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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN ALBUQUERQUE
MAY 2010**

Workers in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.96 in May 2010, roughly 7 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that only two occupational groups had hourly wages that were significantly higher than their respective national averages: life, physical, and social science; and architecture and engineering. After testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 13 of the 22 major occupational groups, including business and financial operations, office and administrative support, and construction and extraction.

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

| Major occupational group | Percent of total employment | | Mean hourly wage | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | United States | Albuquerque | United States | Albuquerque |
| Total, all occupations | 100.0% | 100.0% | \$21.35 | \$19.96 * |
| Management | 4.7 | 4.8 | 50.69 | 43.55 * |
| Business and financial operations | 4.8 | 4.2 * | 32.54 | 30.82 * |
| Computer and mathematical | 2.6 | 2.4 * | 37.13 | 35.61 * |
| Architecture and engineering | 1.8 | 3.5 * | 36.32 | 38.18 * |
| Life, physical, and social science | 0.8 | 1.2 * | 31.92 | 35.30 * |
| Community and social service | 1.5 | 1.6 * | 20.76 | 20.06 * |
| Legal | 0.8 | 0.8 | 46.60 | 33.87 * |
| Education, training, and library | 6.7 | 6.3 * | 24.25 | 20.84 * |
| Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media | 1.4 | 0.9 * | 25.14 | 20.83 * |
| Healthcare practitioners and technical | 5.8 | 6.1 * | 34.27 | 35.14 * |
| Healthcare support | 3.1 | 3.4 * | 12.94 | 12.53 * |
| Protective service | 2.5 | 3.4 * | 20.43 | 16.29 * |
| Food preparation and serving related | 8.7 | 9.1 * | 10.21 | 9.31 * |
| Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance | 3.3 | 3.3 | 12.16 | 10.59 * |
| Personal care and service | 2.7 | 4.1 * | 11.82 | 10.78 * |
| Sales and related | 10.6 | 10.2 | 17.69 | 15.36 * |
| Office and administrative support | 16.9 | 16.6 | 16.09 | 14.87 * |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry | 0.3 | 0.1 * | 11.70 | 12.33 * |
| Construction and extraction | 4.0 | 5.4 * | 21.09 | 17.41 * |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair | 3.9 | 3.6 * | 20.58 | 19.24 * |
| Production | 6.5 | 3.6 * | 16.24 | 17.54 * |
| Transportation and material moving | 6.7 | 5.5 * | 15.70 | 14.89 * |

* 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.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 9 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering; construction and extraction; and personal care and service. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; transportation and material moving; and business and financial operations. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Albuquerque had 12,820 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 3.5 percent of local area employment, nearly double the 1.8-percent national share. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$38.18, measurably above the national wage of \$36.32.

With employment of 1,450, computer hardware engineers was the largest occupation within the architecture and engineering group. Other occupations with high levels of employment included electronics engineers, except computer, and electro-mechanical technicians (each with 1,080). Among the higher-paying jobs were nuclear engineers and aerospace engineers, with mean hourly wages of \$57.27 and \$56.03, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were aerospace engineering and operations technicians (\$18.69) and civil engineering technicians (\$19.85). (Detailed occupational data for architecture and engineering are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10740.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 Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, electro-mechanical technicians were employed at 23.2 times the national rate in Albuquerque, and computer hardware engineers, at 7.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, mechanical engineers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Albuquerque, 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 New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. 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 Albuquerque 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 are also 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 Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,676 establishments with a response rate of 90 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 **Albuquerque, N.M., Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties in New Mexico.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro6. If you have additional questions, contact the Southwest Information Office at 972-850-4800. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

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

| Occupation | Employment | | Mean wages | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| | Level ¹ | Location quotient ² | Hourly | Annual |
| Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 12,820 | 1.9 | \$38.18 | \$79,420 |
| Architects, Except Landscape and Naval | 460 | 1.8 | 32.47 | 67,530 |
| Landscape Architects | 40 | 0.8 | 25.35 | 52,720 |
| Cartographers and Photogrammetrists | 100 | 2.8 | 21.55 | 44,830 |
| Surveyors | 110 | 0.9 | 29.56 | 61,490 |
| Aerospace Engineers | 410 | 1.8 | 56.03 | 116,540 |
| Chemical Engineers | 70 | 0.9 | 51.79 | 107,720 |
| Civil Engineers | 1,010 | 1.4 | 42.68 | 88,780 |
| Computer Hardware Engineers | 1,450 | 7.5 | 43.93 | 91,370 |
| Electrical Engineers | 670 | 1.5 | 44.26 | 92,060 |
| Electronics Engineers, Except Computer | 1,080 | 2.8 | 48.36 | 100,590 |
| Environmental Engineers | 220 | 1.5 | 44.94 | 93,470 |
| Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors | 80 | 1.2 | 42.13 | 87,630 |
| Industrial Engineers | 560 | 0.9 | 47.86 | 99,550 |
| Materials Engineers | 80 | 1.3 | 42.84 | 89,100 |
| Mechanical Engineers | 700 | 1.0 | 42.03 | 87,420 |
| Nuclear Engineers | 100 | 1.8 | 57.27 | 119,120 |
| Engineers, All Other | 1,180 | 2.9 | 51.36 | 106,830 |
| Architectural and Civil Drafters | 520 | 2.0 | 21.87 | 45,500 |
| Electrical and Electronics Drafters | 100 | 1.3 | 25.51 | 53,060 |
| Mechanical Drafters | 180 | 0.9 | 25.81 | 53,680 |
| Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians | 240 | 9.7 | 18.69 | 38,870 |
| Civil Engineering Technicians | 300 | 1.3 | 19.85 | 41,290 |
| Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians | 1,020 | 2.4 | 27.14 | 56,450 |
| Electro-Mechanical Technicians | 1,080 | 23.2 | 27.69 | 57,600 |
| Environmental Engineering Technicians | 100 | 1.8 | 21.95 | 45,650 |
| Industrial Engineering Technicians | 120 | 0.6 | 24.62 | 51,200 |
| Mechanical Engineering Technicians | 220 | 1.7 | 26.02 | 54,120 |
| Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other | 480 | 2.5 | 25.26 | 52,540 |
| Surveying and Mapping Technicians | 110 | 0.7 | 21.22 | 44,130 |

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.