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## **OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, MAY 2011**

Workers in the Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.39 in May 2011, about 11 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 16 of the 22 major occupational groups, including protective service, sales and related, and computer and mathematical. Two groups, production, and architecture and engineering, had significantly higher wages than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical, production, and installation, maintenance, and repair. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, office and administrative support, and transportation and material moving. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Augusta-Richmond County had 15,860 jobs in production, accounting for 7.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.05, measurably above the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 2,290, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders (1,130) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (940). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, and chemical plant and system operators, with mean hourly wages of \$30.40 and \$28.19 respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were team assemblers (\$12.58) and metal and plastic molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders (\$12.95). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_12260.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12260.htm).)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Augusta	United States	Augusta	Percent difference (1)
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$19.39 *	-11
Management	4.8	4.1 *	51.64	46.25 *	-10
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.0 *	33.05	30.01 *	-9
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.3 *	37.85	30.29 *	-20
Architecture and engineering	1.8	3.1 *	37.08	38.92 *	5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.8	32.44	(2)	
Community and social service	1.5	1.3 *	21.07	17.62 *	-16
Legal	0.8	0.5 *	47.30	38.12	-19
Education, training, and library	6.6	7.1 *	24.46	22.30	-9
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.8 *	25.89	20.11 *	-22
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	8.2 *	34.97	31.42 *	-10
Healthcare support	3.1	3.4 *	13.16	11.89 *	-10
Protective service	2.5	3.0 *	20.54	14.29 *	-30
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.2	10.30	9.37 *	-9
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	12.29	10.57 *	-14
Personal care and service	2.8	2.1 *	11.84	10.54 *	-11
Sales and related	10.6	10.5	18.04	13.80 *	-24
Office and administrative support	16.7	15.4 *	16.40	14.70 *	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2 *	11.68	(2)	
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.4	21.46	18.62 *	-13
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.8 *	20.86	19.97 *	-4
Production	6.5	7.8 *	16.45	18.05 *	10
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.7 *	15.96	13.69 *	-14

\* 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.

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Augusta is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

(2) Estimate not released

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 Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the production group. For instance, paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at 7.7 times the national rate in Augusta, and team assemblers, at 1.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, first-line supervisors of production and operating workers had a location of quotient of 1.1 in Augusta, 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 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 Augusta 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 the national estimates. 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 2011 survey was 77.3 percent based on establishments and 73.3 percent based on employment. May 2011 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2011, November 2010, May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, and November 2008. The sample in the Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,393 establishments with a response rate of 83 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 2011 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 **Augusta-Richmond County, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Burke, Columbia, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties of Georgia and Aiken and Edgefield Counties of South Carolina.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm](http://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, Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Production occupations	15,860	1.2	\$18.05	\$37,550
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	940	1.1	30.40	63,220
Engine and other machine assemblers	30	0.6	18.80	39,110
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	80	0.6	14.81	30,810
Team assemblers	2,290	1.5	12.58	26,160
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	160	0.4	9.11	18,950
Bakers	220	0.9	11.17	23,230
Butchers and meat cutters	200	1.0	12.33	25,640
Food batchmakers	(5)	(5)	15.97	33,220
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	180	0.9	14.01	29,140
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	13.53	28,150
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	230	0.8	13.84	28,790
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	14.95	31,090
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	30	0.5	16.20	33,690
Machinists	240	0.4	19.64	40,860
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	410	2.2	12.95	26,940
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	50	0.4	19.28	40,100
Tool and die makers	30	0.3	20.77	43,210
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	530	1.1	18.07	37,590
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	90	1.5	15.24	31,690
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	1.1	13.60	28,280
Prepress technicians and workers	50	0.7	15.36	31,950
Printing press operators	170	0.6	16.76	34,870
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	250	0.8	9.94	20,680
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	(5)	(5)	9.05	18,830
Sewing machine operators	230	1.0	11.59	24,100
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	120	0.9	13.96	29,040
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	30	0.6	17.16	35,700
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	100	1.1	12.36	25,700
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	50	0.9	24.08	50,080
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	(5)	(5)	30.90	64,270
Chemical plant and system operators	500	7.8	28.19	58,630
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	31.69	65,910
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	230	1.2	21.63	45,000
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	70	2.2	15.98	33,250
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	780	1.1	16.71	34,760
Dental laboratory technicians	110	1.8	19.91	41,410
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	40	0.9	14.19	29,520
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	700	1.2	14.37	29,890
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	0.6	14.54	30,240
Painters, transportation equipment	80	1.2	20.07	41,750
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	50	1.6	11.45	23,830
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	60	0.8	9.92	20,640
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	17.90	37,220
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	40	0.8	19.87	41,330
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,130	7.7	(5)	(5)
Helpers--production workers	480	0.7	14.15	29,430
Production workers, all other	110	0.3	13.53	28,150

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Augusta-Richmond County, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_12260.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12260.htm).

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(5) Estimate not released.