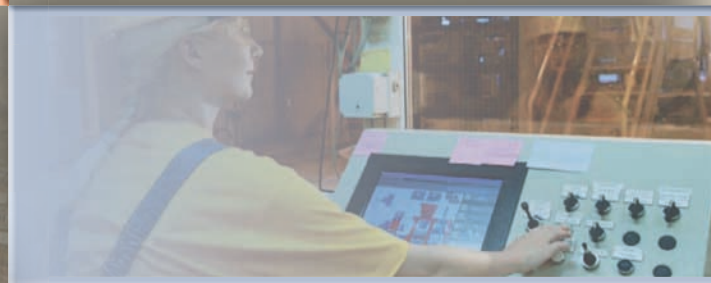
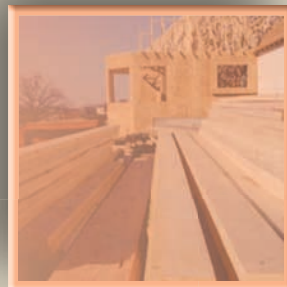


# Occupational Employment and Wages, 2010

October 2011    Bulletin 2769









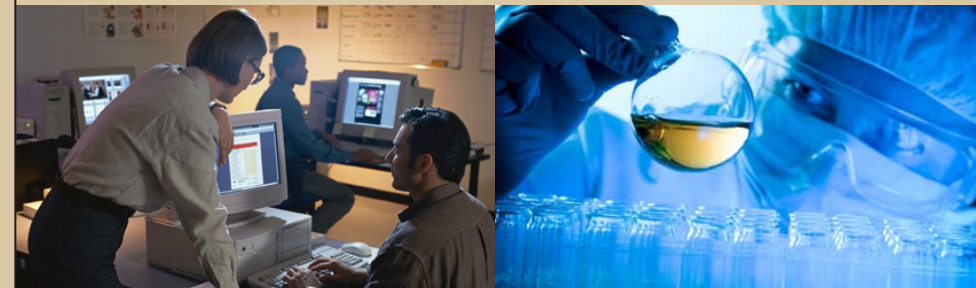
# Occupational Employment and Wages, 2010

U.S. Department of Labor  
Hilda L. Solis, *Secretary*

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Keith Hall, *Commissioner*

October 2011

Bulletin 2769



## Preface

*This chartbook, Occupational Employment and Wages, 2010, 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 nearly 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 380 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 nearly 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 2007 and May 2010. Wage data for all establishments were updated to the May 2010 reference period, and employment data were updated to the average of the November 2009 and the May 2010 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 Microsoft 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 chart book is possible through 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 Claudia Calderón, Benjamin Cover, Swati Patel, Laurie Salmon, George Stamas, and Audrey Watson. Cover art, typesetting, and layout were performed by Bruce Boyd and editorial services were provided by Maureen Soyars.





# Contents

<i>Page</i>	<i>Overview</i>
iv	Preface
vi	Acknowledgments
x	Organization of charts and applications of OES data
xi	OES survey coverage, scope, and concept definitions
2	Figure 1 Employment and percent of total employment for the largest and smallest occupational groups, May 2010
3	Figure 2 Annual mean wages for the highest and lowest paying occupational groups, May 2010
4	Figure 3 Distribution of private and public sector employment by selected occupational group, May 2010
6	Figure 4 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in the private sector, May 2010
7	Figure 5 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in the public sector, May 2010
8	Figure 6 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in retail trade, May 2010
<i>Page</i>	<i>STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)</i>
12	Figure 7 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest STEM occupations, May 2010
13	Figure 8 Industry employment for biomedical engineers, May 2010
14	Figure 9 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in scientific research and development services, May 2010
15	Figure 10 Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in communications equipment manufacturing, May 2010
16	Figure 11 Annual mean wages for the highest and lowest paying life and physical science occupations, May 2010
17	Figure 12 Annual mean wages for the highest and lowest paying architecture and engineering occupations, May 2010
18	Figure 13 Metropolitan areas with the highest concentrations of biochemists and biophysicists, May 2010
19	Figure 14 Metropolitan areas with the highest concentrations of mechanical engineers, May 2010
20	Figure 15 STEM occupations with the highest location quotients in Framingham, MA, May 2010
<i>Page</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
24	Figure 16 Wages for selected health assistants, May 2010
25	Figure 17 Wages for selected health aides, May 2010
26	Figure 18 Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in general medical and surgical hospitals, May 2010



# Contents

<i>Page</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
27	Figure 19 Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in the medical and diagnostic laboratories industry, May 2010
28	Figure 20 Employment by occupational group in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers, May 2010
29	Figure 21 Employment by occupational group in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities, May 2010
30	Figure 22 Employment of selected healthcare workers in non-healthcare related industries, May 2010
31	Figure 23 Location quotient of medical transcriptionists, by area, May 2010
<i>Page</i>	<i>Construction</i>
34	Figure 24 Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest construction occupations, May 2010
35	Figure 25 Construction occupations with the highest mean wages, May 2010
36	Figure 26 Employment of the largest occupations in the building construction industry, May 2010
37	Figure 27 Mean hourly wages of the largest occupations in the building construction industry, May 2010
38	Figure 28 Construction occupations with the largest percent decrease in employment between May 2006 and May 2010
39	Figure 29 Construction occupations with an increase in employment between May 2006 and May 2010
40	Figure 30 States with the largest percent decrease in employment of construction occupations from May 2006 to May 2010
41	Figure 31 States with an increase in employment of construction occupations from May 2006 to May 2010
42	Figure 32 Location quotients for construction occupations in Pascagoula, MS, May 2010
43	Figure 33 Construction occupations in the San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA, metropolitan division with mean wages at least 55 percent higher than average, May 2010
<i>Page</i>	<i>Manufacturing</i>
46	Figure 34 Employment and annual mean wages for the 10 largest occupations in manufacturing, May 2010
47	Figure 35 Highest paying production occupations in manufacturing, May 2010
48	Figure 36 Location quotient of team assemblers, by state, May 2010
49	Figure 37 Annual mean wage of team assemblers, by state, May 2010
50	Figure 38 Occupations with the largest location quotients in Elkhart-Goshen, IN, May 2010
52	Figure 39 Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in textile mills, May 2010
53	Figure 40 Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in chemical manufacturing, May 2010

## 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 five sections: the first focuses on a general overview of OES data, the others highlight occupational, geographic, and industry topics in jobs related to construction, healthcare, manufacturing, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The following are 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 the staffing pattern of one's own company.** Occupational employment 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.

Information about geographic areas 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 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 alternative 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 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. Most occupations are classified by the 2010 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 is the average employment for the most recent May and November (in this chartbook, May 2010 and November 2009). Employment is defined 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 whose 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; and tips. 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 website. The nationwide response rate for the May 2010 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. More information on sampling and estimation methodology can be found in the survey methods and reliability statement on website at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf).







# Overview

Office and administrative support occupations made up more than one out of every six jobs in the United States.

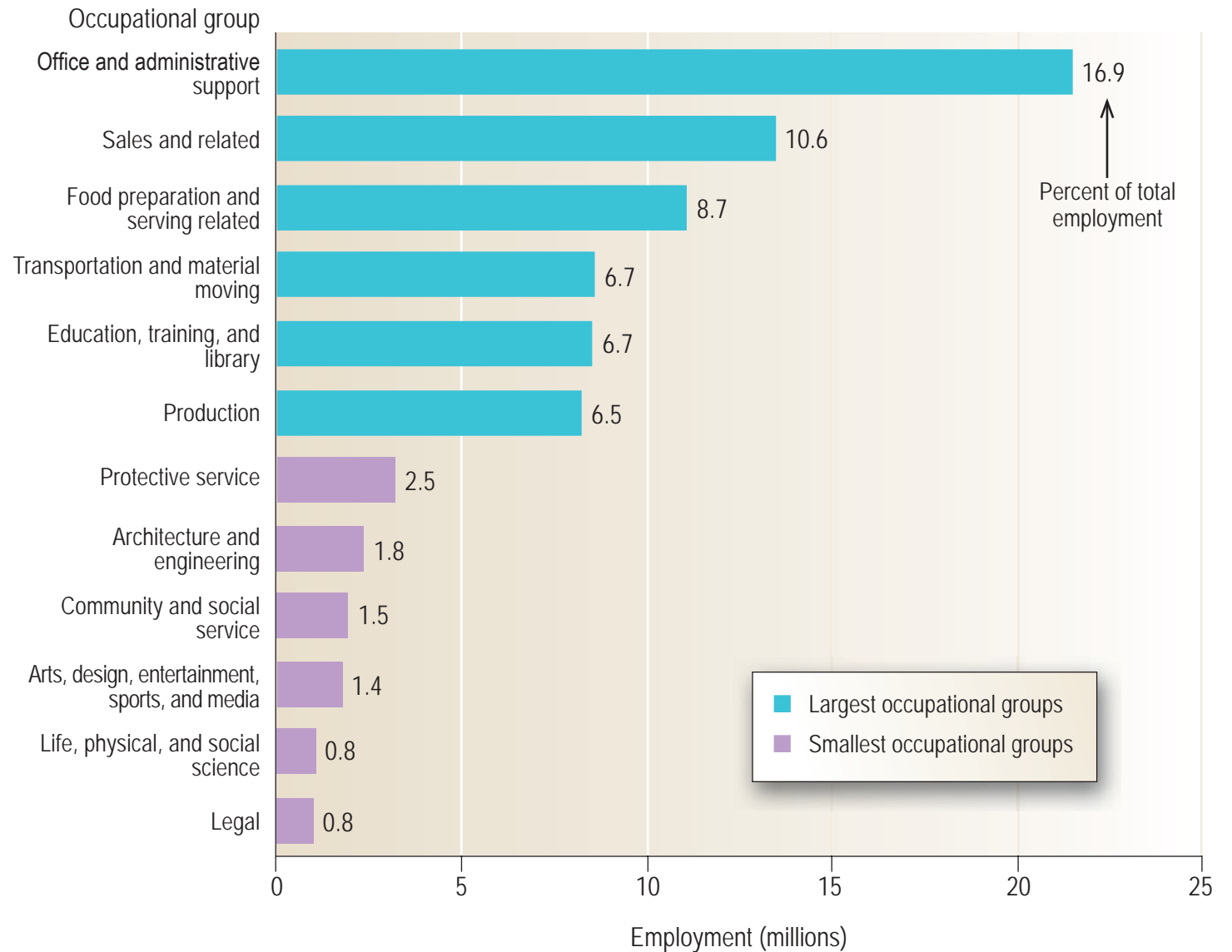
Figure 1

- Office and administrative support was the largest occupational group in the United States, making up 17 percent of employment. Three of the 10 largest occupations were in this group: general office clerks; customer service representatives; and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive. Sales and related occupations was the second largest occupational group, and included the two largest individual occupations, retail salespersons and cashiers.

- The smallest occupational groups each made up 3 percent or less of U.S. employment. Several of these groups consisted primarily of occupations requiring postsecondary education, such as architects, social workers, and scientists.

- Four of the six smallest occupational groups had annual mean wages above the U.S. all-occupations average of \$44,410; all of the largest occupational groups, except the education, training, and library group, had below-average wages.

Employment and percent of total employment for the largest and smallest occupational groups, May 2010\*



\*Excludes farming, fishing, and forestry occupations because OES does not cover the majority of the agricultural sector.



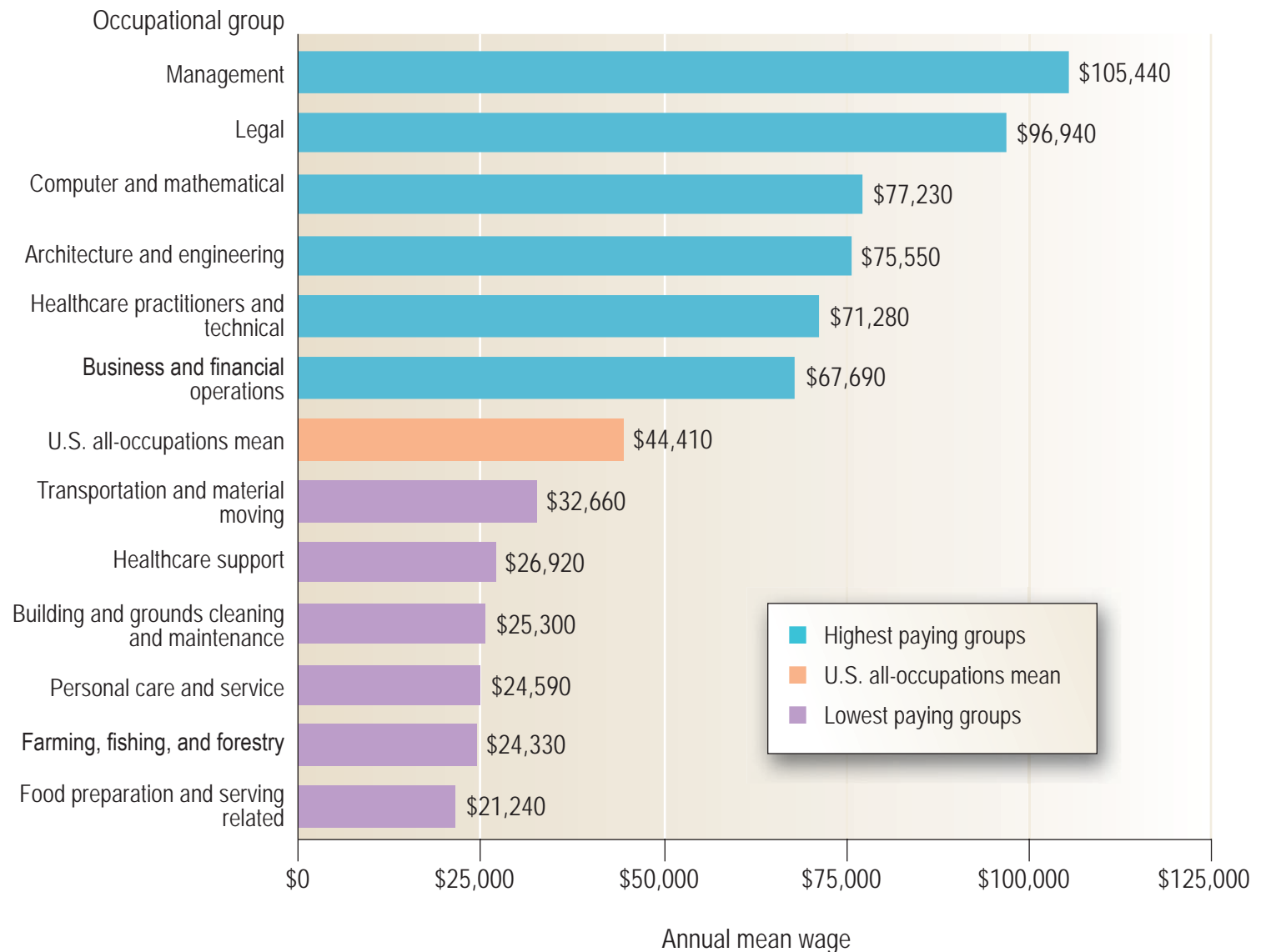
The average wage for the highest paying occupational group was nearly five times that of the lowest paying group.



Figure 2

- Annual mean wages by occupational group ranged from \$21,240 for food preparation and serving related occupations to \$105,440 for management occupations. Nearly every management occupation had an average wage above the U.S. all-occupations mean of \$44,410, while nearly all food preparation and serving related occupations had an annual mean wage of less than \$25,000.
- Although healthcare practitioners and technical occupations included some of the highest paying individual occupations, this group also included occupations with more moderate wages, such as dietetic technicians (\$28,820).
- Among the low-paying occupational groups, transportation and material moving had the highest paying individual occupations, including air traffic controllers (\$110,280). However, the largest occupation in this group—laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers—had an average wage of \$25,710.

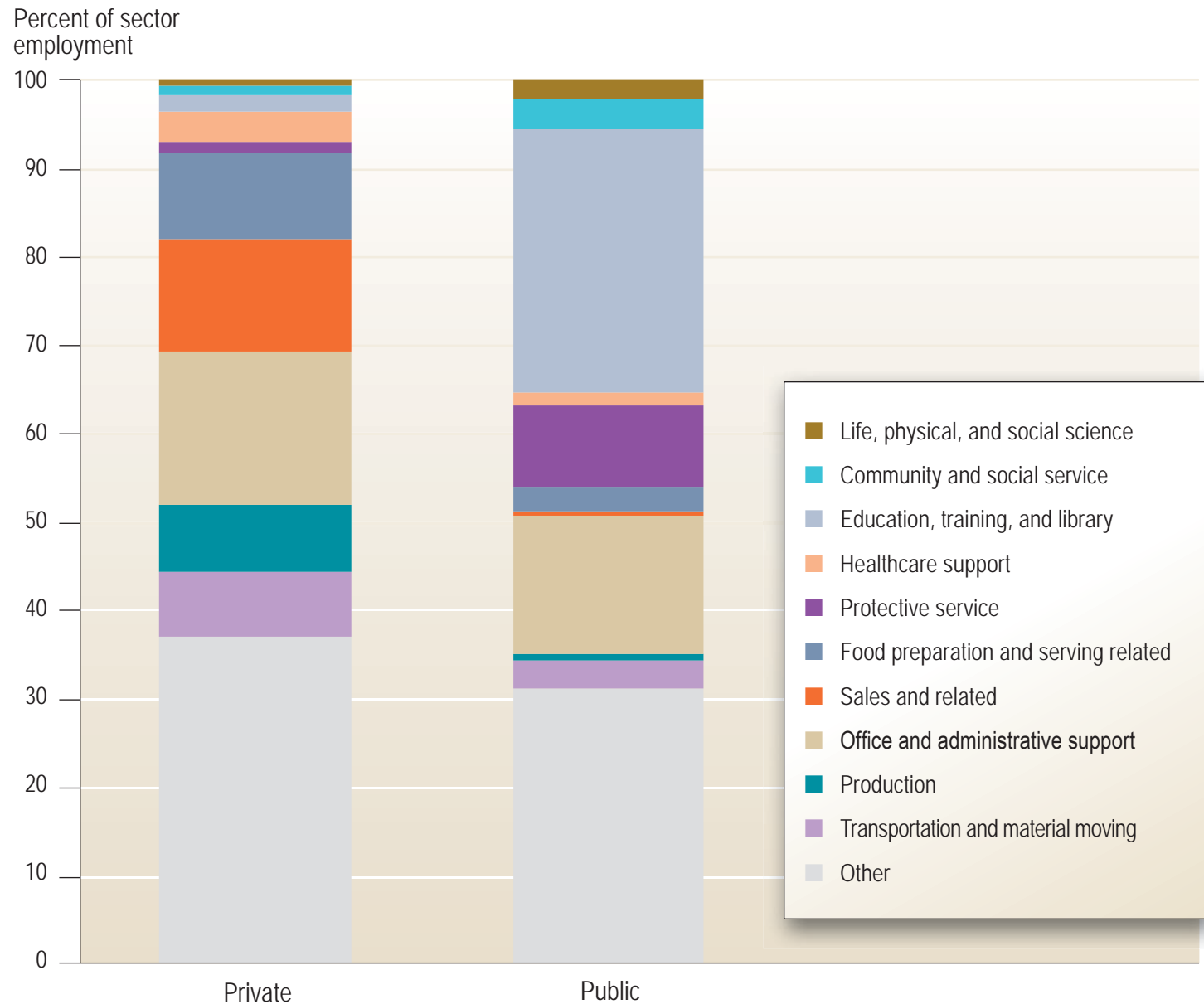
Annual mean wages for the highest and lowest paying occupational groups, May 2010



### Figure 3

- Occupational groups with below-average wages made up more than two-thirds of private sector employment, but less than one-third of public sector employment.
- Sales and related occupations was the second-largest occupational group in the private sector, but it was one of the smallest occupational groups in the public sector. The private sector also had higher employment shares of most other occupational groups that had below-average wages, including food preparation and serving related occupations and production occupations.
- Education, training, and library was the largest occupational group in the public sector, making up 30 percent of public sector employment, but less than 2 percent of private sector employment.

Distribution of private and public sector employment by selected occupational group, May 2010







## Figure 4

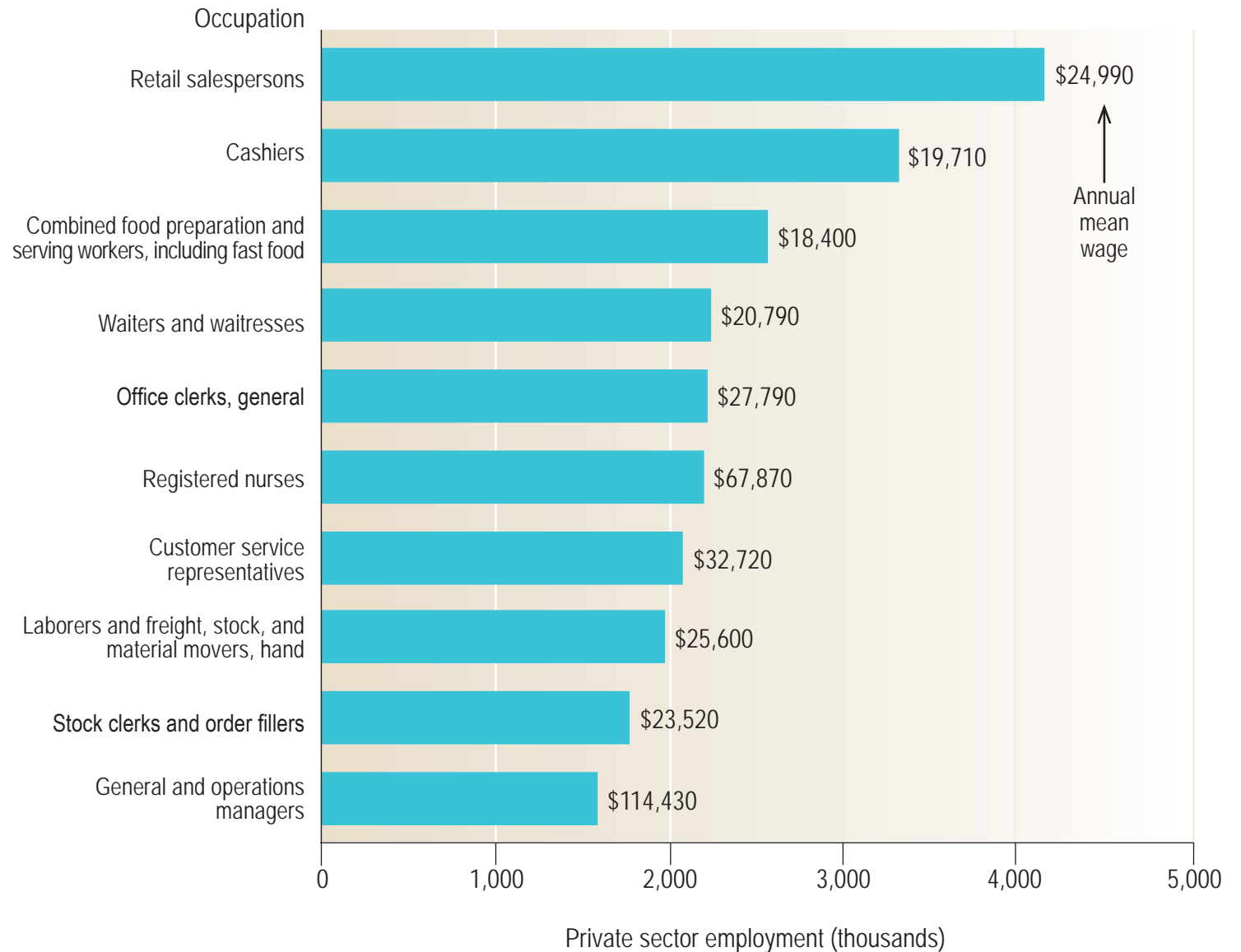
- Retail salespersons and cashiers were the two largest private sector occupations, making up about 7 percent of private sector employment.

- Ninety-four percent of employment in the 10 occupations shown in figure 4 was in the private sector. Among the individual occupations shown, private sector employment ranged from 79 percent of general office clerks to nearly 100 percent of retail salespersons and waiters and waitresses.

- All of the 10 largest private sector occupations also were among the 10 largest occupations overall, except for stock clerks and order fillers and general and operations managers, which were the 11th and 12th largest occupations overall.

- Most of the largest private sector occupations were relatively low paying. Of the 10 largest private sector occupations, only general and operations managers and registered nurses had annual mean wages above the U.S. all-occupations average of \$44,410.

### Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in the private sector, May 2010

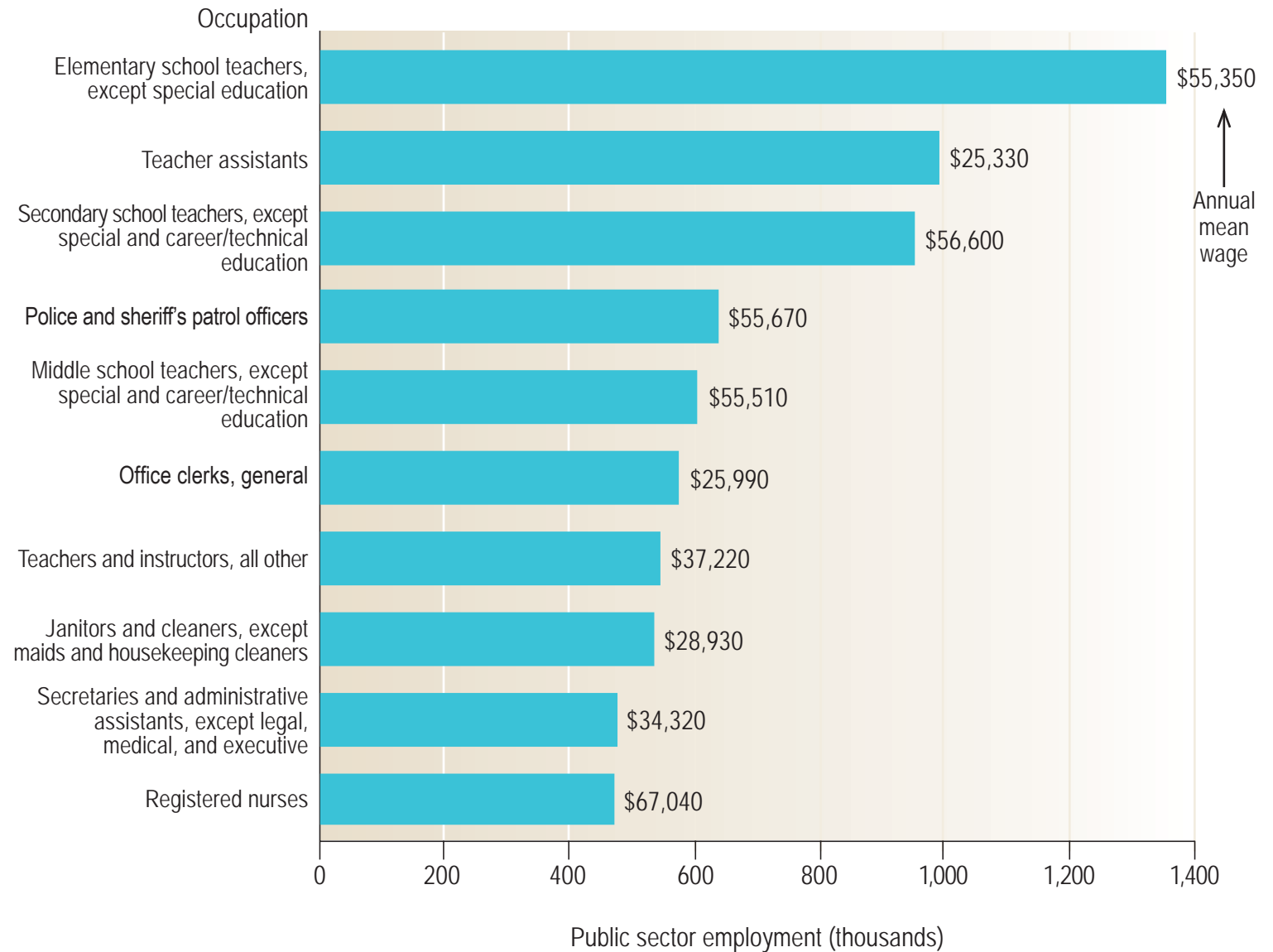




## Figure 5

- Teacher assistants and elementary, secondary, and middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education made up about 18 percent of public sector employment. These occupations were found primarily in local government, where they made up over one-quarter of total employment.
- Police and sheriff's patrol officers, general office clerks, and janitors were among the largest occupations in both state and local government, and registered nurses was among the largest occupations at all levels of government.
- In addition to the occupations shown in the chart, the largest occupations in local government included firefighters and school or special client bus drivers. Correctional officers was the largest individual occupation in state government. Four occupations specific to the U.S. Postal Service made up about 21 percent of federal government employment; compliance officers and management analysts also were among the largest federal government occupations.

Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in the public sector, May 2010



Four occupations made up over 60 percent of retail trade employment.

## Figure 6

- Jobs in retail trade businesses accounted for nearly 12 percent of U.S. jobs, making it one of the largest industry sectors, along with healthcare and social assistance, educational services, manufacturing, and accommodation and food services.

- More than 60 percent of retail trade jobs were in just four occupations: retail salespersons, cashiers, stock clerks and order fillers, and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

- All of the 10 largest retail trade occupations had annual mean wages below the U.S. all-occupations average of \$44,410. The high share of lower paying jobs in retail trade helped account for this sector's relatively low overall average wage of \$28,980.













## STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)

STEM occupations are technical jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Although many possible definitions exist, the STEM group is defined here to include computer and mathematical, architecture and engineering, and life and physical science occupations, as well as managerial and postsecondary teaching occupations related to these functional areas, and sales occupations requiring scientific or technical knowledge at the postsecondary level. For more information on STEM occupations, see “Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations: a visual essay” in the May 2011 issue of *Monthly Labor Review*, available online at [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2011/05/art1full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2011/05/art1full.pdf).

## Figure 7

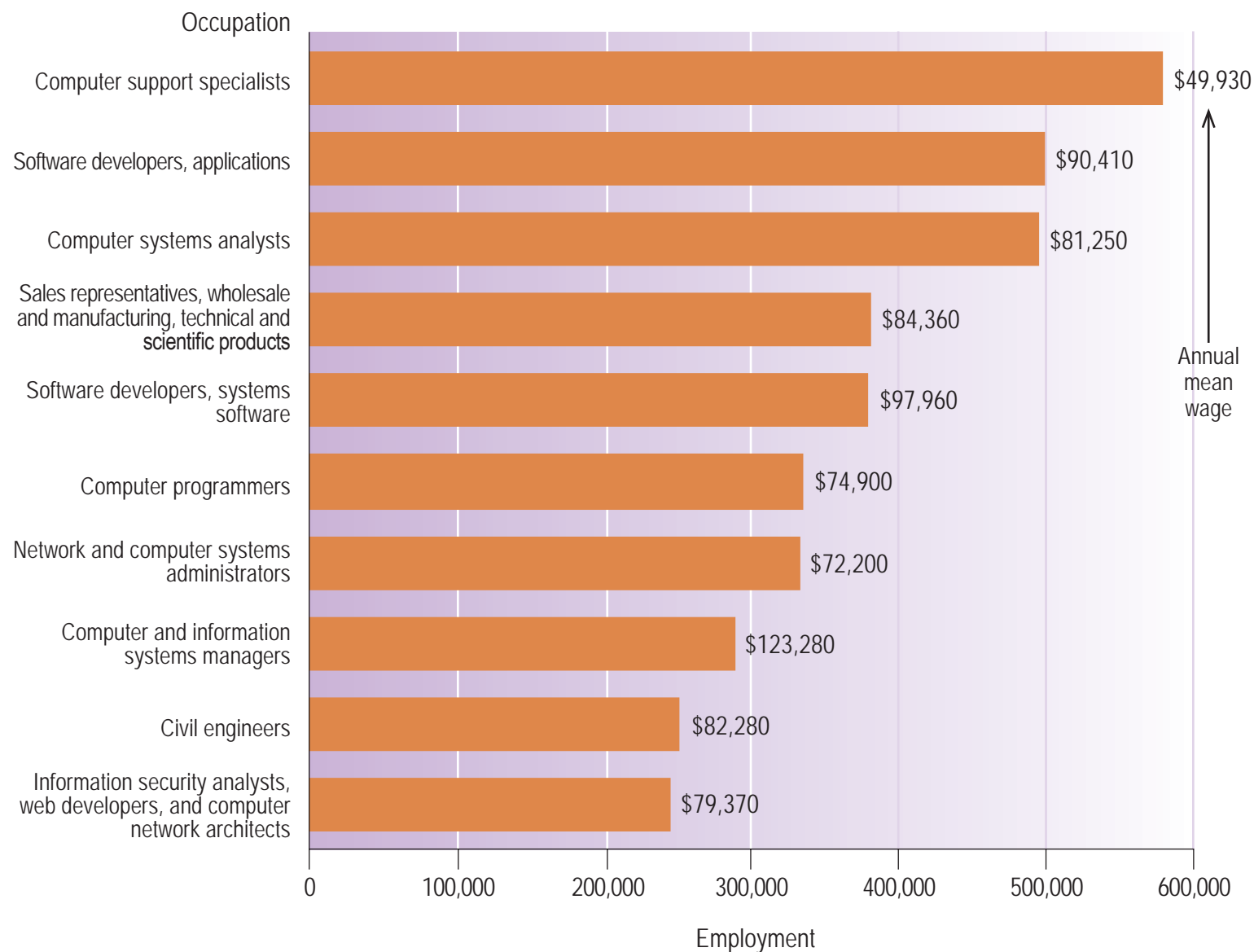
- Eight of the 10 largest STEM occupations were related to computers and information technology, including computer support specialists, applications software developers, and computer systems analysts.

- Each of the 10 largest STEM occupations had employment of between 200,000 and 600,000. By comparison, the largest occupation overall, retail salespersons, had employment of nearly 4.2 million—more than the 10 largest STEM occupations combined.

- At the other end of the spectrum, the smallest STEM occupations included astronomers, with employment of 1,840; animal scientists (2,440); and agricultural engineers (2,520).

- STEM occupations were typically high paying. All of the 10 largest STEM occupations had annual mean wages above the U.S. all-occupations mean of \$44,410. The largest STEM occupation shown, computer support specialists, was also the lowest paying, with an annual mean wage of \$49,930.

### Employment and annual mean wages for the largest STEM occupations, May 2010

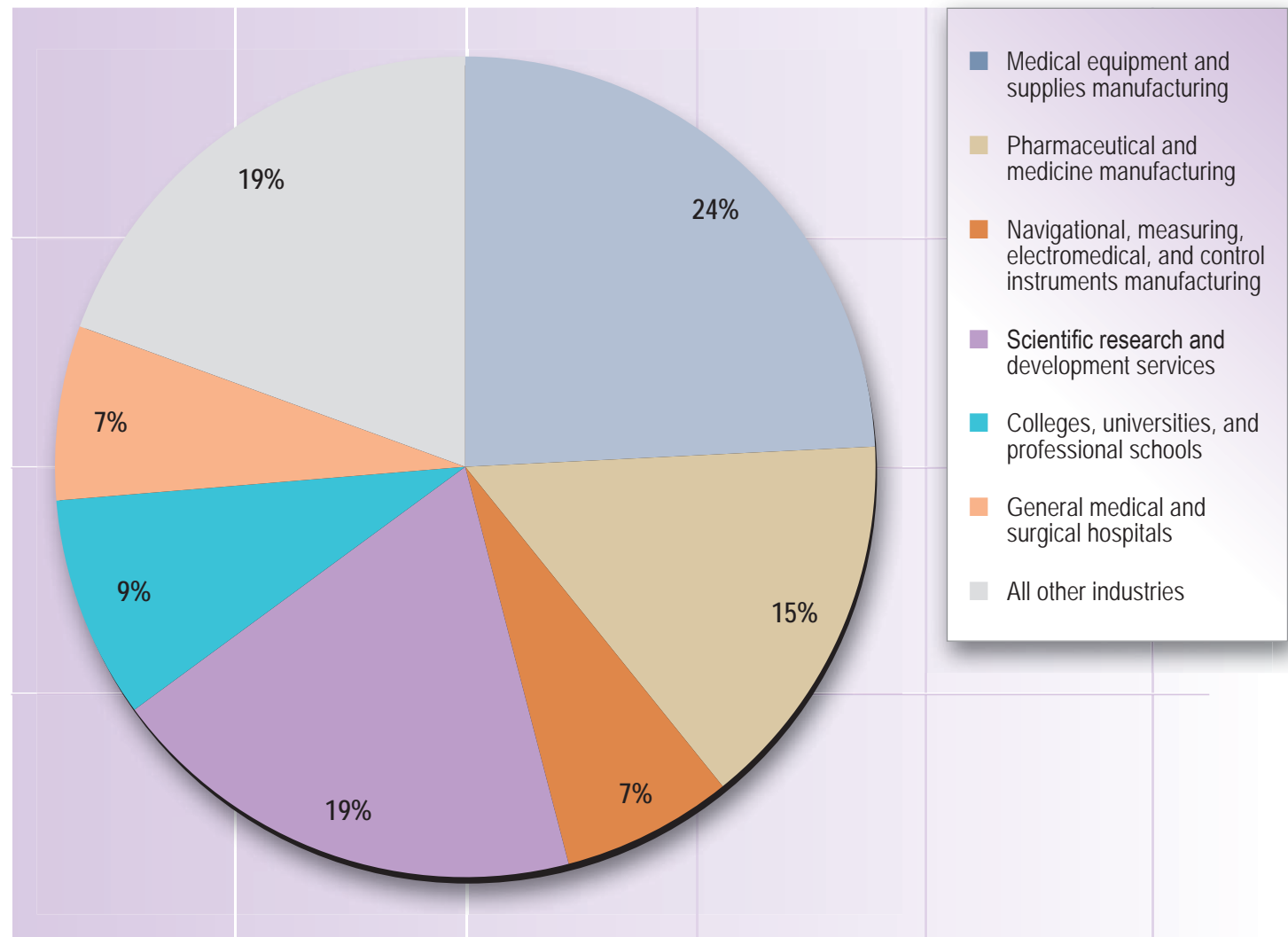




## Figure 8

- Twenty-five percent of employment was in medical equipment and supplies manufacturing, and an additional 15 percent was in pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing.
- The average wage for biomedical engineers in May 2010 was \$84,780.
- Out of the six major industries that employed biomedical engineers, two of the industries—scientific research and development services and navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing—had above-average wages for the occupation, while the remaining four had below-average wages.

Industry employment for biomedical engineers, May 2010



Nearly two out of every five medical scientists were employed in scientific research and development services.

## Figure 9

- Medical scientists, except epidemiologists, was the largest occupation in scientific research and development services, making up about 6 percent of industry employment. In contrast, this occupation made up less than 0.1 percent of overall employment. Thirty-seven percent of medical scientists were employed in the scientific research and development services industry.

- Other large STEM occupations in this industry included a mix of computer-related occupations, such as software developers; engineering occupations, such as mechanical engineers; and life and physical science occupations, such as chemists and biological technicians.

- The average wage in scientific research and development services was \$81,350, reflecting both the high concentration of high-paying occupations in this industry and above-average wages for specific occupations. This industry had higher-than-average wages for each of the individual occupations in the chart, including those that were not STEM occupations.

### Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in scientific research and development services, May 2010

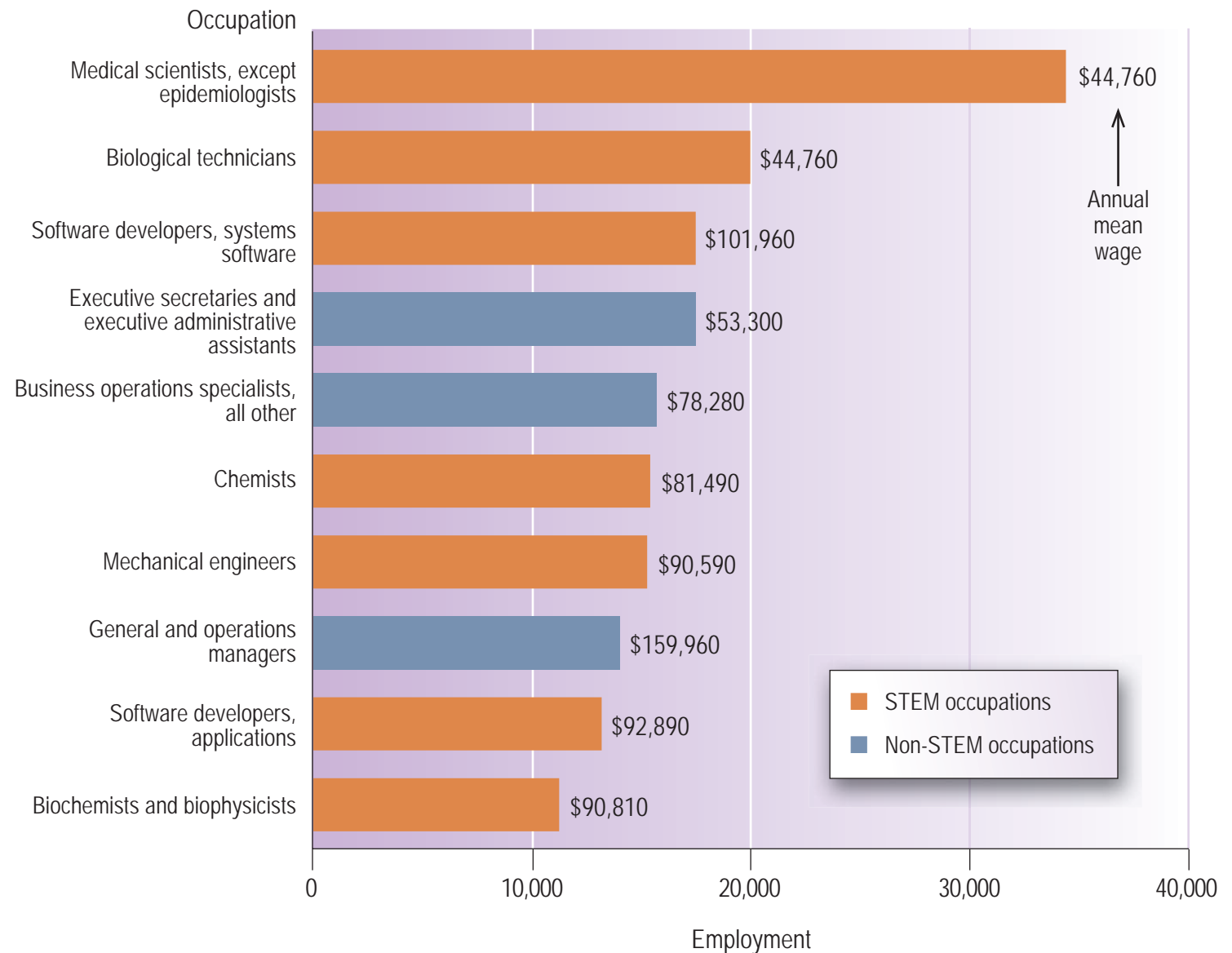




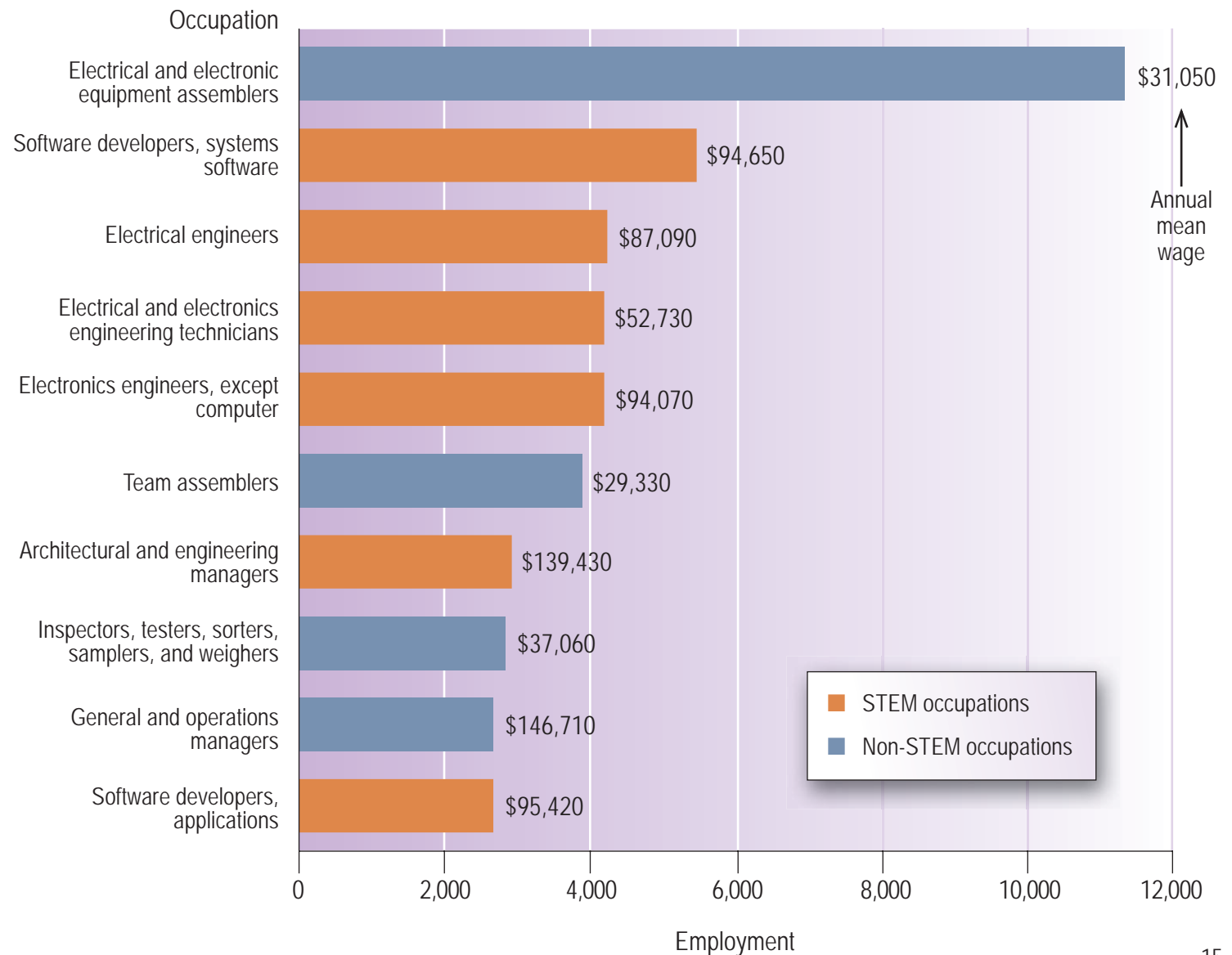
Figure 10

- The largest STEM occupations in communications equipment manufacturing were related to electronics or information technology and included such occupations as systems software developers and electrical engineers. The largest occupations in this industry also included general and operations managers and several production occupations.

- The six STEM occupations shown in figure 10 made up about 21 percent of employment in communications equipment manufacturing. However, because of its low overall employment, communications equipment manufacturing accounted for a relatively low share of jobs in these occupations. For example, only 1.4 percent of systems software developers were employed in this industry.

- Although wages among the largest individual occupations varied widely, communications equipment manufacturing was a high-paying industry overall, with an annual mean wage of \$68,900 across all occupations.

### Employment and annual mean wages for the largest occupations in communications equipment manufacturing, May 2010



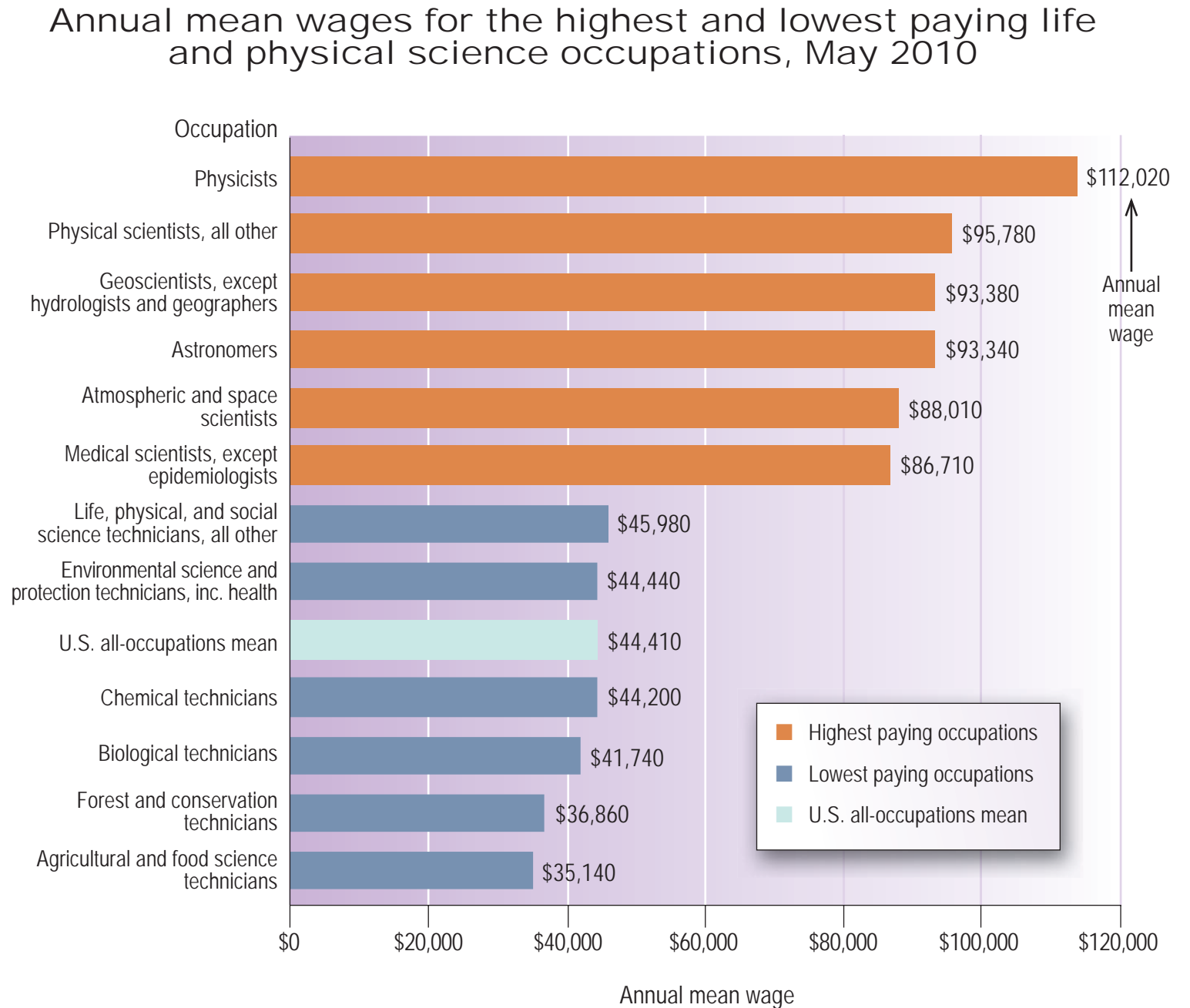
The highest paying life and physical science occupations had mean wages more than double the U.S. average.

Figure 11

- Twenty-five out of 30 life and physical science occupations had mean wages significantly above the U.S. all-occupations average.

- The highest paying life and physical science occupations included physicists, with an annual mean wage of \$112,020; geoscientists (\$93,380); and astronomers (\$93,340). These occupations typically required postsecondary education ranging from a bachelor's degree to a doctoral degree.

- Technician occupations tended to be lower paying. The lowest paying life and physical science occupations included chemical technicians, biological technicians, forest and conservation technicians, and agricultural and food science technicians, all of which had mean wages similar to or below the U.S. average.



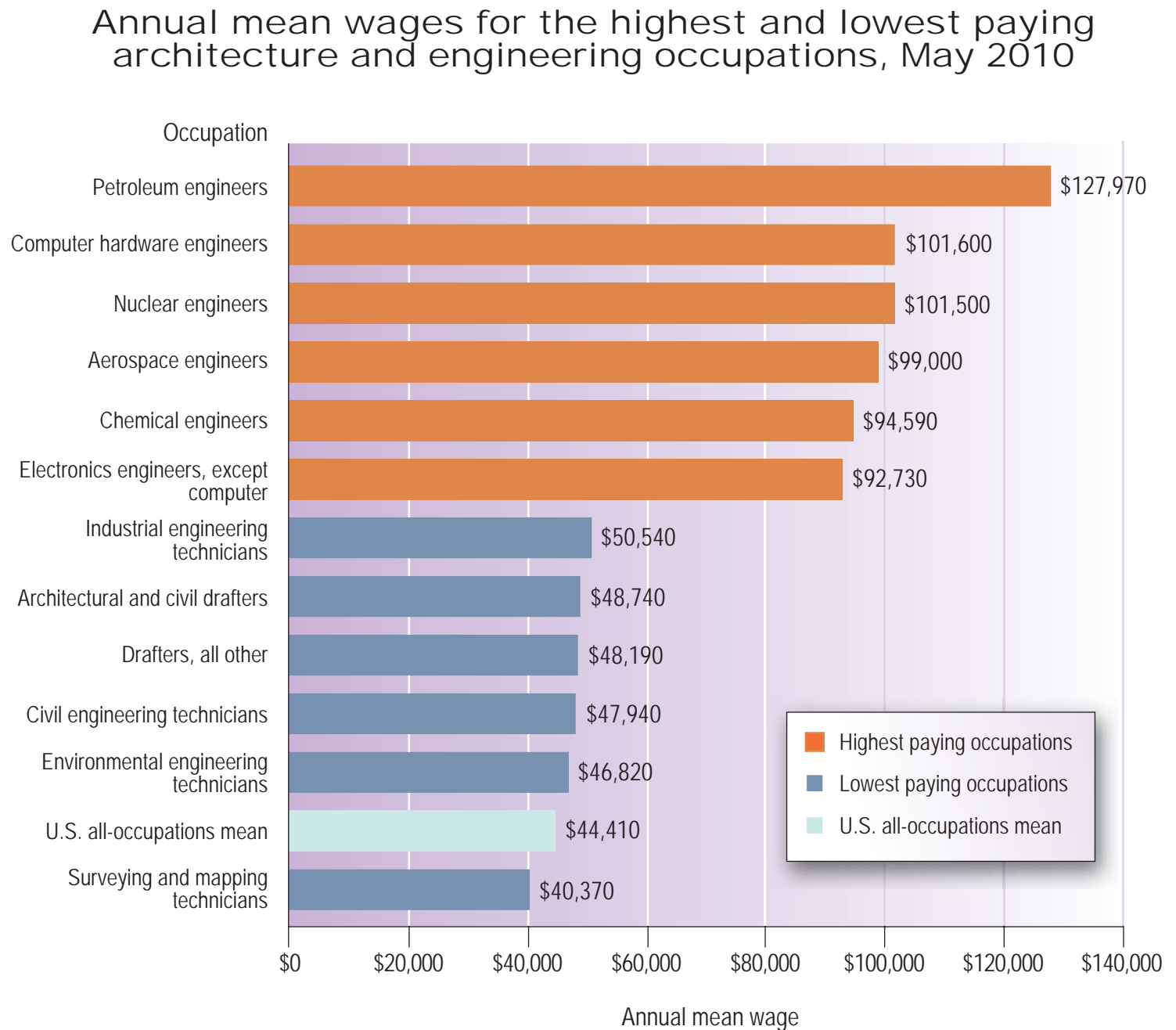


## Figure 12

- Surveying and mapping technicians was the only architecture and engineering occupation with a mean wage below the U.S. all-occupations average. More than half of architecture and engineering occupations had annual mean wages of \$75,000 or more.

- The highest paying architecture and engineering occupations included petroleum engineers, computer hardware engineers, and nuclear engineers, all with annual mean wages of over \$100,000. A bachelor's degree was the most common level of education for these occupations.

- In addition to surveying and mapping technicians, the lowest paying architecture and engineering occupations included several drafter and technician occupations, such as environmental engineering technicians, civil engineering technicians, and architecture and civil drafters. Workers in these occupations typically had a postsecondary vocational award or an associate's degree.



The employment share of biochemists and biophysicists in Durham, NC, was nearly 10 times the U.S. average.

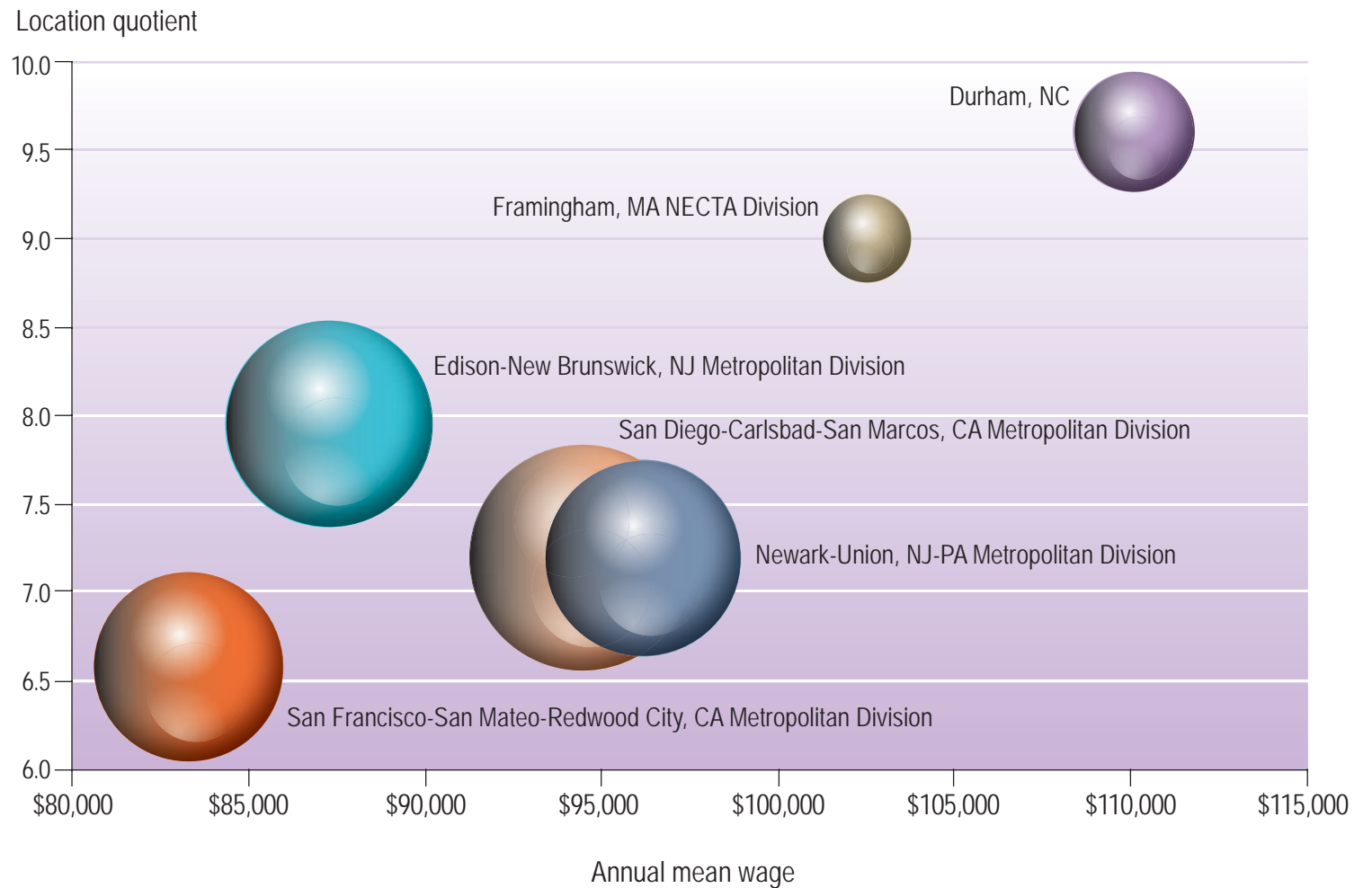
### Figure 13

- Biochemists and biophysicists had a location quotient of 9 in Framingham, MA, and nearly 10 in Durham, NC. Location quotients represent the ratio of an occupation's share of area employment relative to its share of national employment; a location quotient greater than one indicates that the occupation makes up an above-average share of local employment.

- Even in areas with high location quotients, this occupation made up a relatively small share of employment. For example, biochemists and biophysicists made up about 1.7 jobs per 1,000 in Durham, compared with about 0.2 jobs per 1,000 in the United States as a whole.

- The U.S. mean wage for biochemists and biophysicists was \$86,580 per year. Among the areas shown, wages ranged from \$83,300 in San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood County, CA, to \$110,090 in Durham, NC.

### Metropolitan areas with the highest concentrations of biochemists and biophysicists, May 2010

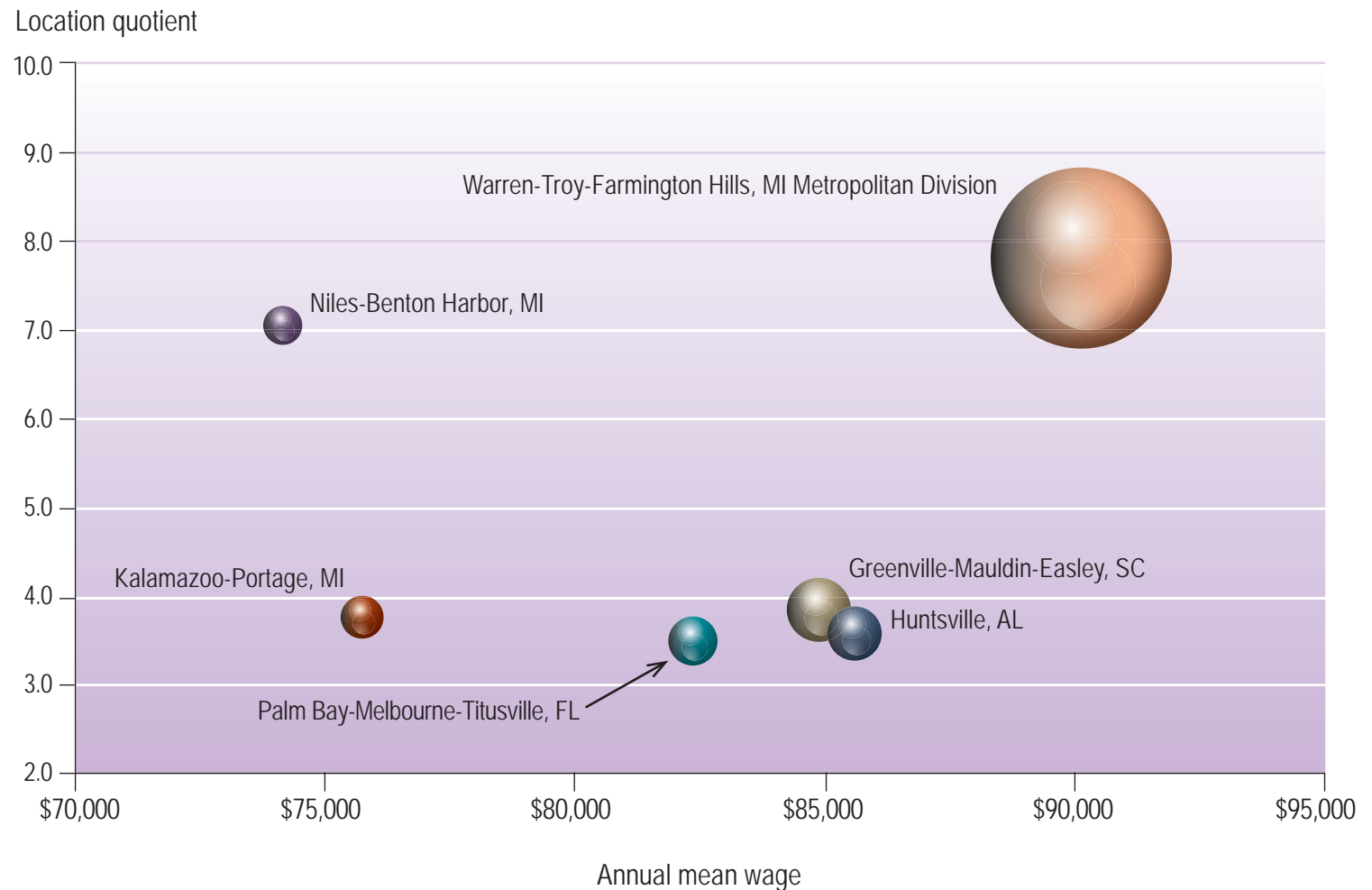


Note: Bubble size illustrates employment size comparisons. NECTAs represent New England City and Town Areas.

## Figure 14

- The Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI, metropolitan division had both the largest number of mechanical engineering jobs—14,680—and the highest location quotient for this occupation.
- High concentrations of mechanical engineers did not necessarily translate into high employment for this occupation. Excluding Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, employment of mechanical engineers in the areas shown ranged from 740 in Niles-Benton Harbor, MI, to 2,050 in Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC. In comparison, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA, metropolitan division had 5,770 mechanical engineering jobs, although the location quotient for this occupation was below 1 in this area.
- Of the six areas shown in figure 14, only Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI, and Huntsville, AL, had above-average wages for mechanical engineers. Wages in the remaining areas were below or similar to the U.S. annual mean of \$82,480 for this occupation.

### Metropolitan areas with the highest concentrations of mechanical engineers, May 2010



Note: Bubble size illustrates employment size comparisons.



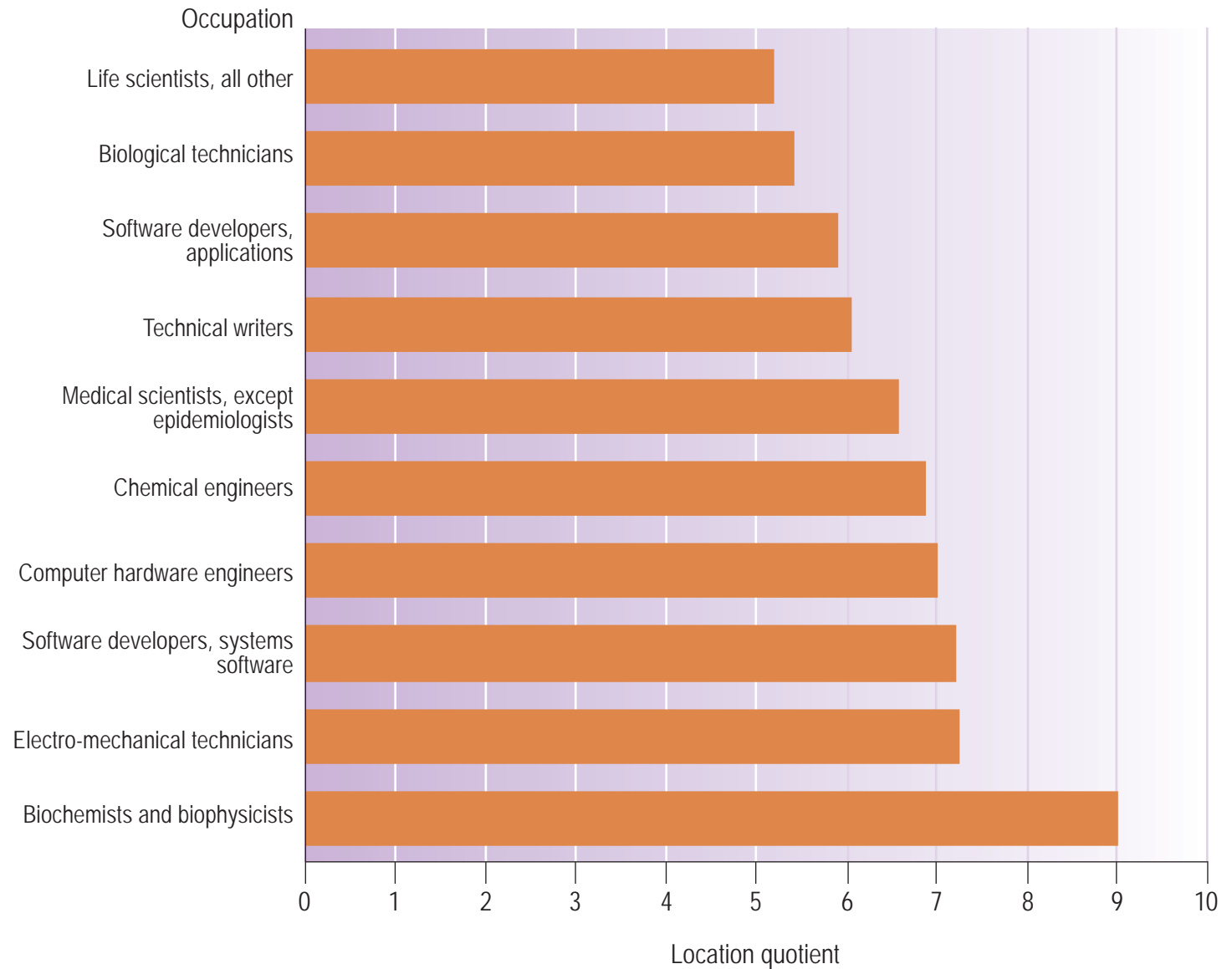
## Figure 15

- All of the occupations in figure 15, with the exception of biological technicians, had higher wages in Framingham than in the United States as a whole.

- There were 1.6 biochemists and biophysicists per 1,000 jobs in Framingham compared with 0.2 per 1,000 jobs in the nation. Only Durham, NC, had a higher concentration of biochemists and biophysicists at 1.7 per 1,000 jobs.

- Four of the occupations with the highest location quotients in Framingham were from the life, physical, and social science occupational group, which had an overall location quotient of 2.3. However, the computer and mathematical occupational group had a higher location quotient at 3.0.

### STEM occupations with the highest location quotients in Framingham, MA, May 2010

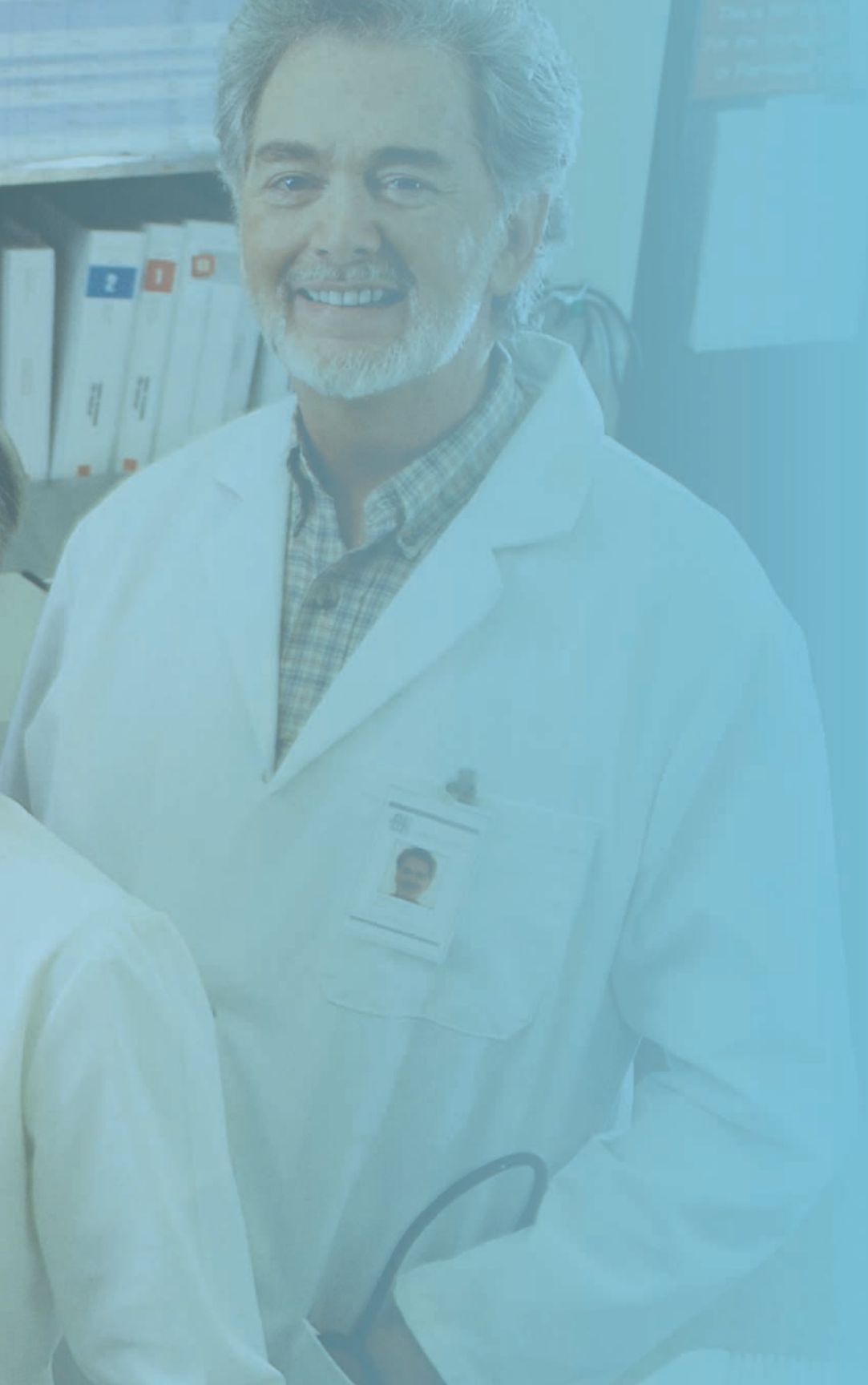












## Healthcare

### Figure 16

- Wages for different types of health assistants varied greatly, with mean wages for occupational therapy assistants (\$51,300) more than double the mean wages of veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers (\$23,660).

- Wages within occupations also varied significantly for health assistants. For example, the 10th percentile wage for physical therapist assistants was \$31,070 and the 90th percentile was \$68,820.

- Health assistants typically have higher educational requirements than health aides, a difference that is reflected in their relative wages. The median wage for occupational therapy assistants was \$23,580 more than that for occupational therapy aides.

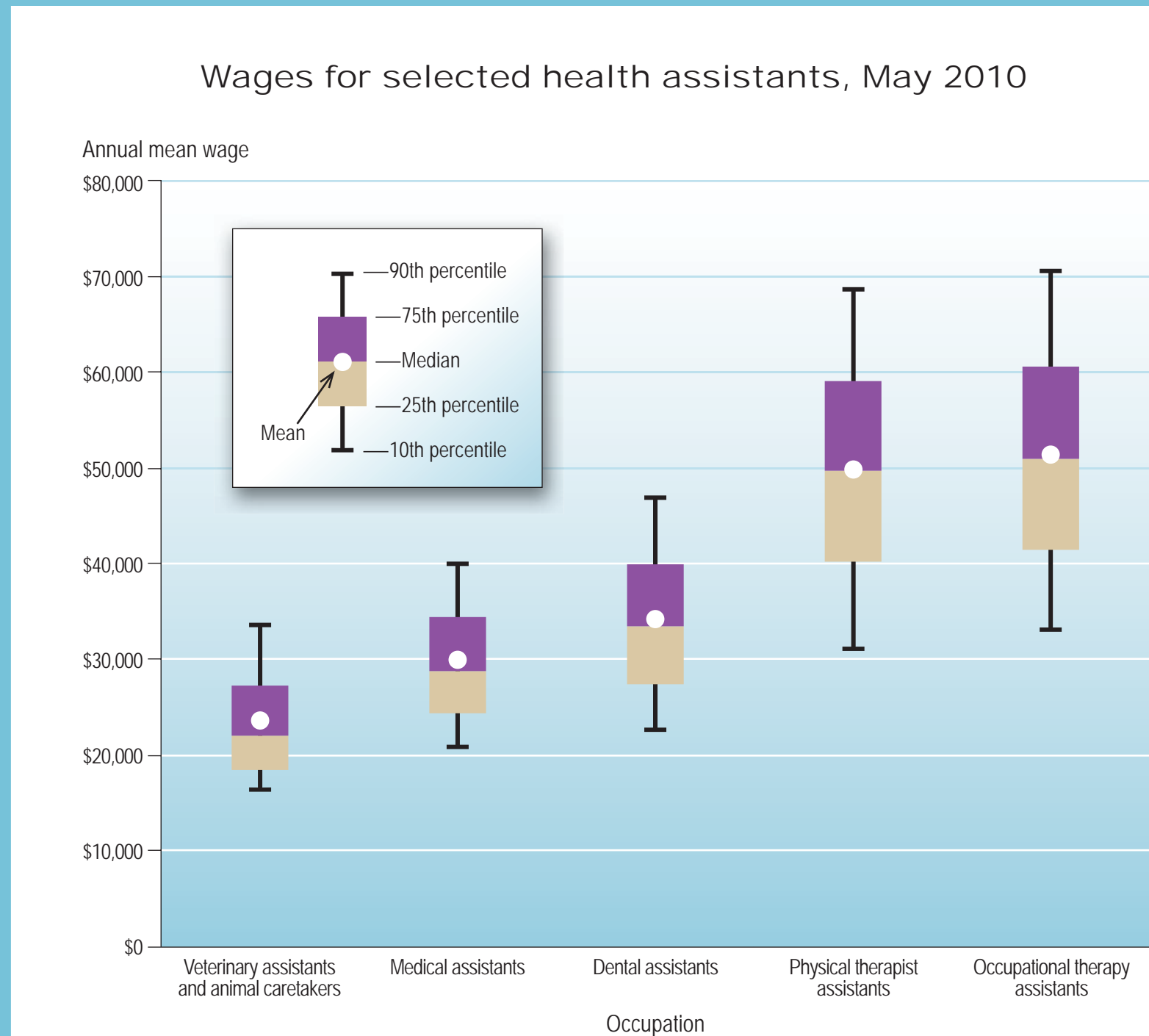
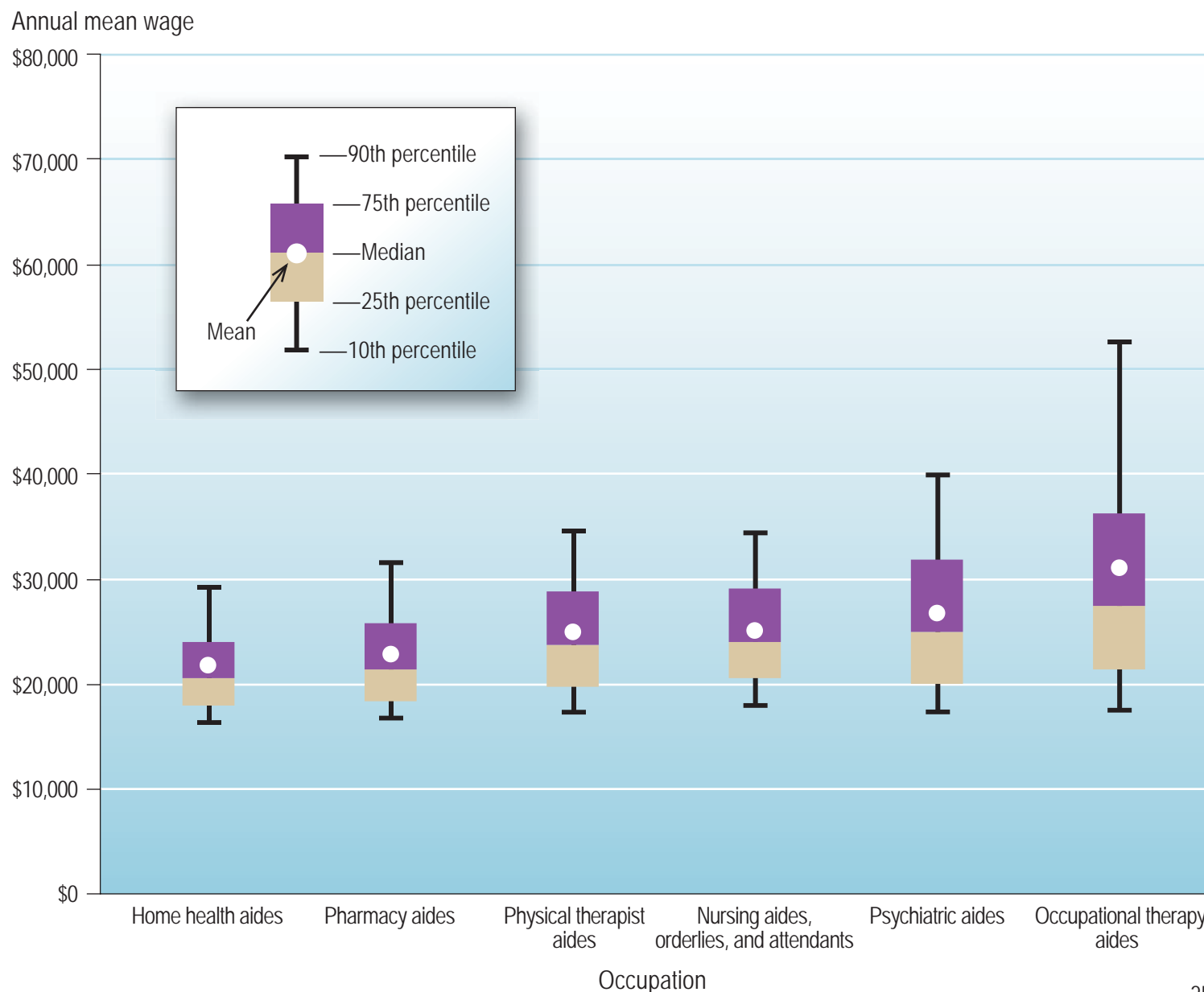


Figure 17

- Annual mean wages among different types of health aides, who generally work under close supervision of a health professional, did not diverge as much as among different types of health assistants. The mean wage for the highest paying aide occupation shown, occupational therapy aides, was less than 50 percent more than the mean wage for home health aides.
- Wages for an occupation vary by industry and geographic location. While wages for home health aides were \$21,760 on average, mean wages ranged from \$20,380 in individual and family services to \$34,970 in psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals.
- Wages within an occupation varied significantly for occupational therapy aides. For example, the 10th percentile wage for occupational therapy aides was \$17,440 and the 90th percentile was \$52,750.

Wages for selected health aides, May 2010





Healthcare occupations accounted for 66 percent of employment in general medical and surgical hospitals.

### Figure 18

- Registered nurses accounted for 29.5 percent of all employment in general medical and surgical hospitals and accounted for more employment than the industry's next nine largest occupations combined.
- The next two largest occupations in general medical and surgical hospitals were nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses. However, nursing care facilities employed more workers in these two occupations than general medical and surgical hospitals.
- Non-healthcare occupations accounted for 34 percent of hospital employment and included maids and housekeeping cleaners; general office clerks; and interviewers, except eligibility and loan.
- With the exception of nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, whose mean wages were \$12.87, mean wages for the largest healthcare occupations were higher than those for the largest non-healthcare occupations.

Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in general medical and surgical hospitals, May 2010

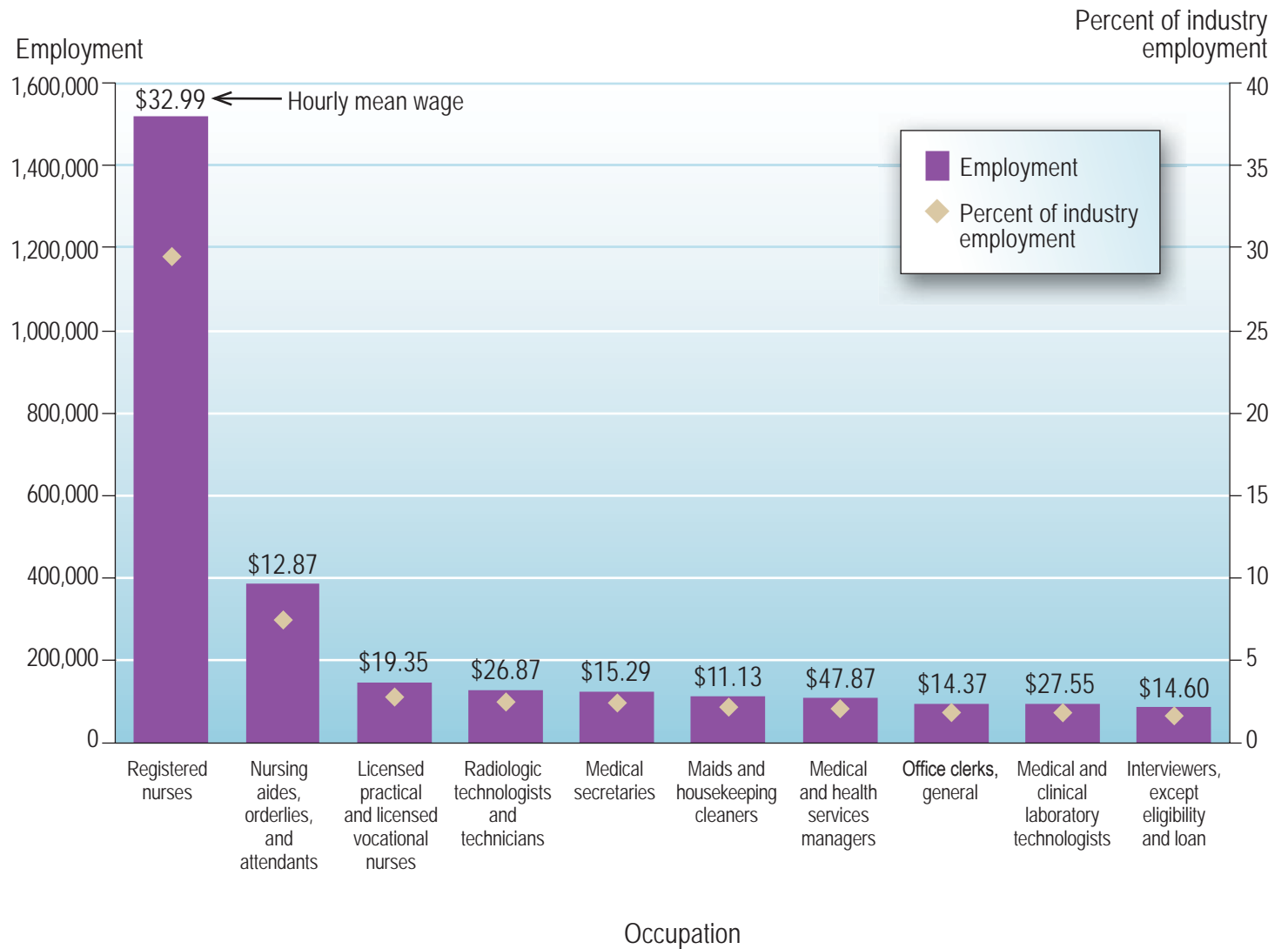


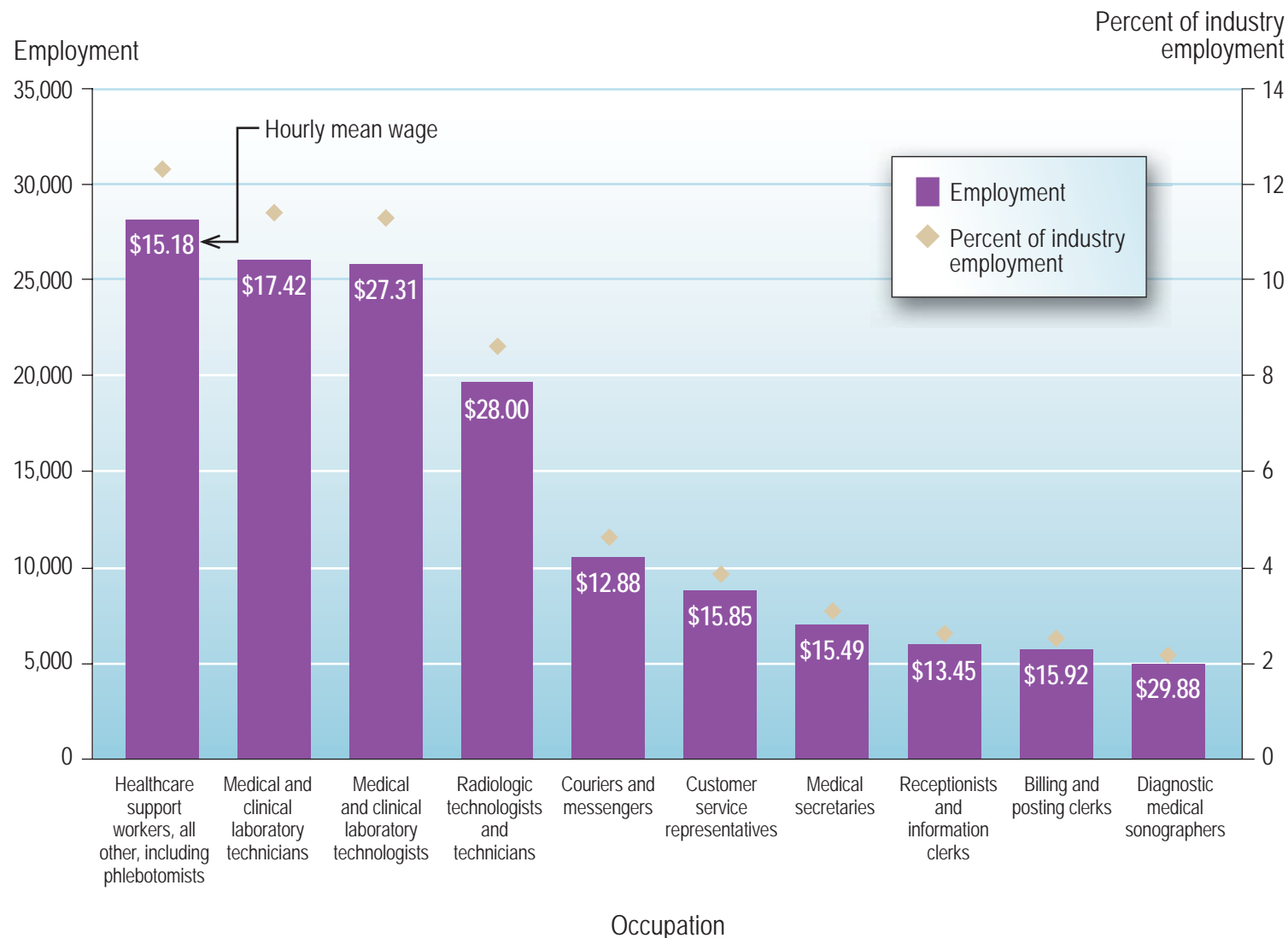
Figure 19

- Non-healthcare occupations, such as couriers and messengers, customer service representatives, receptionists and information clerks, and billing and posting clerks, made up 45 percent of total industry employment.

- Three of the 10 occupations shown had hourly mean wages above the average for all occupations in this industry (\$24.50): medical and clinical laboratory technologists, radiologic technologists and technicians, and diagnostic medical sonographers.

- Among the largest occupations, all other healthcare support workers, including phlebotomists, had a mean wage of \$15.18 and accounted for 12.3 percent of the industry employment.

Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in the medical and diagnostic laboratories industry, May 2010



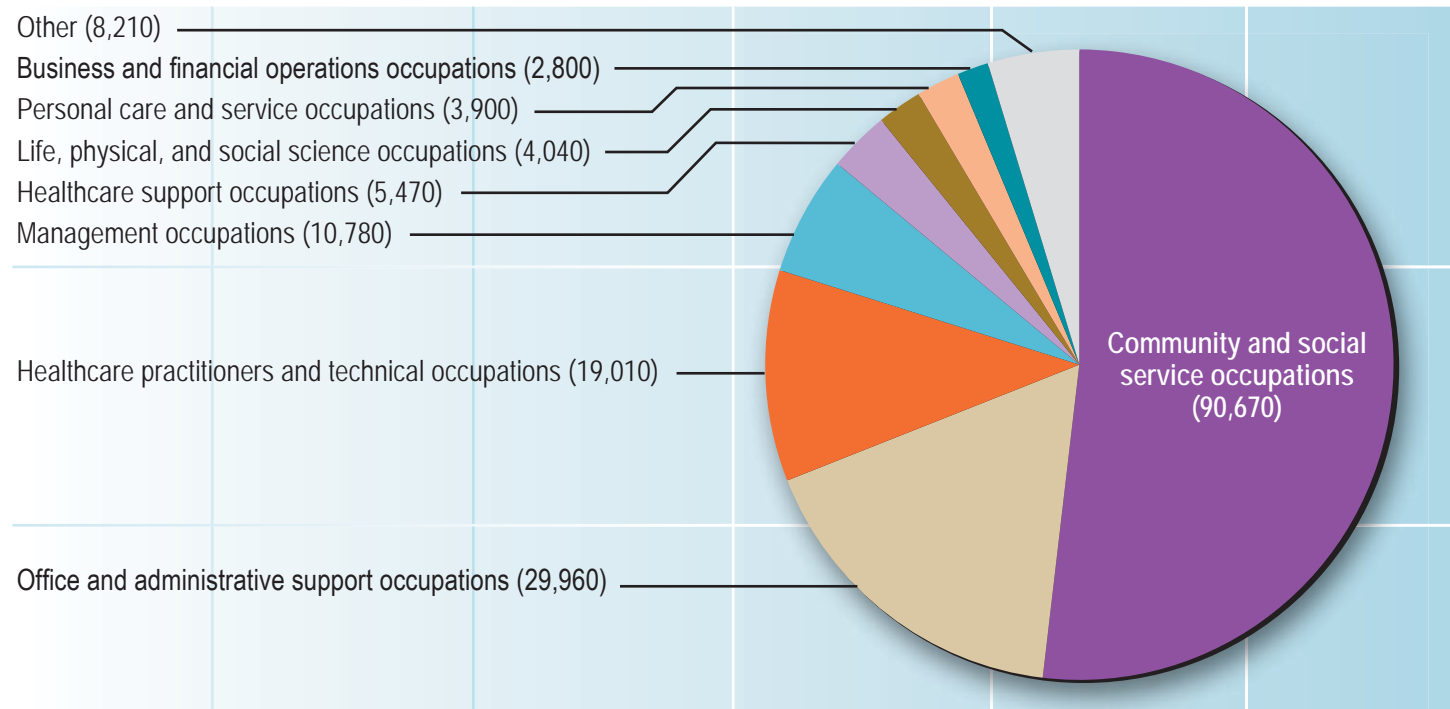
Mental health and substance abuse social workers made up 12 percent of employment in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers, but only 6 percent in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities.

Figure 20

- Five of the largest occupations found in both outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers and residential mental health and substance abuse facilities had larger annual mean wages in the outpatient centers. The annual mean wage was \$43,040 for all occupations in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers and it was \$33,390 for residential mental health and substance abuse facilities.

- Community and social service occupations, including mental health and substance abuse social workers, mental health counselors, and substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors, accounted for over half of employment in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers and over a third of employment in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities. These industries had similar shares of healthcare practitioner occupations, the largest of which was registered nurses.

Employment by occupational group in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers, May 2010



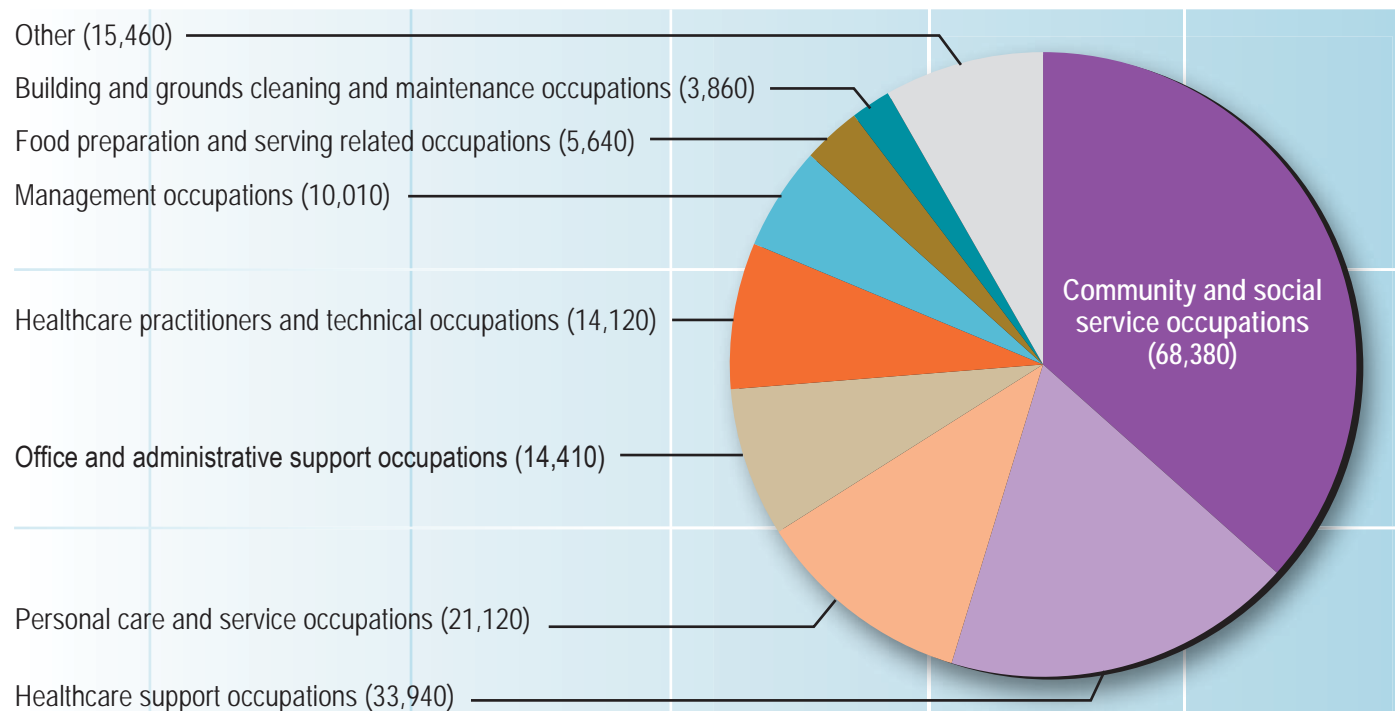
Largest occupations in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers			
Occupation	Employment	Percent of industry employment	Annual mean wage
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	21,720	12.4	\$39,520
Mental health counselors	19,700	11.3	41,030
Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors	15,710	9.0	37,730
Social and human service assistants	13,970	8.0	27,120
Registered nurses	7,610	4.4	61,660
Office clerks, general	5,890	3.4	25,990
Child, family, and school social workers	5,110	2.9	37,220
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	4,750	2.7	29,590
Medical and health services managers	4,180	2.4	81,140
Rehabilitation counselors	4,050	2.3	33,420



Figure 21

- Total employment in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities was 186,970, similar to the employment in outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers, which was 174,890.
- Residential mental health and substance abuse facilities employed at least five times as many workers in personal care and service occupations and healthcare support occupations as outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers. In residential facilities, the largest personal care and service occupation was childcare workers and the largest healthcare support occupation was home health aides.

### Employment by occupational group in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities, May 2010



Largest occupations in residential mental health and substance abuse facilities			
Occupation	Employment	Percent of industry employment	Annual mean wage
Home health aides	21,450	11.5	\$21,840
Social and human service assistants	18,650	10.0	25,420
Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors	13,890	7.4	35,240
Mental health counselors	11,560	6.2	35,110
Childcare workers	10,890	5.8	24,140
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	10,490	5.6	35,750
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	5,660	3.0	25,070
Psychiatric aides	4,980	2.7	23,160
Residential advisors	4,910	2.6	25,470
Rehabilitation counselors	4,730	2.5	30,190

Non-healthcare related industries employed over 2 million healthcare workers, accounting for 22 percent of all healthcare practitioners and technical occupations and 12 percent of healthcare support occupations.

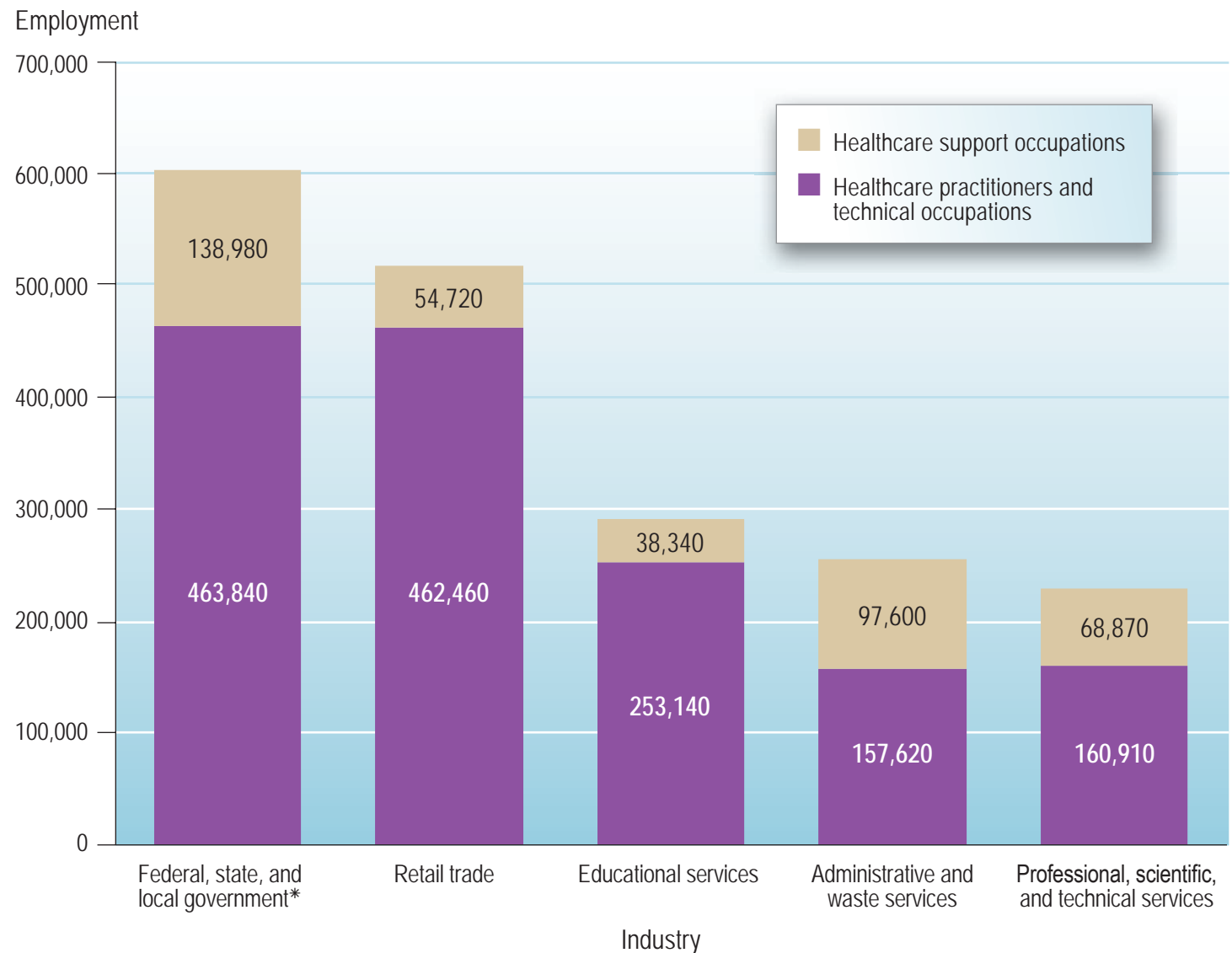
## Figure 22

- Government and retail trade were the largest providers of healthcare jobs outside of the healthcare industry. In government, the largest healthcare occupations were registered nurses (152,150); emergency medical technicians and paramedics (66,790); and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants (63,160). In retail trade, the largest healthcare occupations were pharmacy technicians (247,690), pharmacists (175,260), and pharmacy aides (44,730).

- Retail trade was one of the largest non-healthcare employers of healthcare practitioners and technical occupations and the fourth largest non-healthcare employer of healthcare support occupations.

- Within the administrative and waste services sector, 84 percent of healthcare workers were in employment services, such as employment placement agencies and temporary help services.

Employment of selected healthcare workers in non-healthcare related industries, May 2010

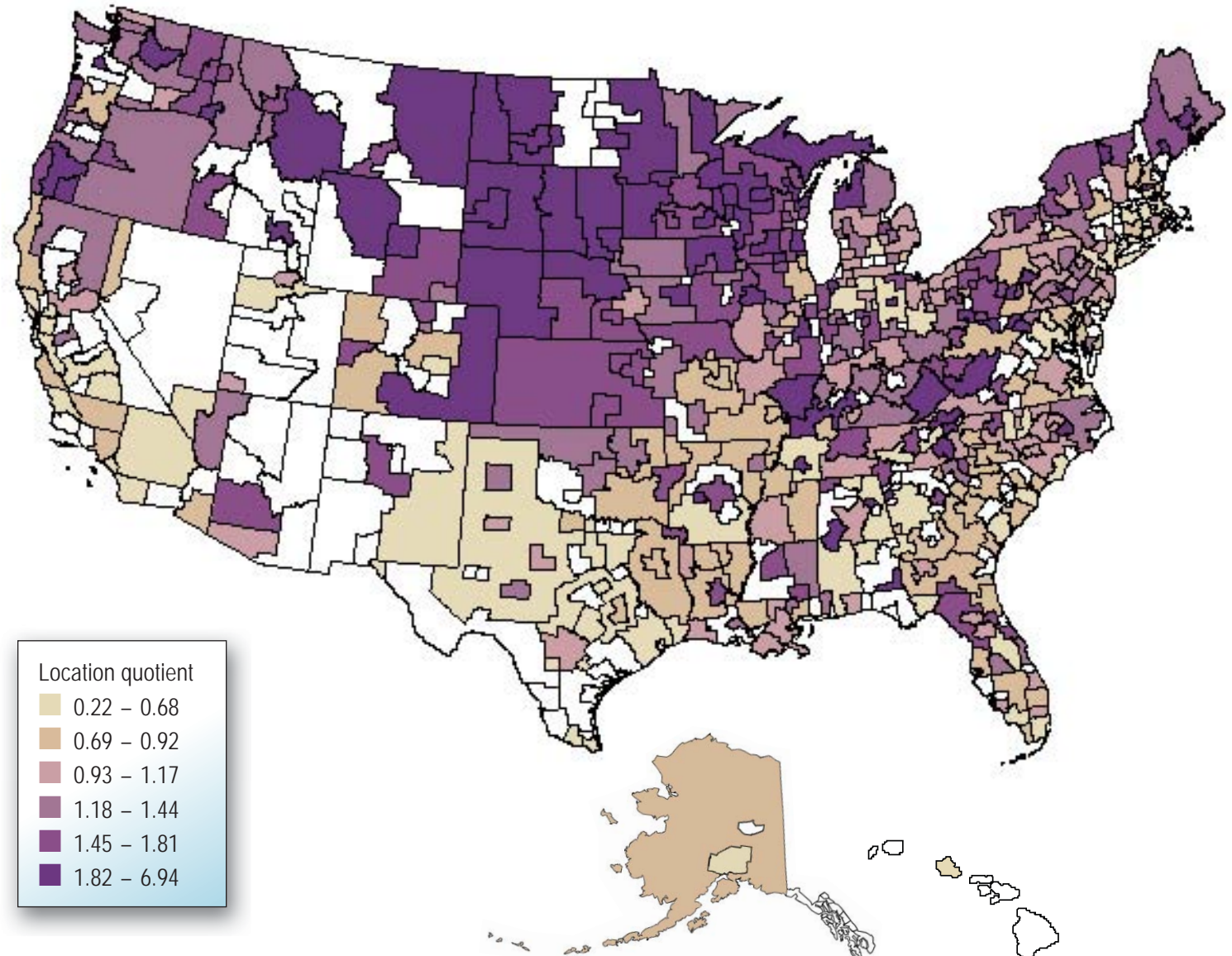


\*Excludes state and local government schools and hospitals

## Figure 23

- Medical transcriptionists accounted for less than 1 in 1,000 jobs nationally, but they accounted for at least four times that share in Rochester, MN; Bangor, ME; Rapid City, SD; west-central Wisconsin; and central South Dakota.
- Wages for medical transcriptionists were highest in several high-paying states, including California, Alaska, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and the Washington, DC, area.
- The Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, MD, metropolitan division was one of the top paying metropolitan areas with \$51,230, and Railbelt/Southwest Alaska nonmetropolitan area was the top paying nonmetropolitan area with \$43,680.

Location quotient of medical transcriptionists, by area, May 2010



Note: Blank areas indicate data not available.





# Construction

### Figure 24

- The largest occupation, construction laborers, had the lowest wage among the occupations shown.
- The six occupations shown accounted for over 63 percent of employment in construction and extraction occupations.
- Of the largest construction occupations, the occupation with the highest mean wage was first-line supervisors of construction and extraction workers.

### Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest construction occupations, May 2010

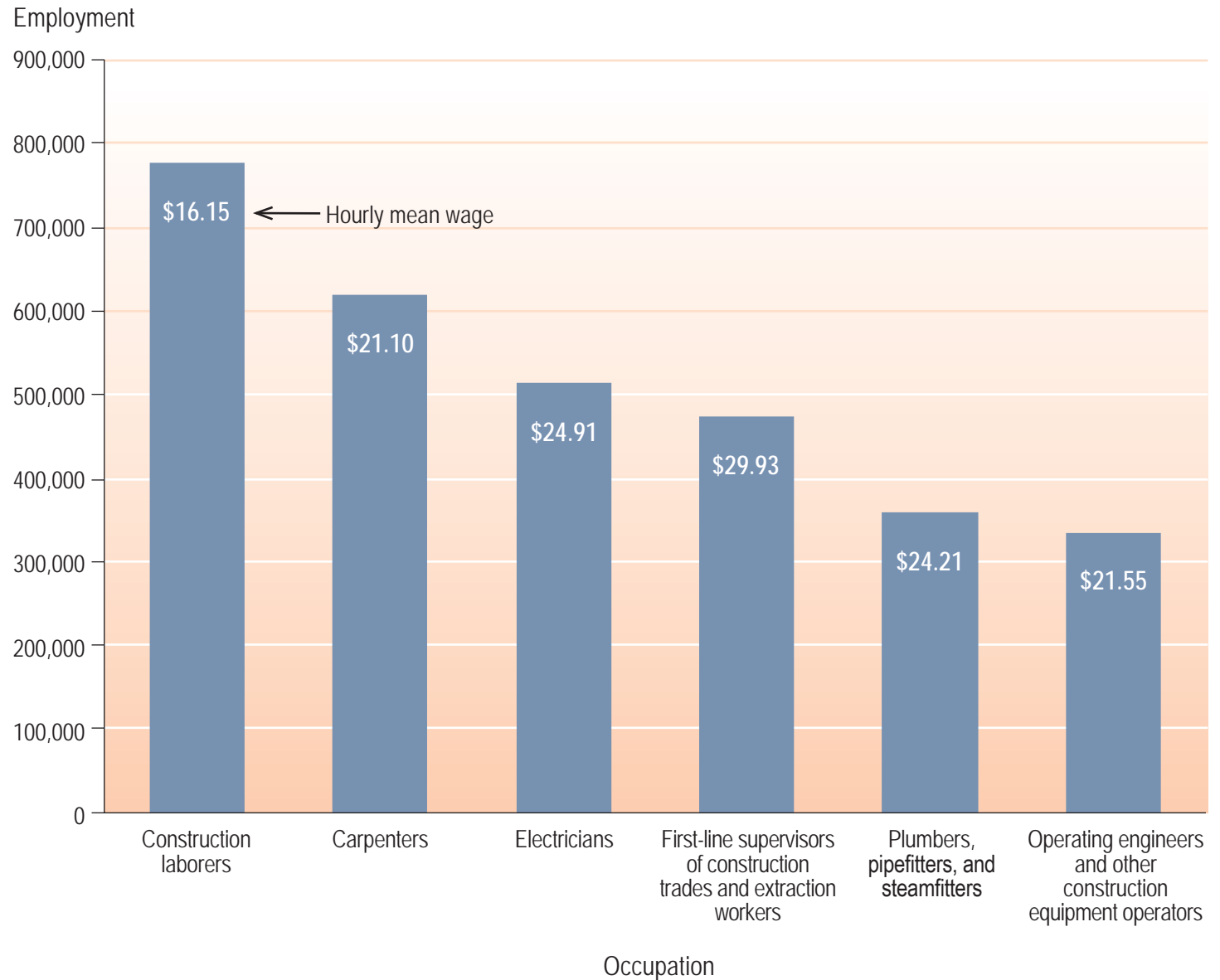
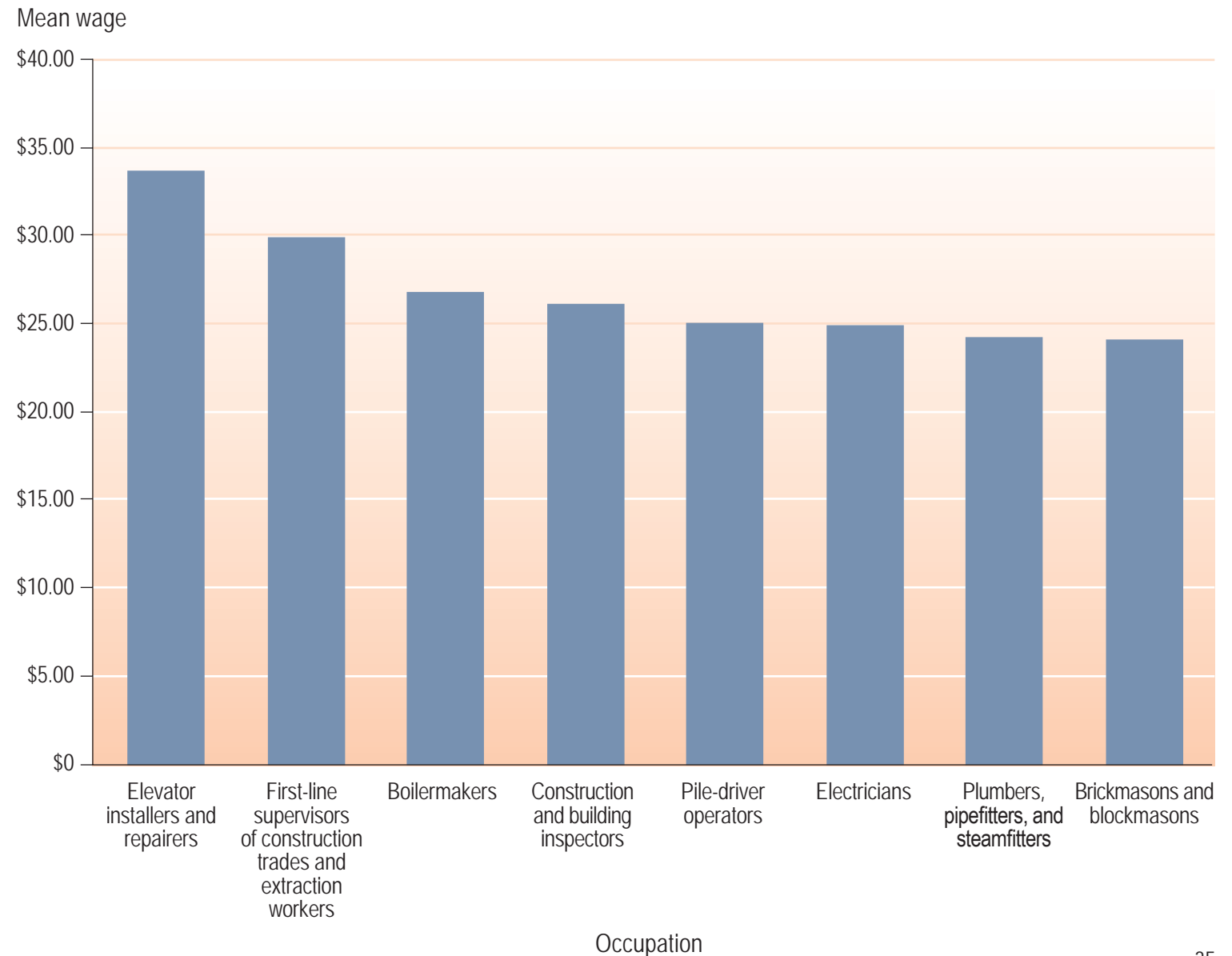




Figure 25

- Construction and extraction workers earned an average of \$21.09 in May 2010.
- Electricians was the largest high-paying construction occupation, with more than half a million workers. Pile driver operators was the smallest of the high-paying construction occupations, with only 4,230 workers.
- Three of the occupations in figure 25 were also among the largest construction occupations—first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers; electricians; and plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters.

Construction occupations with the highest mean wages, May 2010



Employment for the largest occupations in the building construction industry was distributed differently between nonresidential and residential building construction.

Figure 26

- Construction occupations accounted for 64 percent of employment in residential building construction and 62 percent of employment in nonresidential building construction.
- Carpenters made up almost half of the employment for construction occupations in residential building construction, but accounted for less than a third in nonresidential building construction.
- First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers were more prevalent in nonresidential building construction, accounting for about 4 percentage points more of the employment for construction occupations than in residential building construction.

Employment of the largest occupations in the building construction industry, May 2010

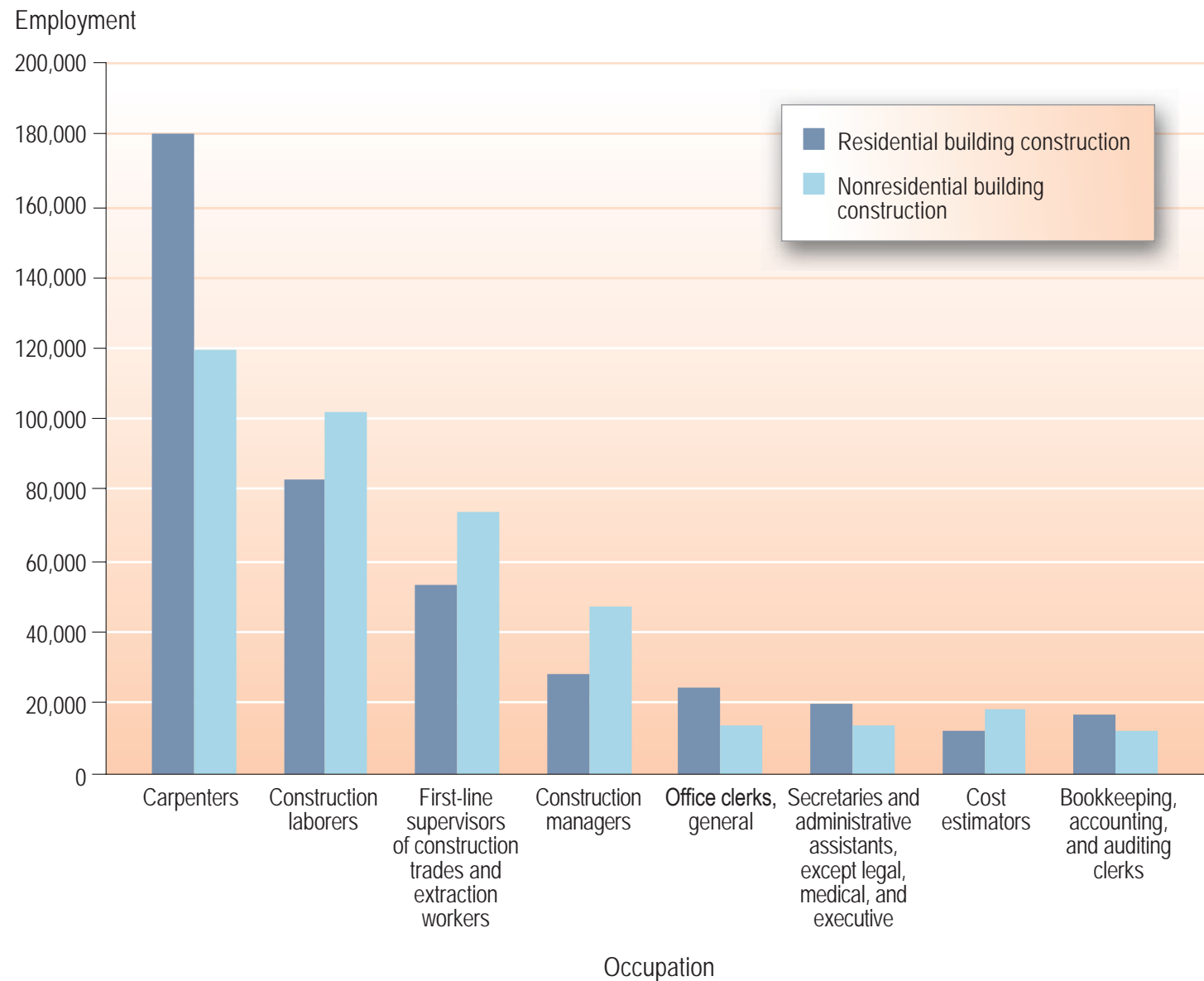
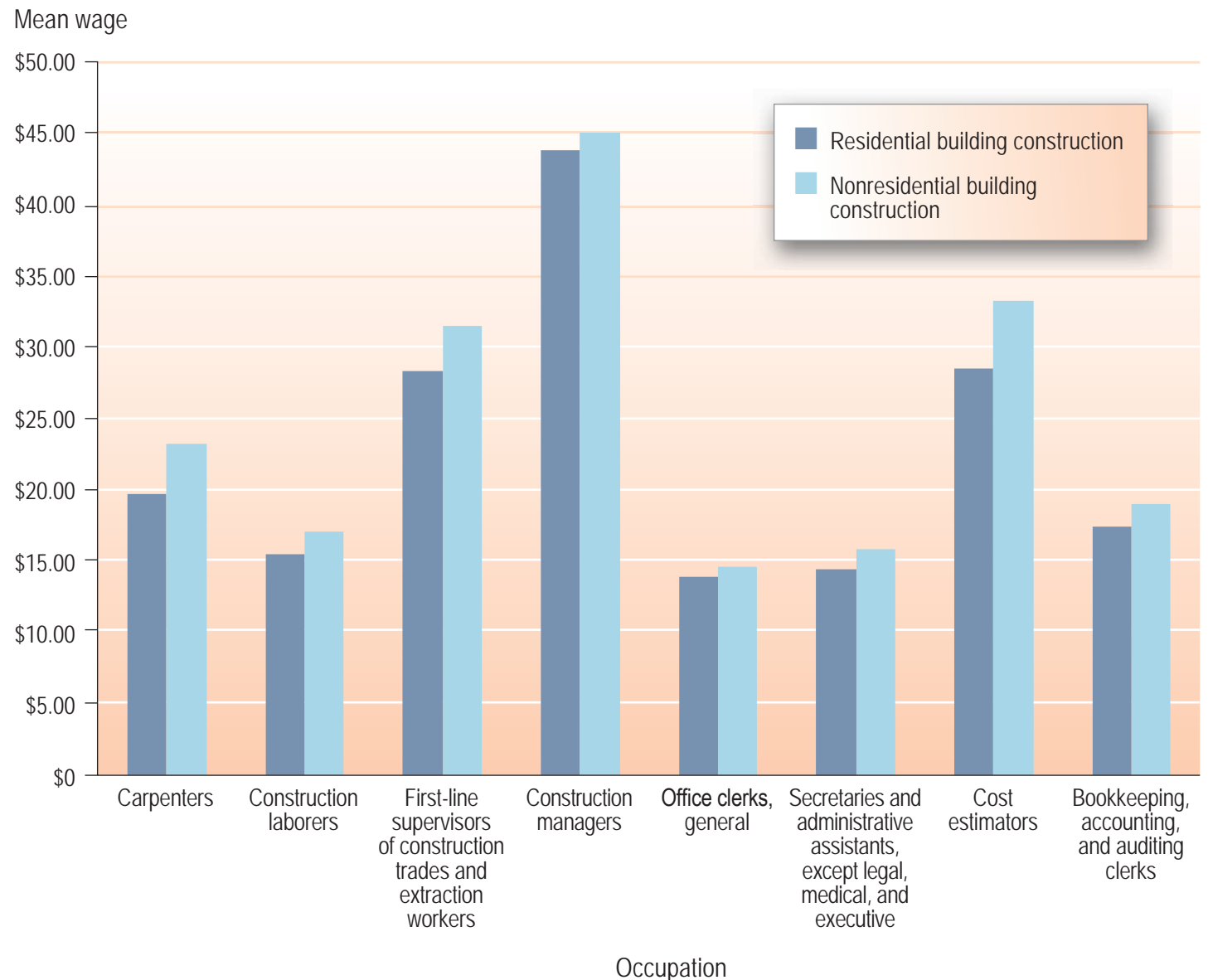


Figure 27

- The mean wage for construction occupations was \$19.55 in residential building construction, compared with \$22.64 in nonresidential building construction.
- Cost estimators had the largest nominal difference in mean wages, with a \$4.74 spread between nonresidential and residential building construction.
- Carpenters had the largest percent difference in mean wages between nonresidential and residential building construction at 17.6 percent.

Mean hourly wages of the largest occupations in the building construction industry, May 2010





## Figure 28

- Four of the construction occupations with the largest percent decrease in employment between May 2006 and May 2010 were different types of helpers of construction trade workers.
- Overall, employment for construction occupations decreased 25 percent between May 2006 and May 2010.
- Employment for tapers and carpenter helpers fell by over 50 percent. Employment declined by 22,400 for tapers and 57,290 for carpenter helpers.
- With a 37 percent decrease in employment, carpenters did not have as large of a percent decrease as the occupations shown, but did have the largest overall decrease in employment, declining by 365,580.
- Wages for the occupations shown grew near the average wage growth for construction occupations. Wages for construction occupations grew 11 percent between 2006 and 2010, slightly lower than the average occupational growth of 13 percent.

### Construction occupations with the largest percent decrease in employment between May 2006 and May 2010

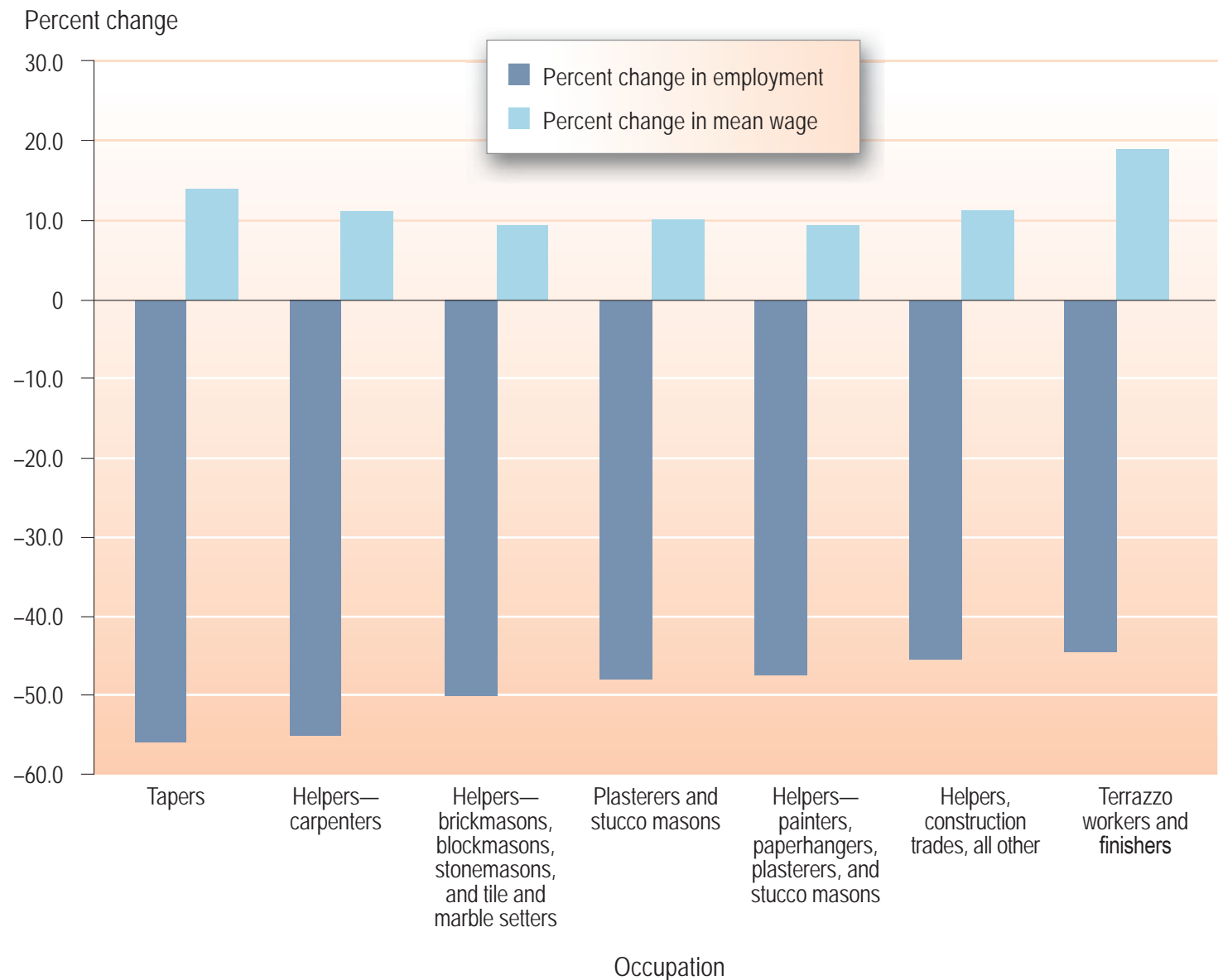
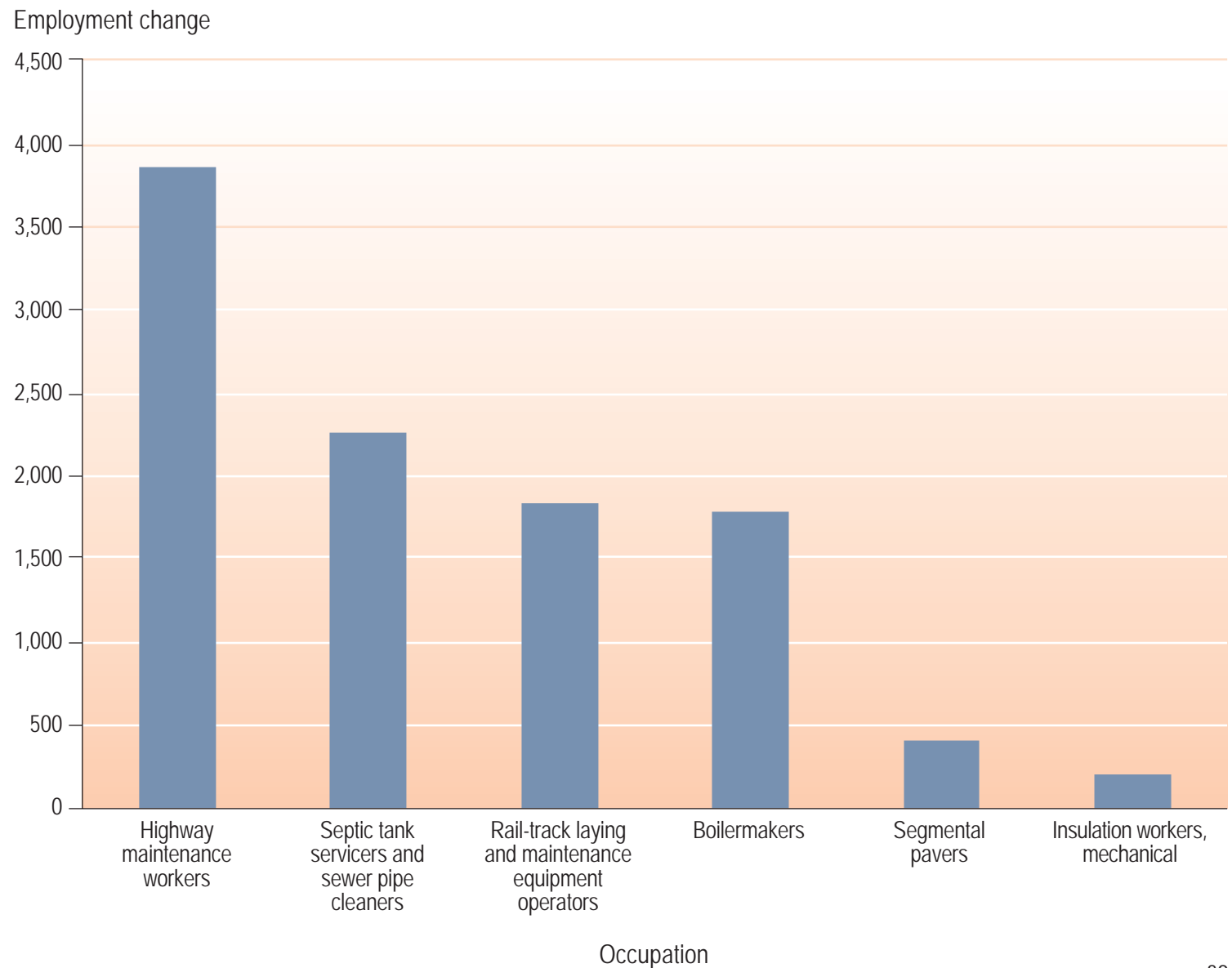


Figure 29

- Employment for septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners increased from 22,090 in May 2006 to 24,350 in May 2010.
- Wage growth for most of the occupations in figure 29 ranged from 2.1 percent for mechanical insulation workers to 16.6 percent for rail-track laying and maintenance equipment operators.

Construction occupations with an increase in employment between May 2006 and May 2010

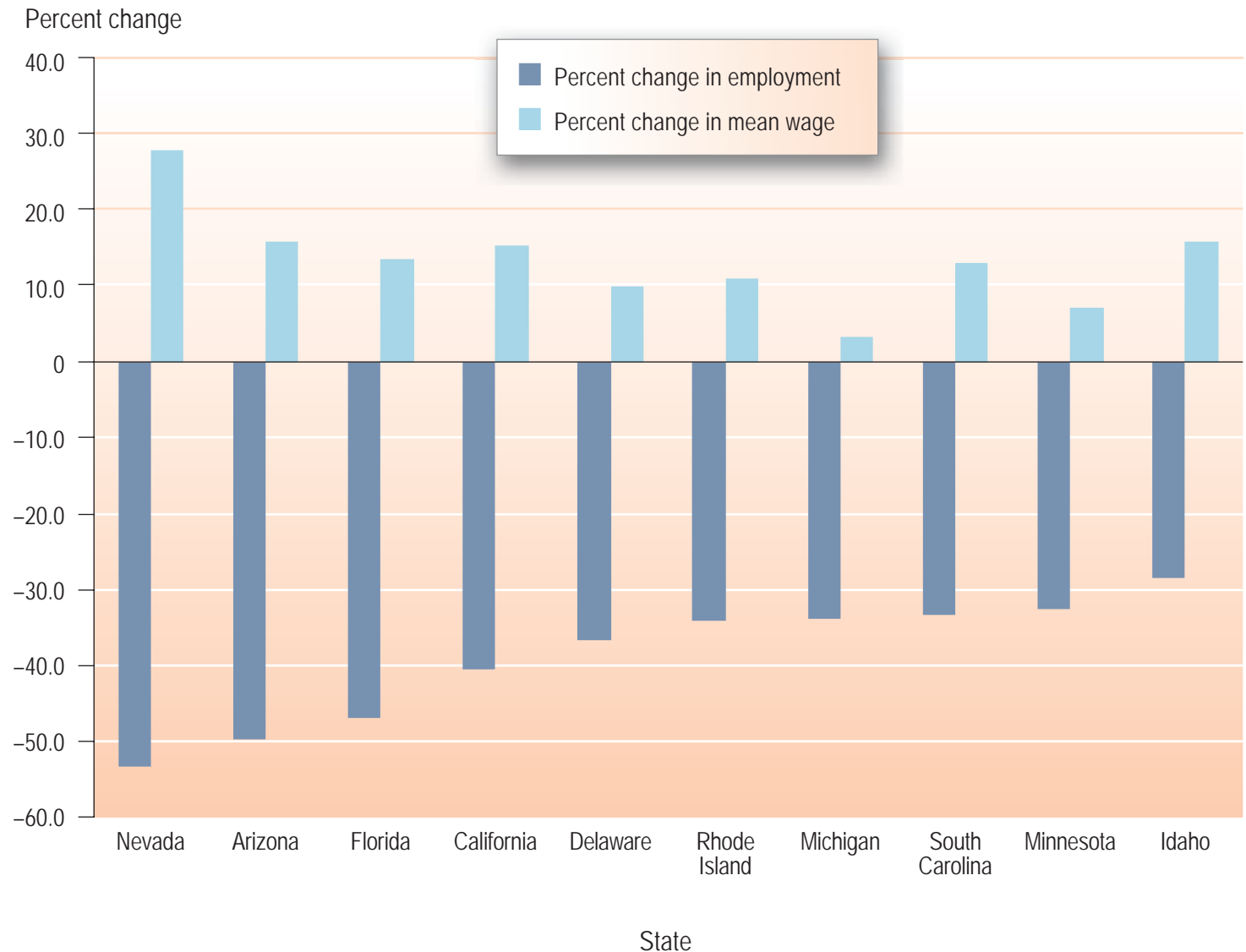


Nevada had the largest percent decrease in employment of construction and extraction occupations from May 2006 to May 2010, and also had the largest increase in mean wages for them.

Figure 30

- In Nevada, mean wages for construction occupations had an increase of 27.8% or an annual average increase of 6.3 percent from May 2006 to May 2010.
- California had the largest absolute decrease in employment of construction occupations between May 2006 and May 2010, falling from 815,510 to 485,120.
- Carpenter helpers was one of the occupations with the largest declines in employment in all 10 of the states highlighted in figure 30.

States with the largest percent decrease in employment of construction occupations from May 2006 to May 2010





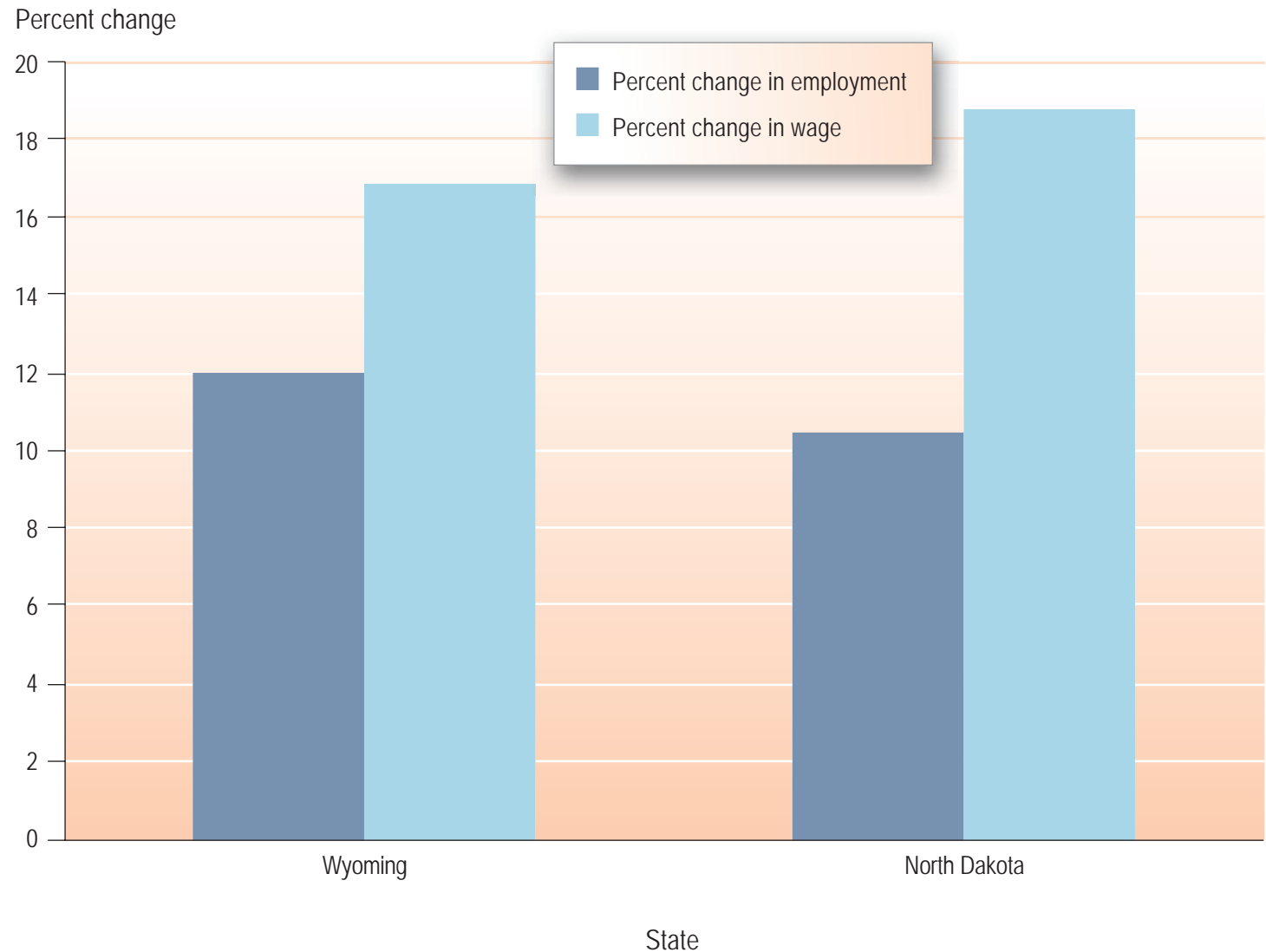
Two states—North Dakota and Wyoming—had an increase in employment of construction occupations, attributable to increases in varying occupations.



Figure 31

- In North Dakota, two occupations in particular contributed to increased employment of construction occupations. Employment for highway maintenance workers increased over 65 percent. The occupation with the largest absolute increase in employment was first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers.
- Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators and electricians contributed to the increase in employment for Wyoming.

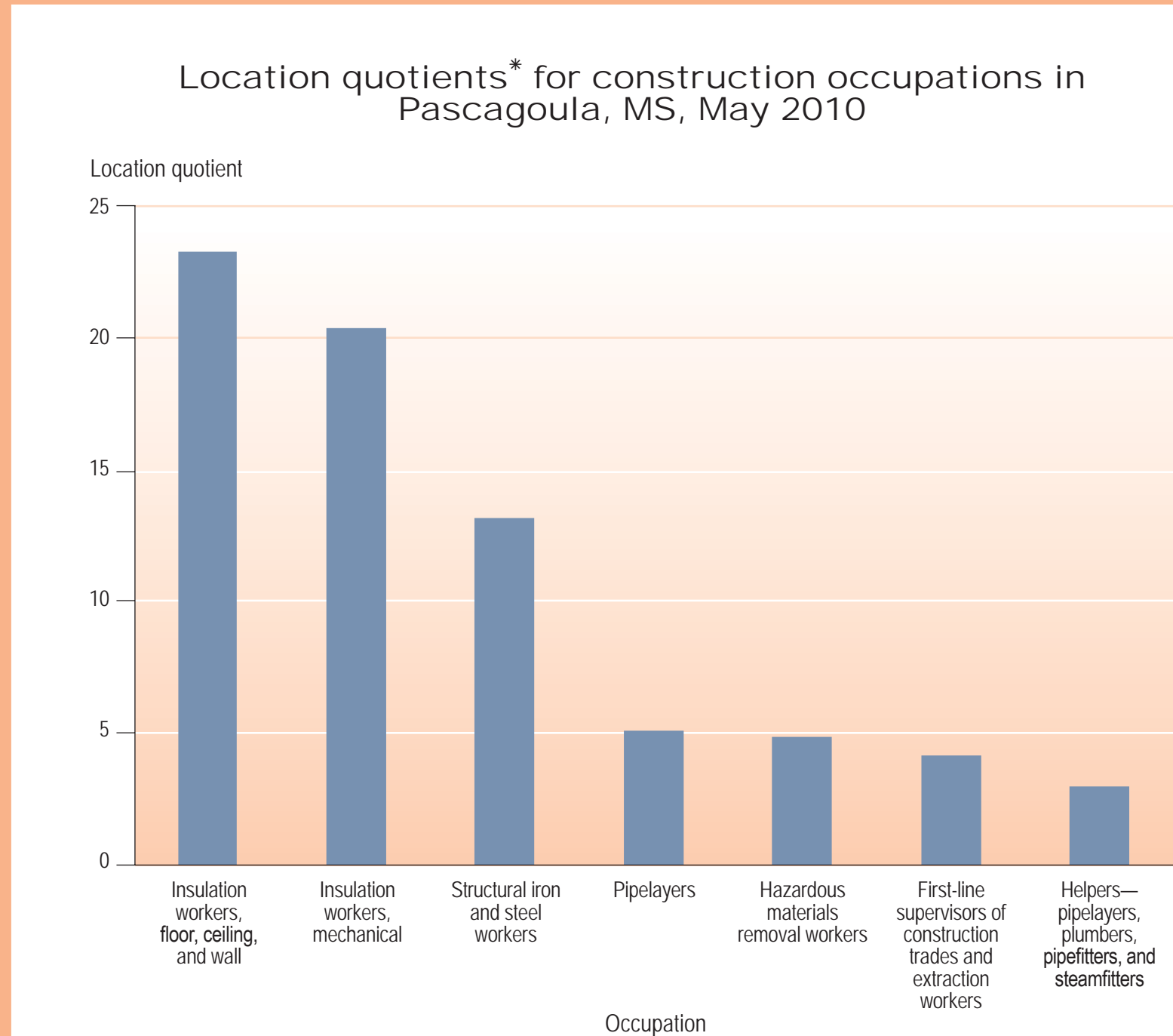
States with an increase in employment of construction occupations from May 2006 to May 2010



Pascagoula, MS, had a larger share of its employment in construction occupations than any other metropolitan area, with over three times the national average.

## Figure 32

- The concentration of employment for every construction occupation in Pascagoula, MS, was higher than the U.S. average, with the exception of highway maintenance workers.
- At \$19.07, the mean wage for construction occupations in Pascagoula, MS, was below the U.S. average of \$21.09.
- Of the occupations in figure 32, only one occupation had a higher-than-average mean wage: helpers—pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters.

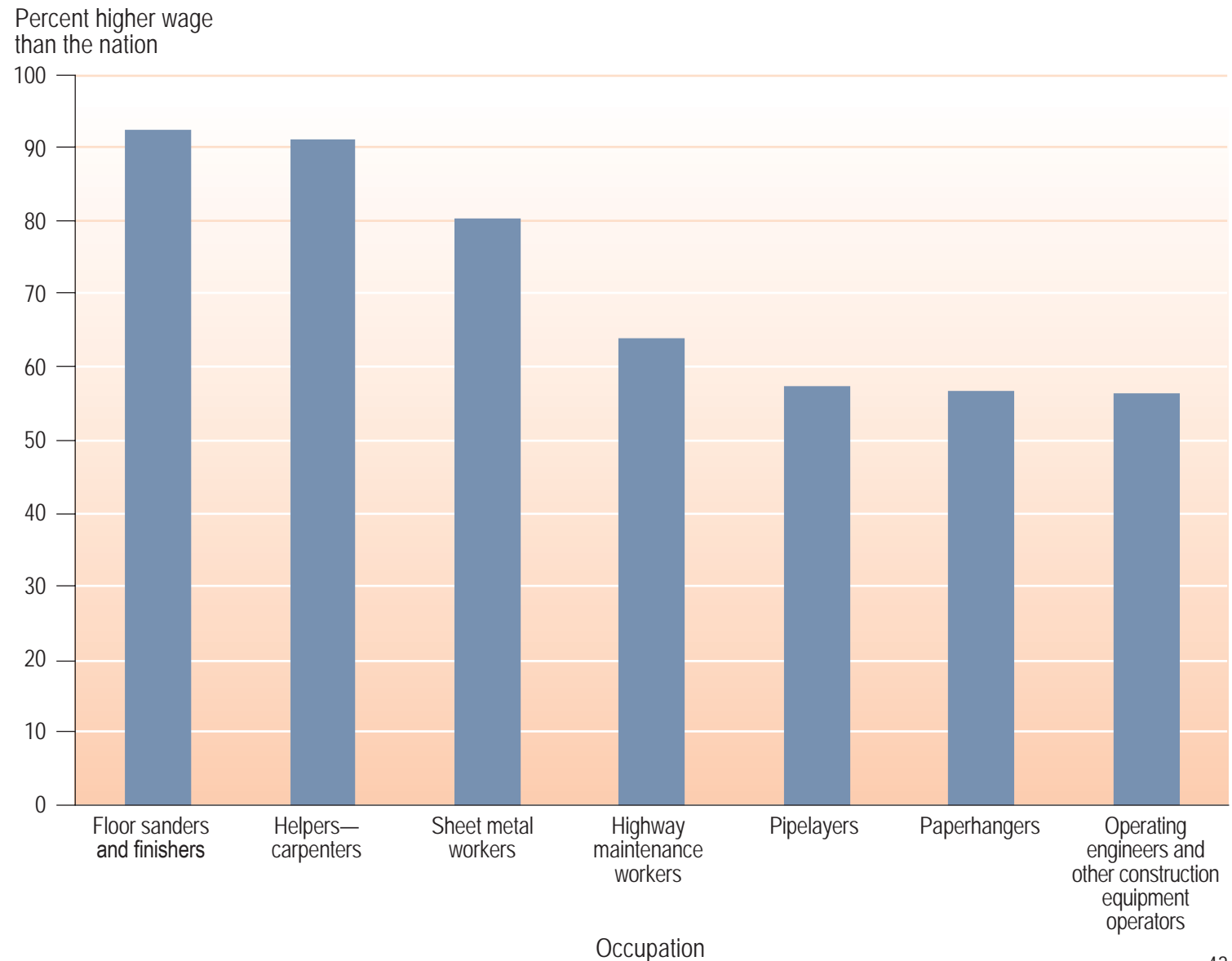


\*The location quotient is the ratio of the area's share of employment in an occupational group to the national average share.

## Figure 33

- Carpenter helpers and floor sanders and finishers in San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City earned almost twice the national average wage for their occupation.
- Most occupations with the highest wage premiums were construction trades occupations. With the exception of carpenter helpers, most helper occupations had a below average premium.
- Although wages for construction occupations were higher, on average, in the San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA, metropolitan division, employment in construction occupations was below average. Nationwide, construction occupations accounted for 4 percent of employment, compared with 3 percent in San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City.

Construction occupations in the San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA, metropolitan division with mean wages at least 55 percent higher than average, May 2010







# Manufacturing

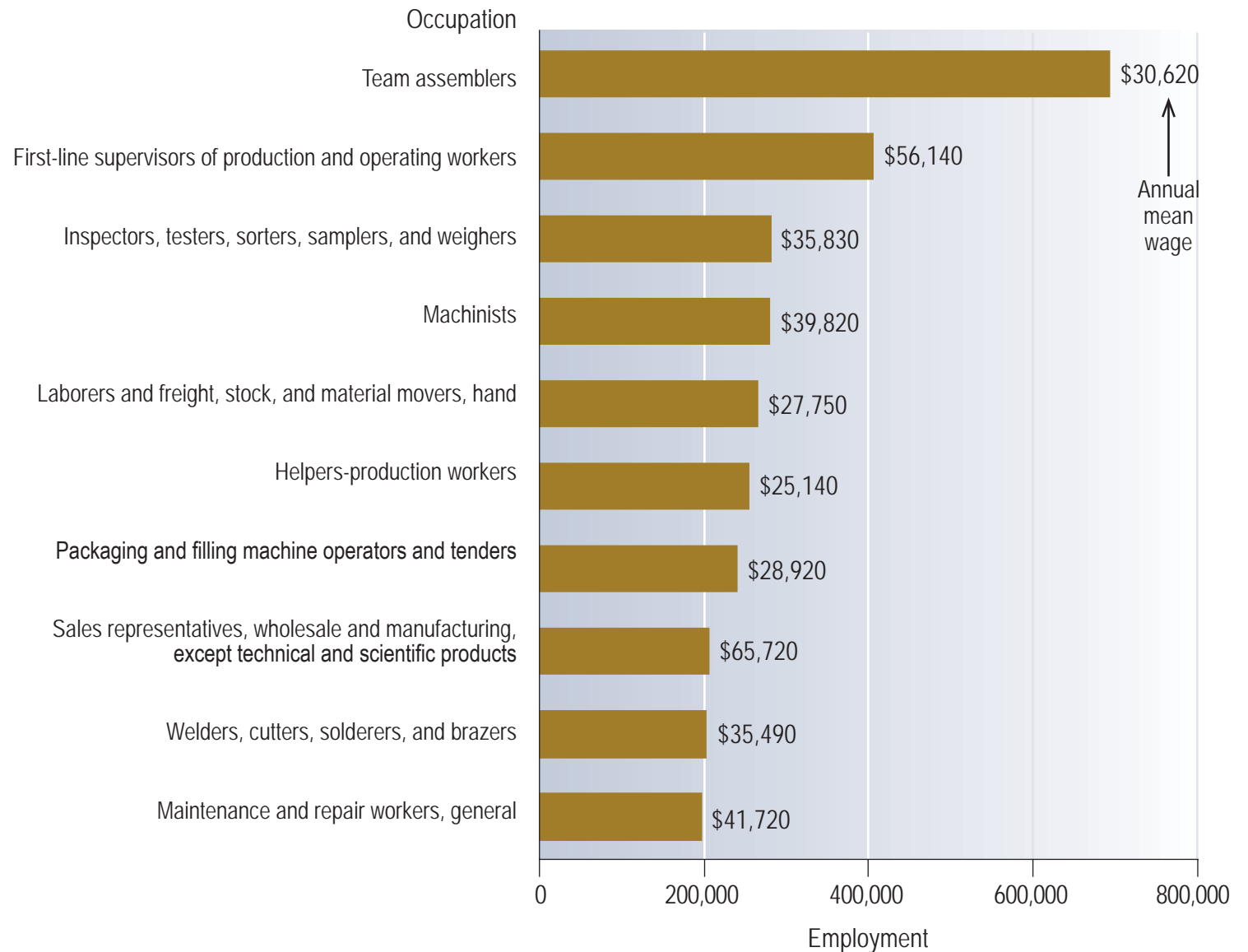


The 10 largest occupations in manufacturing made up about 26 percent of the total employment in the industry.

### Figure 34

- Team assemblers was the largest occupation in the manufacturing industry, making up 6 percent of employment. First-line supervisors of production and operating workers had the second highest employment, making up 3.5 percent.
- Team assemblers had an annual mean wage of \$30,620.
- Only 2 of the 10 largest occupations had wages that were above the national mean wage (\$44,410). These two occupations, sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products (\$65,720) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (\$56,140), were also not traditional production occupations.
- Beyond the occupations shown, the largest occupations in manufacturing were production workers or transportation and material moving workers.

Employment and annual mean wages for the 10 largest occupations in manufacturing, May 2010



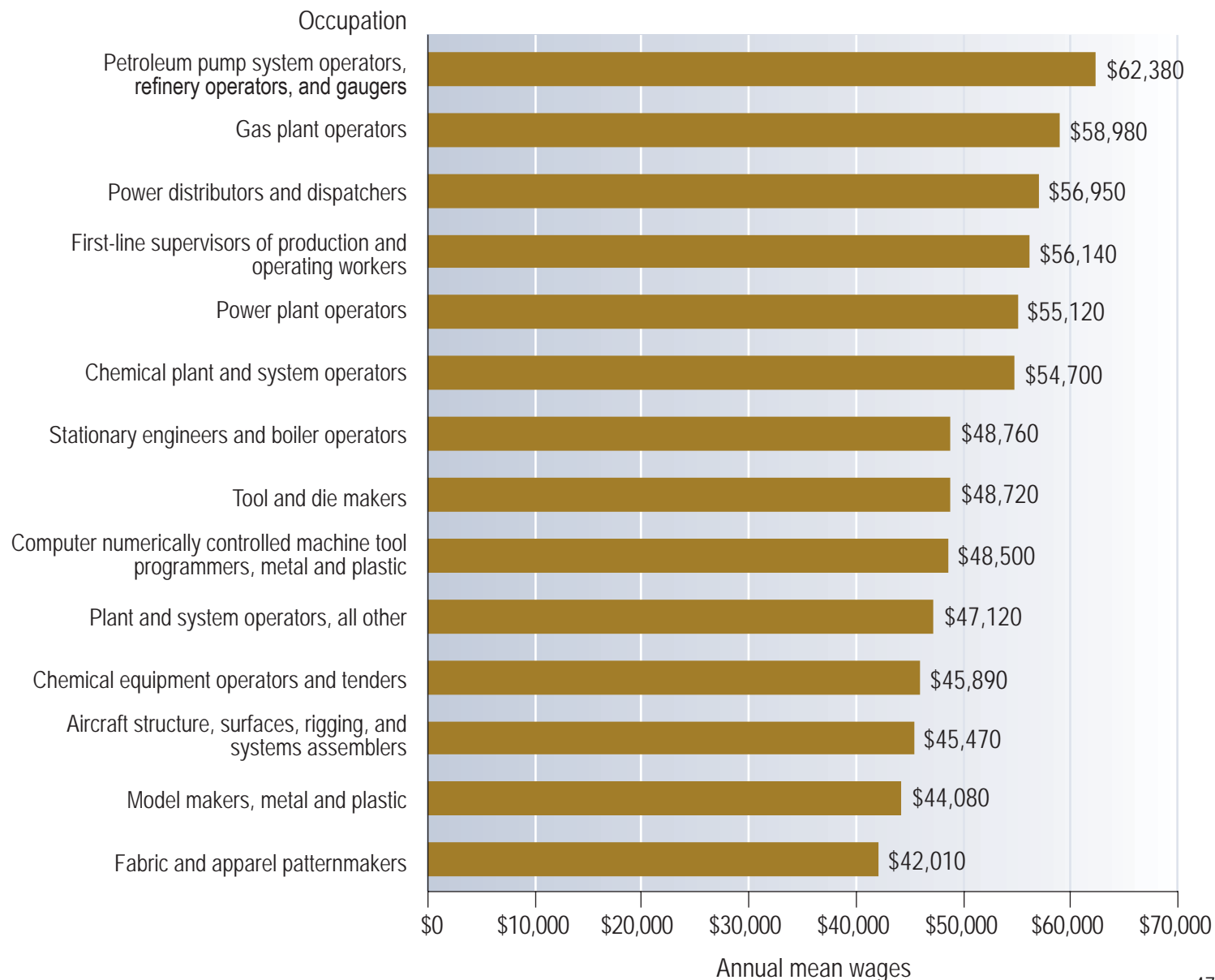
Overall, the highest paying production occupations in manufacturing were mostly intermediary occupations, not those occupations handling raw materials or final products.



Figure 35

- Production occupations made up nearly 51 percent of the total employment in the manufacturing industry.
- Nine of the 14 highest paying occupations together accounted for just 2 percent of industry employment. The largest of the higher paying production occupations, first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, accounted for an additional 3.5 percent of employment.
- Of these occupations, fabric and apparel patternmakers; metal and plastic model makers; and aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers had wages that were below the manufacturing industry annual mean wage (\$45,680).
- Of the highest paying occupations, five were related to power and energy distribution, three occupations were related to designing a tool or pattern, and two occupations were related to chemical processing. The remaining four occupations were a supervisory occupation, a production operator, an assembler, and a tool programmer.

Highest paying production occupations in manufacturing, May 2010



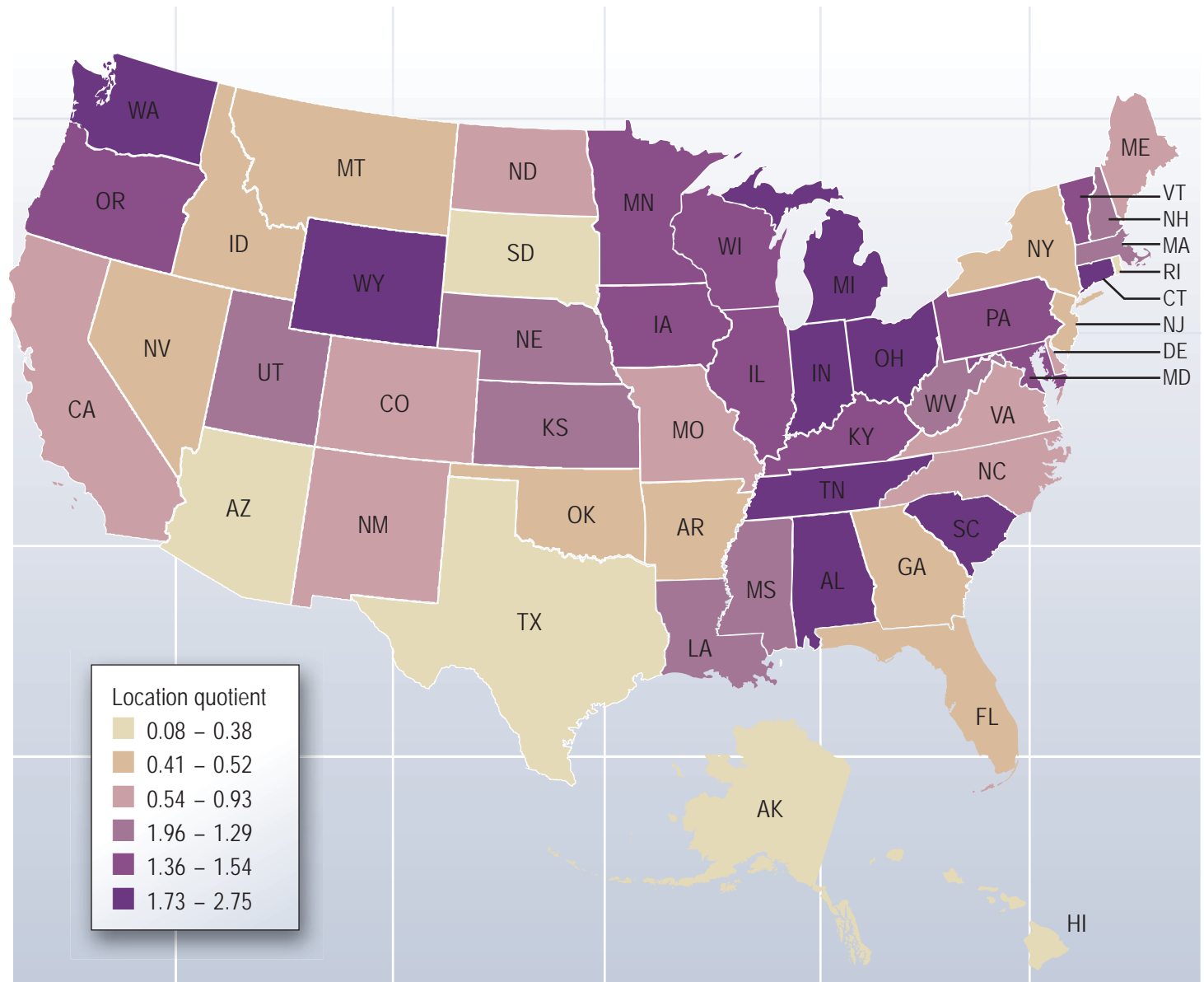


States with higher employment concentrations of team assemblers were in the Midwest and South along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

Figure 36

- Indiana had the highest location quotient (2.8) for team assemblers. A location quotient represents the ratio of an occupation's share of area employment relative to its share of national employment; a location quotient greater than one indicates that the occupation makes up an above-average share of local employment.
- Although team assemblers was the largest production occupation, it made up 2 percent or less of the total employment of any state.
- In 16 states, team assemblers accounted for at least 1 percent of the total state employment. Indiana had the highest percentage of total state employment for this occupation at 2 percent. In contrast, Wyoming had the lowest percentage of total state employment at 0.1 percent.

Location quotient of team assemblers, by state, May 2010



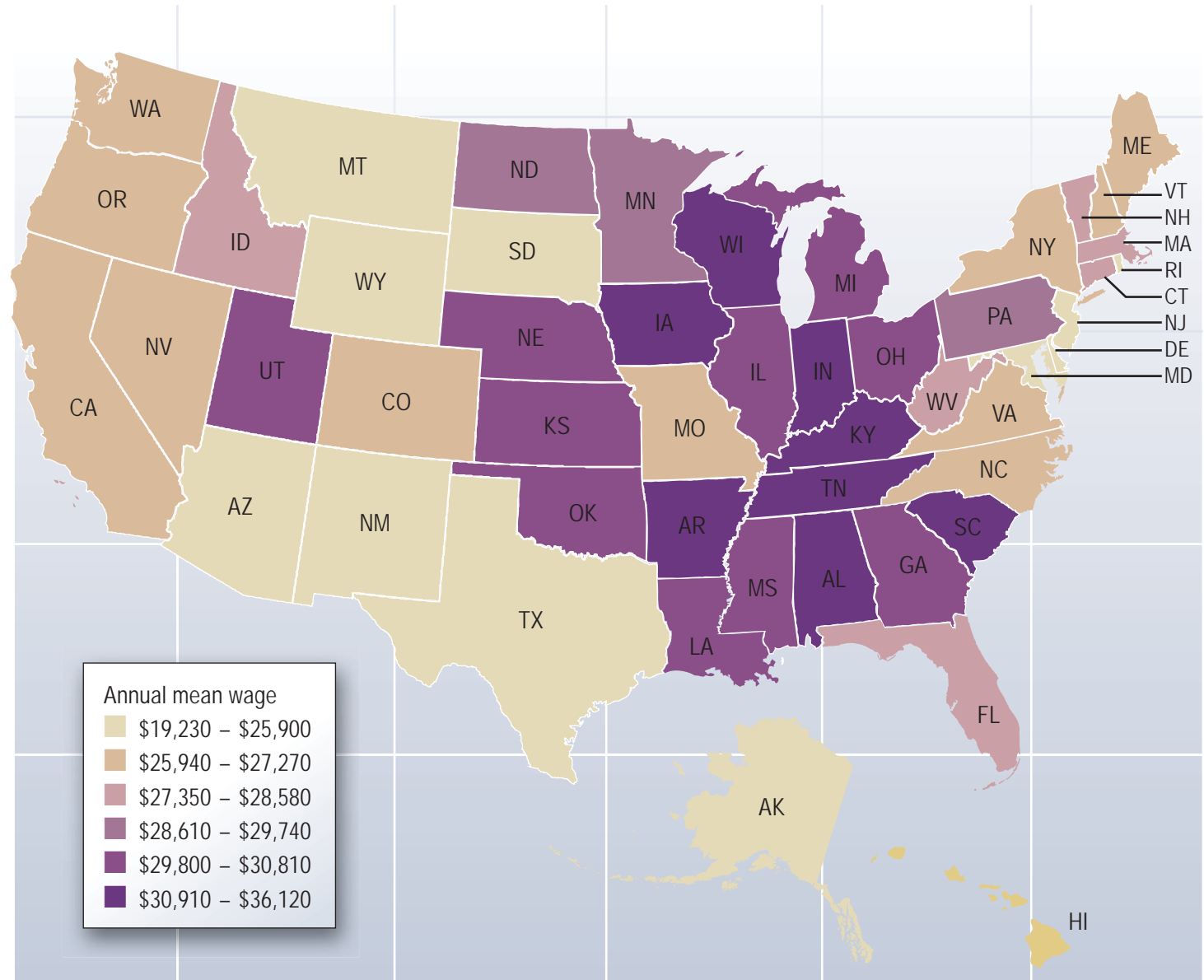
Team assemblers earned an annual mean wage of \$29,220 nationally, but state average wages ranged from \$23,900 in Alaska to \$36,120 in Alabama.



Figure 37

- States with the highest concentrations of this occupation tended to have higher mean wages for them. Eight out of nine states with high concentrations had at least an annual mean wage of \$29,800.
- States with above-average concentrations and below-average wages were often in the South, including Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Georgia.

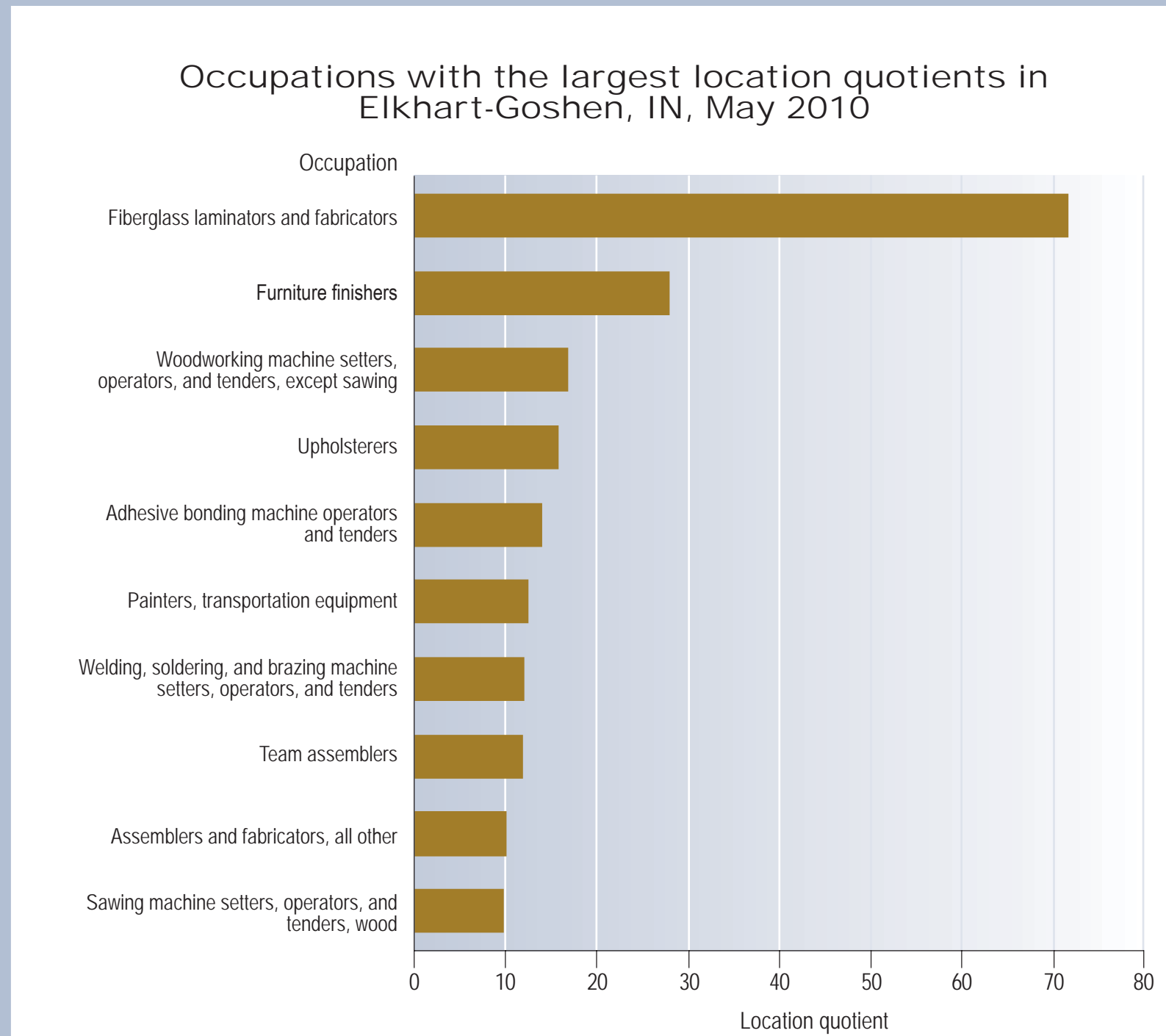
Annual mean wage of team assemblers, by state, May 2010



With over 30 percent of its employment in production occupations, Elkhart-Goshen, IN, was the area with the highest share of its employment in production occupations.

### Figure 38

- Nationally, 6.5 percent of employment was in production occupations, giving production occupations a location quotient of 4.7 in the Elkhart-Goshen area.
- The occupation with the highest concentration relative to the U.S. average in the Elkhart-Goshen area was fiberglass laminators and fabricators. It had a location quotient of 72, and accounted for over 1 percent of the area's employment (99,370).
- Furniture finishers had the second highest location quotient, at 28, and accounted for 340 jobs.
- The 10 occupations with the largest location quotients in Elkhart-Goshen, IN, were all production occupations. Of these, three occupations were assemblers and fabricators and another three occupations were related to woodworking.
- All of the occupations in figure 38 had wages below the hourly mean wage for the metropolitan statistical area (\$17.75), except for transportation equipment painters (\$20.40).



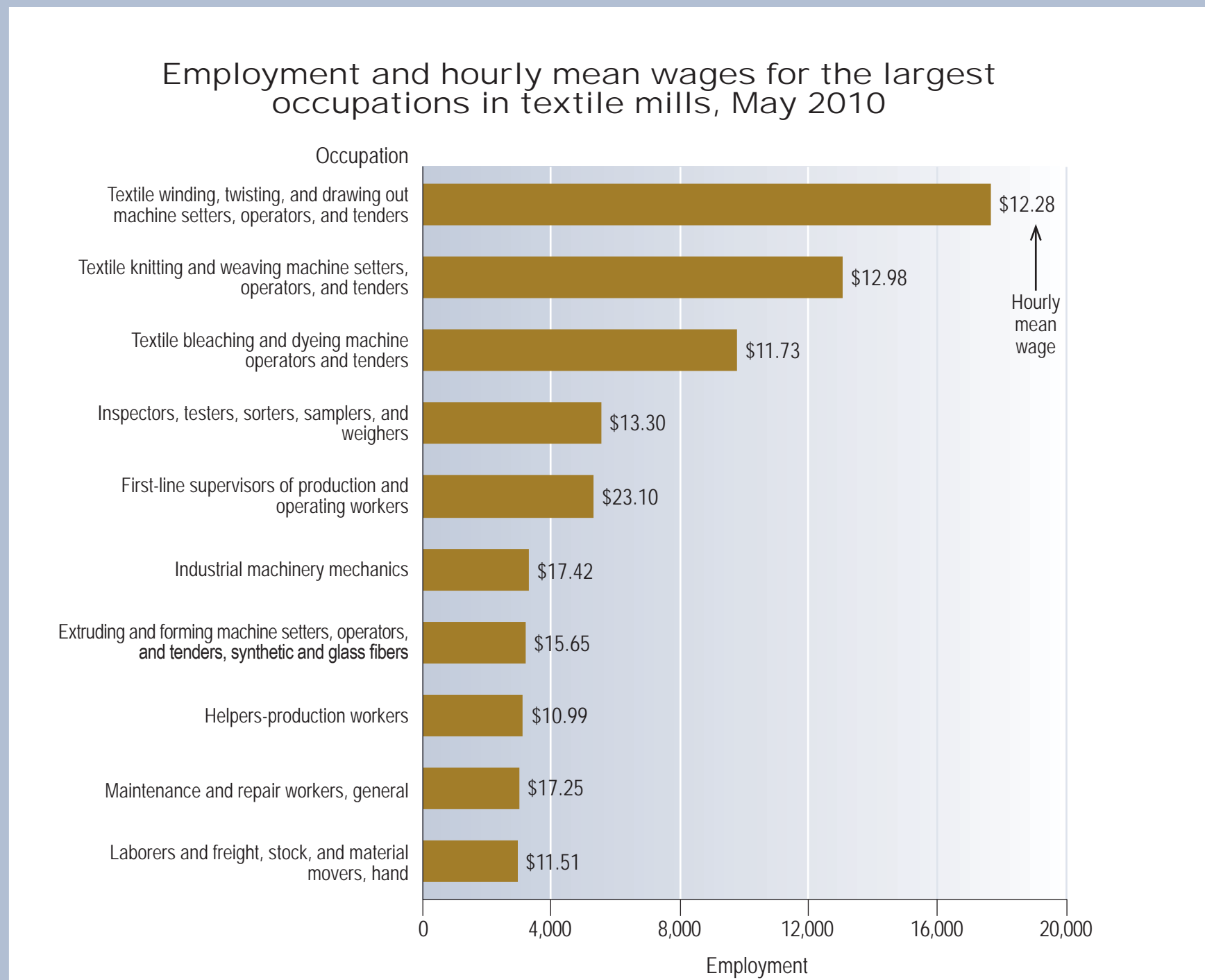




The largest occupation in the textile mills industry was textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders, which accounted for 15 percent of employment in the industry.

Figure 39

- The 10 largest occupations in textile mills accounted for 57 percent of employment in this industry. The second largest occupation was textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders, which made up over 11 percent of industry employment.
- The two largest occupations in the industry, textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders and textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders, were highly concentrated in the Southeast region of the country, particularly North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.
- Of the 10 largest occupations, the highest paying occupations included first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (\$23.10) and 2 repair occupations, industrial machinery mechanics (\$17.42) and general maintenance and repair workers (\$17.25).



The largest occupations in the chemical manufacturing industry were a mix of higher and lower paying production occupations and chemists and chemical technicians.

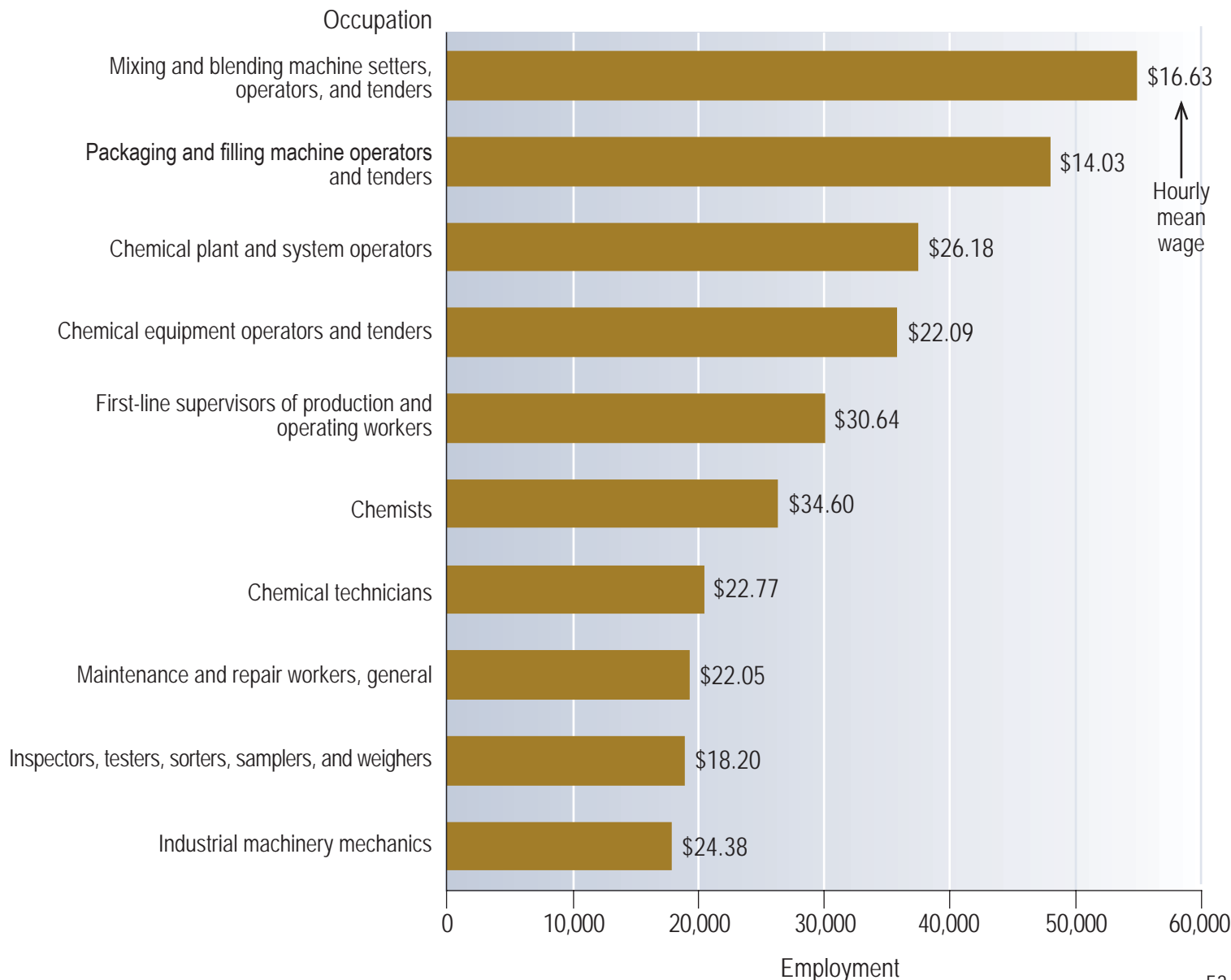


Figure 40

- Four of the largest occupations in the chemical manufacturing industry were also among the largest occupations in the textile mills industry: first-line supervisors of production and operating workers; general maintenance and repair workers; inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers; and industrial machinery mechanics. However, the hourly mean wages were all higher for these occupations in the chemical manufacturing industry than in the textile mills industry.

- The third largest occupation, chemical plant and system operators, was highly concentrated along the Gulf Coast states. Location quotients for this occupation were highest in Wyoming (6.7), Louisiana (6.5), South Carolina (3.3), and Texas (2.9). However, the highest paying states included Montana (\$32.56), Wyoming (\$30.58), Texas (\$30.24), and Washington (\$29.55).

Employment and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations in chemical manufacturing, May 2010





BLS









U.S. Department of Labor



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics