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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN ATLANTA-SANDY SPRINGS-MARIETTA, MAY 2010

Workers in the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.33 in May 2010, roughly 5 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.35, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 5 of the 22 major occupational groups, including business and financial operations, management, and sales and related. Six groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including production, construction and extraction, and education, training, and library.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including management, office and administrative support, and business and financial operations. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, healthcare support, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—management—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta had 146,470 jobs in management, accounting for 6.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$52.51, measurably above the national wage of \$50.69.

With employment of 49,130, general and operations managers was the largest occupation within the management group, followed by sales managers (11,010) and financial managers (10,670). Among the higher paying jobs were chief executives and financial managers, with mean hourly wages of \$88.35 and \$58.20, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were food service managers (\$23.89) and social and community service managers (\$31.56). (Detailed occupational data for management are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12060.htm)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Average hourly wage	
	United States	Atlanta		United States	Atlanta
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$21.35	\$22.33 *
Management	4.7	6.7	*	50.69	52.51 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	6.3	*	32.54	35.17 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	3.6	*	37.13	37.30
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.6	*	36.32	33.94 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5	*	31.92	31.26
Community and social service	1.5	1.1	*	20.76	21.51
Legal	0.8	0.9	*	46.60	47.64
Education, training, and library	6.7	6.7		24.25	21.66 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.1	*	25.14	25.44
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	4.6	*	34.27	33.94
Healthcare support	3.1	1.9	*	12.94	13.14
Protective service	2.5	2.2	*	20.43	17.18 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.5	*	10.21	9.92 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.7	*	12.16	11.87
Personal care and service	2.7	1.9	*	11.82	11.41
Sales and related	10.6	11.3	*	17.69	18.71 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	18.5	*	16.09	16.49 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	11.70	14.95 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.2	*	21.09	18.39 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.0		20.58	20.93
Production	6.5	4.8	*	16.24	15.10 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.7	*	15.70	16.29

* 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.

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 Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the management group. For instance, sales managers and chief executives were employed at 2.0 times the national rate in Atlanta. On the other hand, food service managers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Atlanta, 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 Georgia 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 Atlanta 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 Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area included 7,915 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.

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.

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 **Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Southeast Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (404) 893-4222. 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, Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽¹⁾	Location quotient ⁽²⁾	Hourly	Annual
Management occupations	146,470	1.4	\$52.51	\$109,230
Chief executives	9,390	2.0	88.35	183,770
General and operations managers	49,130	1.7	52.42	109,030
Legislators	590	0.5	(3)	19,200
Advertising and promotions managers	820	1.5	56.74	118,010
Marketing managers	5,050	1.8	55.61	115,660
Sales managers	11,010	2.0	56.55	117,630
Public relations and fundraising managers	1,140	1.2	49.89	103,770
Administrative services managers	6,490	1.6	40.60	84,450
Computer and information systems managers	7,900	1.6	57.44	119,460
Financial managers	10,670	1.3	58.20	121,050
Industrial production managers	1,660	0.7	40.09	83,390
Purchasing managers	1,460	1.3	53.29	110,850
Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	2,380	1.5	42.17	87,720
Compensation and benefits managers	610	1.2	48.87	101,650
Human resources managers	1,720	1.5	54.77	113,910
Training and development managers	960	2.0	48.16	100,170
Construction managers	4,200	1.3	45.74	95,130
Education administrators, preschool and childcare center/program	660	0.8	24.13	50,200
Education administrators, elementary and secondary school	4,150	1.1	(3)	85,340
Education administrators, postsecondary	2,360	1.2	48.32	100,510
Education administrators, all other	340	0.7	45.85	95,370
Architectural and engineering managers	3,700	1.2	53.72	111,750
Food service managers	3,410	1.1	23.89	49,690
Lodging managers	550	1.1	27.96	58,150
Medical and health services managers	6,420	1.3	43.27	90,000
Natural sciences managers	750	0.9	47.77	99,360
Postmasters and mail superintendents	120	0.3	36.59	76,110
Property, real estate, and community association managers	2,180	0.9	40.47	84,180
Social and community service managers	1,430	0.7	31.56	65,650
Emergency management directors	90	0.4	31.23	64,960
Managers, all other	5,100	0.9	51.40	106,910

(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.

(3) 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.