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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN  
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL-BLOOMINGTON, MINN., MAY 2010**

Workers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$23.63 in May 2010, roughly 11 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 13 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; sales and related; and healthcare practitioners and technical. Three groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages: education, training, and library; business and financial operations; and architecture and engineering.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including computer and mathematical; business and financial operations; and management. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including construction and extraction; transportation and material moving; and installation, maintenance, and repair. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Minneapolis	United States	Minneapolis
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$23.63 *
Management	4.7	6.3 *	50.69	53.03 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	7.0 *	32.54	31.29 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	4.0 *	37.13	37.17
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.1 *	36.32	34.72 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.9	31.92	32.56
Community and social service	1.5	1.7 *	20.76	21.16
Legal	0.8	0.8	46.60	48.80
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.8 *	24.25	23.52 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.7 *	25.14	24.51
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.3 *	34.27	38.07 *
Healthcare support	3.1	2.9 *	12.94	14.32 *
Protective service	2.5	1.7 *	20.43	20.34
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.0 *	10.21	10.73 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.9 *	12.16	13.09 *
Personal care and service	2.7	3.8 *	11.82	12.11 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.6	17.69	20.57 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.1 *	16.09	17.38 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	**[1]	11.70	12.68 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	2.6 *	21.09	26.97 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	2.9 *	20.58	22.55 *
Production	6.5	7.0 *	16.24	17.41 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.7 *	15.70	16.97 *

\* 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] Estimate not released

One occupational group—business and financial operations—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington had 116,880 jobs in business and financial operations, accounting for 7.0 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$31.29, measurably below the national wage of \$32.54.

With employment of 16,640, accountants and auditors was one of the largest occupations within the business and financial operations group, as were management analysts (8,270) and market research analysts and marketing specialists (7,060). Among the higher paying jobs were management analysts; and financial examiners; with mean hourly wages of \$43.26 and \$37.18, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were tax preparers (\$16.87) and credit counselors (\$18.82). (Detailed occupational data for business and financial operations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_33460.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33460.htm).)

Location quotients allow for the exploration of a metropolitan area's occupational make-up 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the business and financial operations group. For instance, market research analysts and marketing specialists were employed at 2.0 times the national rate in Minneapolis, and financial analysts, at 1.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, compliance officers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Minneapolis, 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 Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development. 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 Minneapolis 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area included 9,080 establishments with a response rate of 76 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 **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright Counties of Minnesota, and Pierce and St. Croix Counties of Wisconsin.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro5/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro5/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the Chicago Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (312) 353-1880. 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, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[1]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[2]</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Business and financial operations occupations	116,880	1.5	\$31.29	\$65,090
Agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes	110	0.7	[3]	[3]
Buyers and purchasing agents, farm products	230	1.7	35.99	74,860
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	2,480	1.7	31.43	65,380
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	4,410	1.2	29.40	61,150
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	4,310	1.2	26.71	55,560
Insurance appraisers, auto damage	80	0.6	27.47	57,130
Compliance officers	2,760	1.0	33.28	69,220
Cost estimators	2,660	1.1	29.99	62,380
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists, all other	7,270	1.3	29.75	61,890
Logisticians	1,380	1.0	35.43	73,700
Management analysts	8,270	1.2	43.26	89,990
Meeting, convention, and event planners	1,040	1.4	22.55	46,900
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	1,640	1.2	30.18	62,780
Training and development specialists	3,400	1.3	30.01	62,410
Market research analysts and marketing specialists	7,060	2.0	35.13	73,060
Business operations specialists, all other	30,990	2.4	28.15	58,560
Accountants and auditors	16,640	1.2	30.94	64,360
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	1,200	1.5	27.37	56,940
Budget analysts	250	0.3	35.08	72,960
Credit analysts	1,140	1.4	29.39	61,130
Financial analysts	4,630	1.6	36.91	76,770
Personal financial advisors	[3]	[3]	34.01	70,740
Insurance underwriters	1,690	1.3	29.91	62,210
Financial examiners	700	1.9	37.18	77,340
Credit counselors	270	0.7	18.82	39,140
Loan officers	4,850	1.3	33.12	68,890
Tax preparers	580	0.8	16.87	35,080
Financial specialists, all other	3,540	1.7	30.62	63,680

[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] Estimate not released.