

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE  
Boston, Mass.

For release: Thursday, August 25, 2011

USDL-11-294

Technical information: (617) 565-2327  
Media contact: (617) 565-2326

• BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov  
• Consedine.tim@bls.gov

• www.bls.gov/ro1

## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN BURLINGTON-SOUTH BURLINGTON, MAY 2010

Workers in the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.98 in May 2010, roughly 3 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 3 of the 22 major occupational groups. Eight groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal, arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media, and computer and mathematical.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, and community and social service. Conversely, seven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, and healthcare support. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Burlington		United States	Burlington	Percent difference <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%		\$21.35	\$21.98	3
Management	4.7	4.8		50.69	48.30	* -5
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.3	*	32.54	30.42	* -7
Computer and mathematical	2.6	3.8	*	37.13	33.94	* -9
Architecture and engineering	1.8	3.2	*	36.32	37.30	3
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.2	*	31.92	33.51	5
Community and social service	1.5	2.6	*	20.76	19.50	-6
Legal	0.8	0.7		46.60	38.01	* -18
Education, training, and library	6.7	7.5	*	24.25	24.71	2
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	2.1	*	25.14	21.24	* -16
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.4	*	34.27	35.24	3
Healthcare support	3.1	2.2	*	12.94	13.85	* 7
Protective service	2.5	1.6	*	20.43	18.28	* -11
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.5		10.21	12.22	* 20
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.8	*	12.16	12.36	2
Personal care and service	2.7	2.9		11.82	12.39	5
Sales and related	10.6	10.3		17.69	16.91	* -4
Office and administrative support	16.9	15.0	*	16.09	16.26	1
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2	*	11.70	12.59	* 8
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.9		21.09	19.43	* -8
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.0		20.58	19.93	-3
Production	6.5	5.8	*	16.24	16.13	-1
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.1	*	15.70	15.32	-2

<sup>1</sup>A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Burlington area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower mean wage in the Burlington area.

\* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Burlington-South Burlington had 3,480 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 3.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$37.30, compared to the national wage of \$36.32.

With employment of 290, mechanical engineers was the largest occupation within the architecture and engineering group, followed by electronics engineers, except computer (220). These two occupations were also among the higher paying jobs. Electronics engineers, except computer, had mean hourly wages of \$44.28 and mechanical engineers, \$39.97. At the lower end of the wage scale were civil engineering technicians (\$19.39) and surveying and mapping technicians (\$19.93). (Detailed occupational data for architecture and engineering are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_72400.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_72400.htm))

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, surveyors were employed at 2.9 times the national rate in Burlington, and environmental engineers, at 2.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, civil engineers had a location quotient of 0.9 in Burlington, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Vermont Department of Labor. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and nearly 800 non-military detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas.

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

NOTE: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

### **Technical Note**

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands also are surveyed, but their data are not included in this release. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the May 2010 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. May 2010 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, and November 2007. The sample in the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,692 establishments with a response rate of 80 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The May 2010 OES estimates mark the first set of estimates based in part on data collected using the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Nearly all the occupations in this release are 2010 SOC occupations; however, some are not. The May 2012 OES data will reflect the full set of detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC. For a list of all occupations, including 2010 SOC occupations, and how data collected on two structures were combined, see the OES Frequently Asked Questions online at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm#Ques41](http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41).

### **Area definitions**

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Burlington-South Burlington, Vt. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bolton town, Buell's gore, Burlington city, Cambridge town, Charlotte town, Colchester town, Duxbury town, Essex town, Fairfax town, Ferrisburg town, Fletcher town, Georgia town, Grand Isle town, Hinesburg town, Huntington town, Isle La Motte town, Jericho town, Milton town, Monkton town, North Hero town, Richmond town, Shelburne town, South Burlington city, South Hero town, St. Albans city, St. Albans town, St. George town, Starksboro town, Underhill town, Vergennes city, Westford town, Williston town, and Winooski city.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the New England Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (617) 565-2327. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[1]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[2]</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Architecture and engineering occupations	3,480	1.8	\$37.30	\$77,580
Architects, except landscape and naval	80	1.0	31.70	65,930
Surveyors	110	2.9	22.08	45,930
Civil engineers	190	0.9	33.15	68,940
Electrical engineers	150	1.1	39.25	81,640
Electronics engineers, except computer	220	2.0	44.28	92,110
Environmental engineers	110	2.6	38.33	79,720
Industrial engineers	190	1.1	37.89	78,810
Mechanical engineers	290	1.4	39.97	83,140
Engineers, all other	70	0.6	52.58	109,360
Architectural and civil drafters	90	1.1	21.75	45,230
Mechanical drafters	120	2.1	31.94	66,440
Civil engineering technicians	40	0.6	19.39	40,330
Electrical and electronics engineering technicians	80	0.6	27.65	57,520
Industrial engineering technicians	50	0.9	22.82	47,460
Mechanical engineering technicians	40	1.2	25.45	52,940
Surveying and mapping technicians	40	0.8	19.93	41,450

[1] Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

[2] The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.