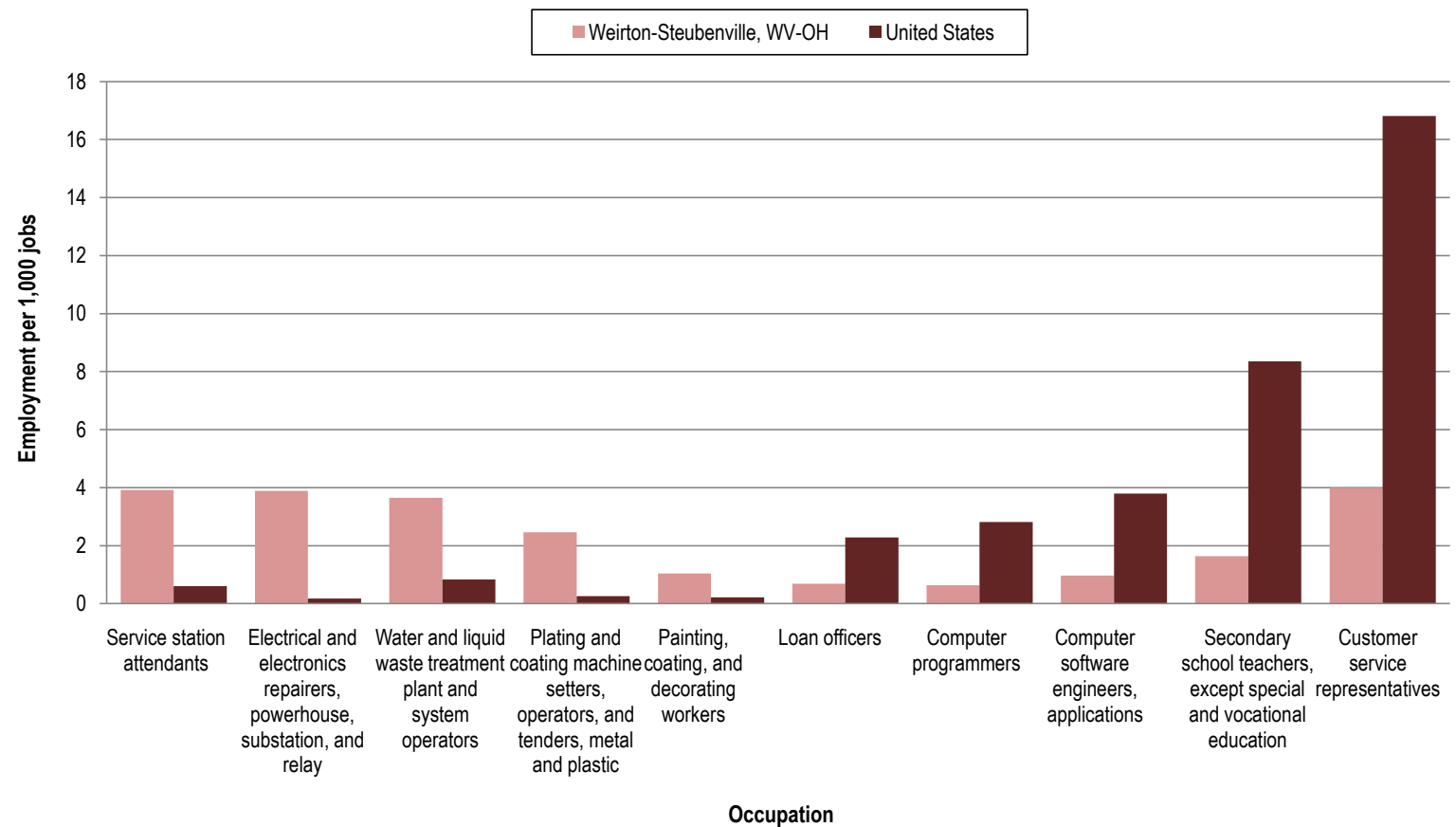


## Figure 38

- Electrical and electronics repairers, powerhouse, substation, and relay made up nearly 4 jobs out of every 1,000 in Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH, but less than one job out of every 5,000 in the United States as a whole. Weirton-Steubenville also had above-average employment shares of service station attendants and several production occupations, including water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators; plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic; and painting, coating, and decorating workers.

- Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education, made up fewer than 2 jobs per 1,000 in Weirton-Steubenville, compared with about 8 jobs per 1,000 in the United States. Other occupations with below-average employment shares in Weirton-Steubenville included loan officers; customer service representatives; and two IT-related occupations, computer support specialists and computer software engineers, applications.

Employment shares for selected occupations in Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH, and the United States, May 2009

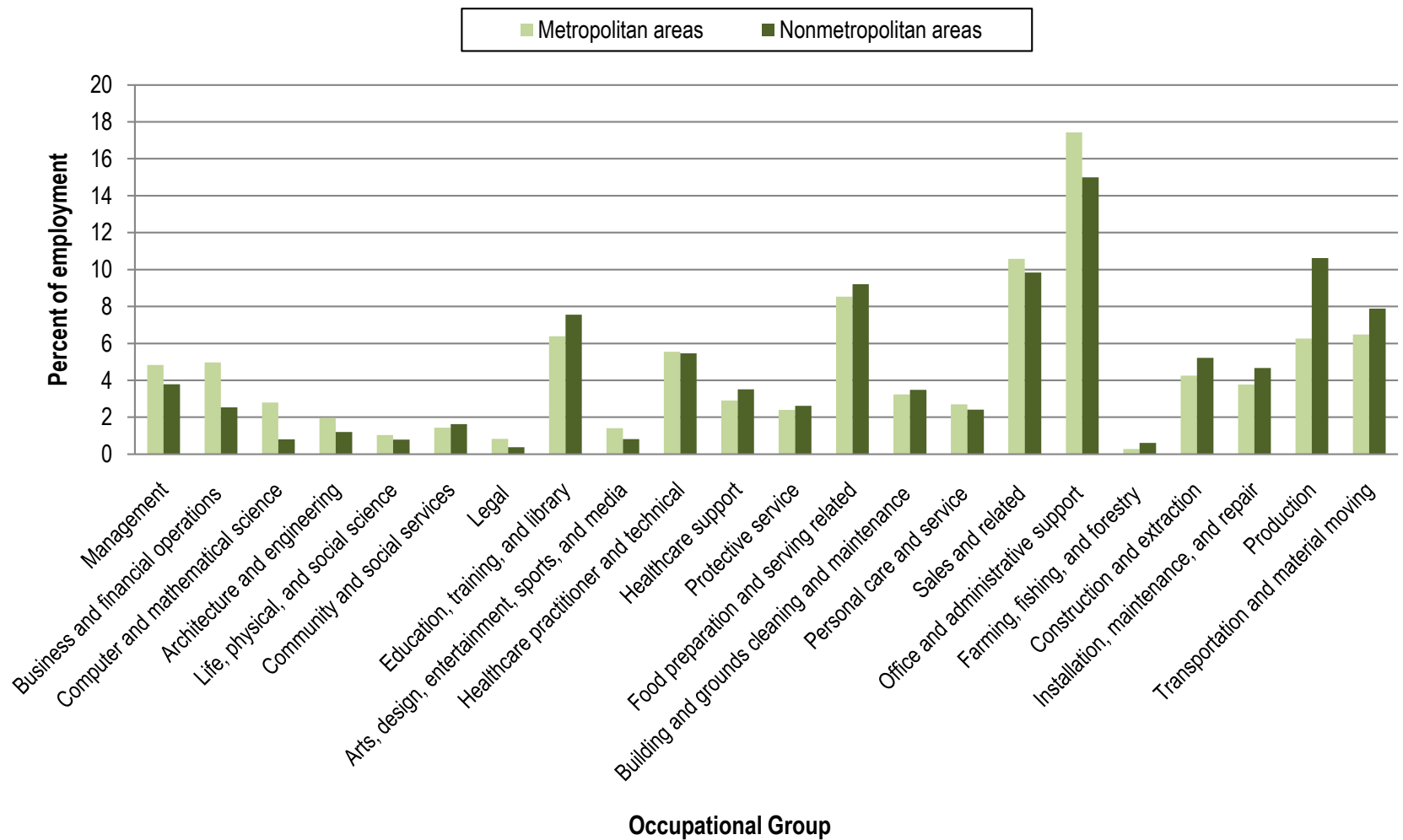


Nonmetropolitan areas had higher shares of employment in production occupations than metropolitan areas.

## Figure 39

- As a share of total employment, metropolitan areas had more than twice as many legal jobs as nonmetropolitan areas, and more than three times as many computer and mathematical science jobs.
- Compared with nonmetropolitan areas, metropolitan areas also had higher shares of management; business and financial operations; architecture and engineering; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations.
- Production occupations made up 10.6 percent of employment in nonmetropolitan areas, but only 6.3 percent of employment in metropolitan areas. Nonmetropolitan areas also had higher employment shares of farming, fishing, and forestry; construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and transportation and material moving occupations.

Distribution of employment in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, by occupational groups, May 2009





Four occupations associated with finance and insurance had 96 percent or more of employment in metropolitan areas: actuaries; insurance appraisers, auto damage; financial analysts; and brokerage clerks.



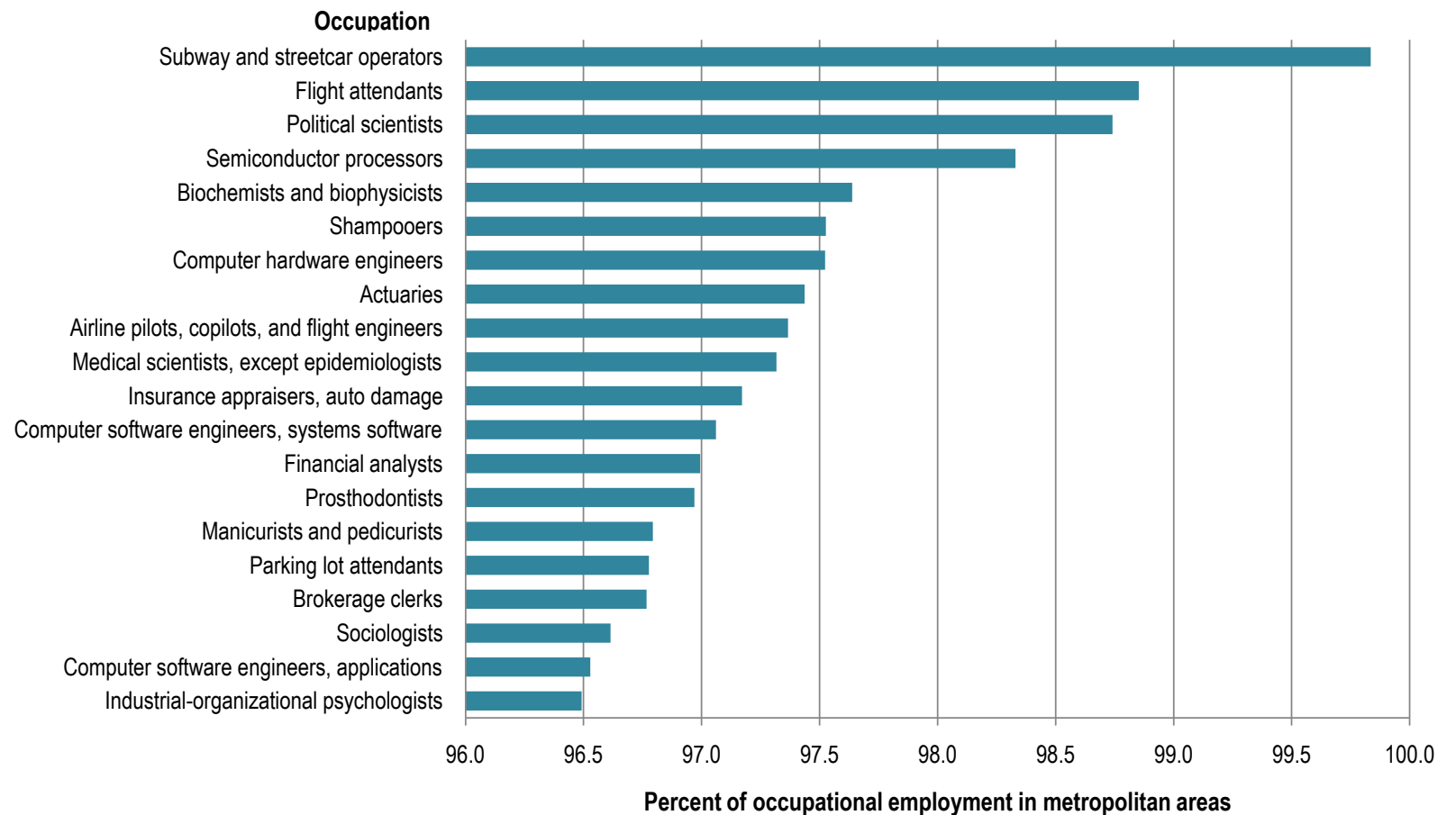
## Figure 40

- The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, metropolitan area had the highest employment of all four occupations, with nearly one out of every five financial analysts and one out of every four brokerage clerks located in this area.

- Five life, physical, and social science occupations were found almost entirely in metropolitan areas: political scientists; biochemists and biophysicists; medical scientists, except epidemiologists; sociologists; and industrial-organizational psychologists.

- Several occupations associated with air travel and public transportation were concentrated almost exclusively in metropolitan areas. Other occupations concentrated in metropolitan areas included several IT occupations, such as semiconductor processors and computer hardware engineers, as well as two personal care occupations, shampooers and manicurists and pedicurists.

Occupations with the highest concentration of employment in metropolitan areas, May 2009

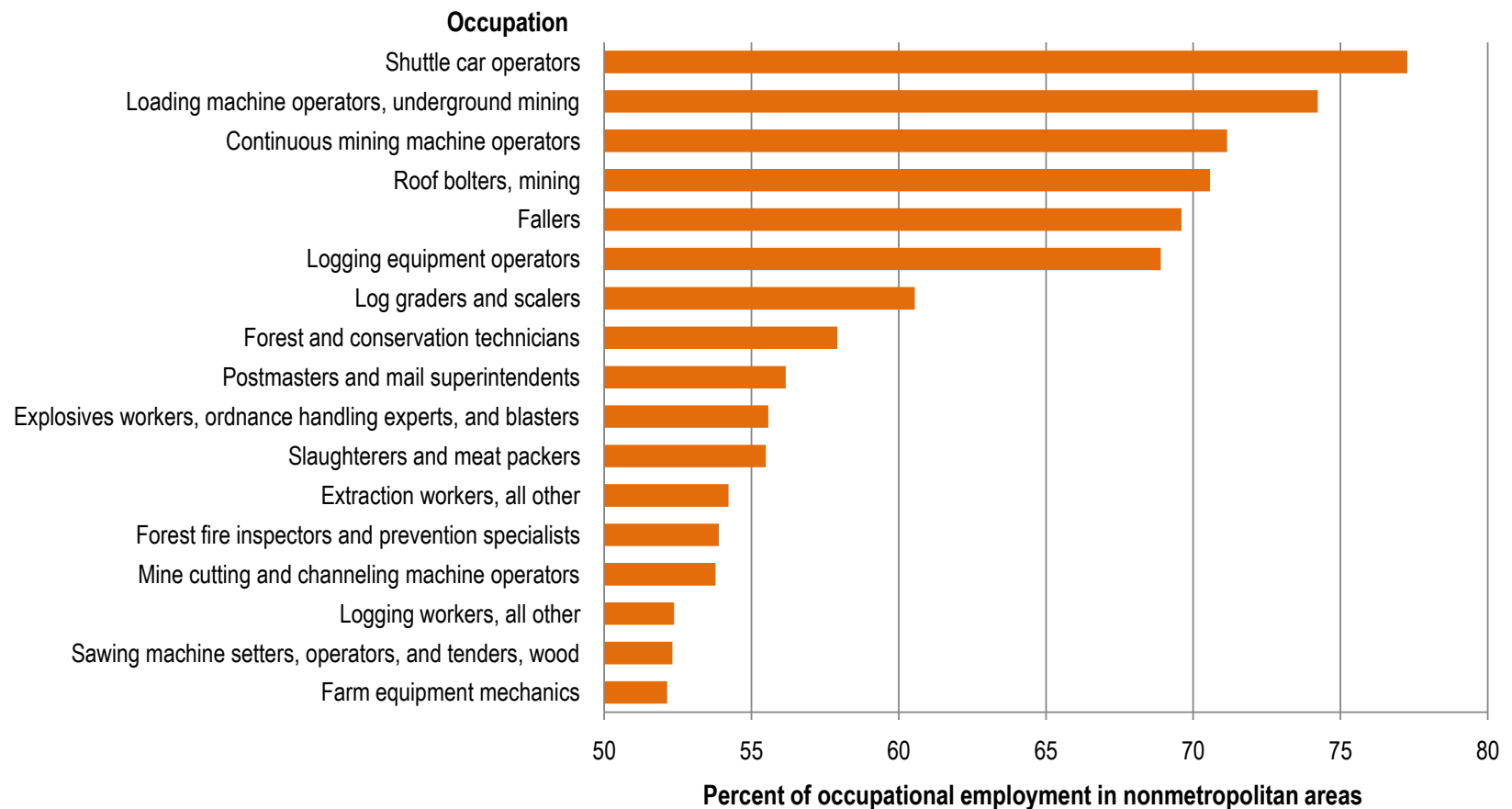


Nonmetropolitan areas accounted for 14 percent of U.S. jobs in May 2009, but 50 percent or more of employment in the occupations in figure 41.

## Figure 41

- More than three-quarters of shuttle car operators were employed in nonmetropolitan areas. Other mining occupations also were found predominantly in nonmetropolitan areas, such as loading machine operators, underground mining; continuous mining machine operators; and roof bolters, mining.
- Several logging occupations were concentrated in nonmetropolitan areas, including fallers, logging equipment operators, and log graders and scalers. Two occupations related to forestry—forest and conservation technicians and forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists—also were found mainly in nonmetropolitan areas.
- Other occupations with the majority of employment in nonmetropolitan areas included postmasters and mail superintendents; slaughterers and meat packers; and farm equipment mechanics.

Occupations found primarily in nonmetropolitan areas, May 2009



Wages for most occupations were higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas, but the wage differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas were particularly large for the 20 occupations shown in figure 42.

## Figure 42

- In metropolitan areas, hourly mean wages were above the U.S. all-occupations average of \$20.90 for all of the occupations shown, with the exception of radio and television announcers, which had an hourly mean similar to the U.S. average. In nonmetropolitan areas, 13 out of the 20 occupations had wages below the U.S. average.

- Actors had one of the largest wage differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas: wages for this occupation were 114 percent higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas. Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations make up 11 of the 20 occupations shown in figure 42. Other occupations with large wage differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas included administrative law judges, adjudicators, and hearing officers; lawyers; police and sheriff's patrol officers; and two occupations related to advertising—advertising and promotions managers and advertising sales agents.

Occupations with the largest percentage wage differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, May 2009

Occupation	Mean hourly wage, metropolitan areas	Mean hourly wage, nonmetropolitan areas	Percentage difference between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan mean hourly wages
Actors	\$29.52	\$13.81	114
Broadcast news analysts	34.27	17.38	97
Producers and directors	42.31	23.02	84
Radio and television announcers	21.98	12.17	81
Film and video editors	30.99	17.95	73
Reporters and correspondents	22.21	13.23	68
Administrative law judges, adjudicators, and hearing officers	43.71	26.49	65
Writers and authors	31.84	19.63	62
Advertising and promotions managers	47.96	30.22	59
Art directors	44.52	28.08	59
Multi-media artists and animators	30.34	19.18	58
Artists and related workers, all other	28.69	18.14	58
Lawyers	63.15	40.32	57
Economists	47.09	30.27	56
Historians	28.45	18.79	51
Editors	28.72	19.34	49
Advertising sales agents	26.42	17.80	48
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	27.91	18.82	48
Financial managers	56.19	37.98	48
Camera operators, television, video, and motion picture	24.03	16.25	48



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