This chartbook, Occupational Employment and Wages, 2008, is a product of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for more than 800 occupations by geographic area and industry.

For every occupation, the OES program has data on the total U.S. employment and the distribution of wages, including the mean wage and the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentiles. Occupational data for geographic areas include employment and wages for each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Local area data are available for 377 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 34 metropolitan divisions within 11 of the largest MSAs, and 174 nonmetropolitan areas. National industry-specific estimates are available by industry sector and for 260 industries.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and the State workforce agencies. Employment and wage data for more than 800 occupations were collected from a sample of 1.2 million business establishments, employing more than 80 million workers, in 6 semiannual panels between November 2005 and May 2008. Wage data for all establishments were updated to the May 2008 reference period, and employment data were updated to the average of the November 2007 and the May 2008 reference periods. Information on OES sampling and estimation methods is provided in the survey methods and reliability statement on the enclosed compact disk (CD) and at http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_methods_statement.pdf.

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Additional data tables include cross-industry occupational employment and wage data for the Nation, States, metropolitan areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas; national occupational employment and wage data by industry; and profiles for all occupations. Data users also can create customized tables using the OES database search tool, or download complete OES data in zip file format from http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_dl.htm. Material in this publication is in the public domain and, with appropriate citation, may be reproduced without permission. Questions about OES data can be directed to the information phone line at (202) 691–6569 or sent to OESinfo@bls.gov.
The information in this chartbook is able to be produced thanks to the cooperation of more than a million business establishments that provide information on their workers to their State workforce agencies and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). State workforce agencies, in turn, feed the State estimates and verify them of their respective BLS States. BLS, in turn, produces the estimates, and provides technical procedures and financial support to the States. BLS also collects a small portion of the data from employers.

BLS produced this chartbook under the general guidance and direction of Dixie Sommers, Assistant Commissioner for Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, and George C. Stamas, Chief of the Division of Occupational Employment Statistics. Laurie Salmon, Manager of Publications and Analysis in the Occupational Employment Statistics Division, provided planning and day-to-day direction. Chris Yuen and Robotic Karer coordinated the production of the chartbook. The tables, charts, and maps were prepared by Benjamin Cooper, Jeffrey Holt, Dina Itkin, John Jones, Rebecca Kaiser, Clayton Lashley, Michael Scott, Zeilner Kramer, and Aubrey Wilson. Cover art, printing, and layout were furnished by Keith Tapscott, and editorial services were provided by Casey Homan in the Division of Publishing, of which William Parks II is the Chief.
Organization of charts and applications of OES data

The presentation of figures in this chartbook is intended to demonstrate a variety of applications of OES data. Figures are organized into five categories: the first focuses on broad applications, the second on business or occupational variability by industry, the third highlights patterns of specific industries, and the fourth and fifth focus on labor markets of States and local areas.

The following are some examples of useful applications of OES data.

Detailed occupational data can be used by businesses to study wages for workers in certain occupations to assess wage variation across States.

Wage variation within an occupation can result from several factors, including industry, geographic location, and industry-specific or regional labor market conditions. Data for industries include information on the industries or geographic areas that have the highest levels of employment, highest average wages for an occupation, largest increases in employment, and occupational wage rates.

Organizations and businesses can use OES data to examine information on the occupational choices available to their clients.

Industry-specific occupational data can be used by human resources professionals in salary negotiations or to ensure that their wages are competitive with those of other businesses in their area or industry. Information on the types of jobs that exist within an industry can be used to compare average staffing patterns with those of other similar companies. Occupational employment statistics by industry may be useful in assessing the impact of shifts in technology and other microeconomic factors on the types of available jobs.

BLS and State government employment projections programs use OES data as an input to their employment projections. These projections can be used to predict long-term labor market demands.

Information on specific geographic areas can be used to assess the labor markets of a particular area. OES data can also be used to make assessments about the diversity of a State’s economy or to make comparisons among States. Occupational Earnings Projections is the only series of projections that use data from both the BLS and the State government employment projections programs. OES data can be useful to businesses as a tool to evaluate their current employment levels and to assess wage variation within and across States.

Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Included are the base rate; cost-of-living allowances; guaranteed pay, hazard-duty pay, incentive pay, including commissions and production bonuses; and tips; and on-call pay. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, incentive pay, including commissions and production bonuses; and tips; and on-call pay. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, nonproduction bonuses, employer cost for supplementary benefits, and tuition assistance.

Occupations is a list of activities or tasks that employees are paid to perform. Employees who perform essentially the same tasks in the same occupation, whether or not they are in the same industry. Workers who may be classified in more than one occupation are classified in the occupation that requires the higher level of skill. If there is no measurable difference in skill requirements, workers are classified in the occupation in which they spend the most time. All occupations are classified by the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Those SOC systems, similar detailed codes are combined into major groups.

An industry is a group of establishments that have similar production processes or provide similar services. For example, all establishments that manufacture automobiles are in the same industry. A given industry or even a particular establishment in that industry might have a competitive wage compared to other industries. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups similar establishments into industries.

The level of employment shown in the charts is averages. The average for May 2008 survey was 78.25 percent of the employed labor force. Intervals are defined both as hourly and as annual wage intervals. Employment is calculated by the number of workers employed in the county in which they work. Establishments can reference either the hourly or the annual wage intervals, regardless of whether the employees work part time or full time. The responding establishments can reference either the hourly or the annual wage intervals, regardless of whether the employees work part time or full time. The responding establishments can reference either the hourly or the annual wage intervals, regardless of whether the employees work part time or full time. The responding establishments can reference either the hourly or the annual wage intervals, regardless of whether the employees work part time or full time. 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The 14 smallest occupations combined made up less than one-tenth of one percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment in many of these occupations is concentrated in specific industries.

Nine of the smallest occupations paid more than the U.S. median annual wage of $32,390.

**FIGURE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosthodontists</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>$80.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio operators</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>17.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabric menders, except garment</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>13.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locomotive firemen</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>23.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical technicians</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>18.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographers</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>32.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segmental pavers</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>13.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomers</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>48.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial-organizational psychologists</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>37.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists</td>
<td>1,580</td>
<td>15.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Models</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model makers, wood</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>15.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onstage operators</td>
<td>1,910</td>
<td>16.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeup artists, theatrical and performance</td>
<td>1,930</td>
<td>12.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patternmakers, wood</td>
<td>1,930</td>
<td>16.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The median wage is greater than $80 per hour or $166,400 per year.

**FIGURE 2**

One-quarter of U.S. employment was found in the 14 occupations listed.

Ten of these occupations paid below the U.S. median annual wage of $32,390.

Many of the largest occupations are found in a wide variety of industries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Percent of U.S. employment</th>
<th>Median wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail salespersons</td>
<td>4,426,280</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>$9.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
<td>3,545,610</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>8.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office clerks, general</td>
<td>2,906,600</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food</td>
<td>2,170,840</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>7.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered nurses</td>
<td>2,542,760</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>30.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters and waitresses</td>
<td>2,371,750</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>8.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand</td>
<td>2,335,510</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>10.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer service representatives</td>
<td>2,232,270</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>14.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners</td>
<td>2,145,320</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>10.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock clerks and sorter fillers</td>
<td>1,872,360</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive</td>
<td>1,872,070</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>13.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks</td>
<td>1,855,010</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>15.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and operations managers</td>
<td>1,697,690</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>44.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer</td>
<td>1,672,080</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>17.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many of the largest occupations with wages near the U.S. median were office and administrative support occupations.

---

**FIGURE 3**

- Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks and general office clerks were the two largest occupations with median wages within 5 percent of the U.S. all-occupations median of $15.57 per hour. Both also were among the 20 largest occupations overall.
- Several other office and administrative support occupations with wages near the U.S. median had employment of 100,000 or more, including billing and posting clerks and machine operators, insurance claims and policy processing clerks, and reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks.

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**FIGURE 4**

- Most occupations with median wages near the middle of the earnings distribution were production: office and administrative support; construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and transportation and material moving occupations.
- Twelve office and administrative support occupations, with total employment of 3.8 million, had median wages within 5 percent of the U.S. median wage of $15.57 per hour. Although 26 production occupations had wages in this range, because of their smaller average size, total employment in these 26 occupations was only 2.1 million.

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**Number of occupations with wages near the U.S. median, and employment in these occupations, by occupational group, May 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational group</th>
<th>Number of occupations</th>
<th>Employment (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office and administrative support</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and extraction</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, maintenance, and repair</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and material moving</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare practitioner and technical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming, fishing, and forestry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wages for most health therapists ranged from around $38,000 to $104,000 per year.

- Health care and social assistance is the industry with the fastest projected employment growth from 2006 to 2016.
- Of the therapists listed, audiologists had the widest range between the 10th and 90th percentile wages, with 10 percent earning $40,360 or less per year and 10 percent earning $98,880 or more. Respiratory therapists had the narrowest wage range. Despite their differing wage distributions, these two occupations had the lowest mean wages of the therapists shown.
- Among the therapist occupations in the chart, respiratory therapists had the lowest mean wage and radiation therapists had the highest mean wage. For both of these occupations, an associate's degree was the most common level of education, according to BLS Occupational Projections and Training Data, 2008–09 edition.
- A master's degree was the most common level of education for physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

Wages of selected health therapists, May 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>10th percentile</th>
<th>25th percentile</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>75th percentile</th>
<th>90th percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory therapists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiologists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech-language pathologists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational therapists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical therapists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation therapists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Wages for most health therapists ranged from around $38,000 to $104,000 per year.
Reporters and correspondents accounted for the largest share of total nationwide employment of the three writing occupations, employing 50,690 workers.

In each of the four States for which data are presented, technical writers had the highest average wage, followed by writers and authors, and lastly reporters and correspondents.

Of the selected States, New Mexico had the highest mean annual wage for writers and authors, yet the lowest wage for reporters and correspondents.

In Georgia, the top 10 percent of reporters and correspondents earned more than $77,800, while the lowest decile earned less than $17,810.

Many technical writers reside in large metropolitan areas; divisions of the Boston, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas employed the most writers and authors.

The three highest paying metropolitan areas for writers were all found in the State of California.

The top three industries for writers and authors—professional, scientific, and technical services; publishing industries; and religious, civic, professional, and similar organizations—made up more than half of the employment of writers and authors.

Professional, scientific, and technical services employed 11,050 writers and authors, more than any other industry.

Motion picture and sound recording industries paid the highest wages to writers and authors among the industries listed, an average of $98,370 annually.

## Figures 6-7

### Profile of writing occupations, May 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Mean annual wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical writers</td>
<td>$81,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers and authors</td>
<td>$61,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporters and correspondents</td>
<td>$71,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Level of employment of writers and authors, by industry, May 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Mean annual wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, and technical services</td>
<td>11,050</td>
<td>$71,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing industries, except Internet</td>
<td>9,310</td>
<td>$52,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious, civic, professional, and similar orgs</td>
<td>3,490</td>
<td>$50,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcasting, except Internet</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>$51,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing arts, entertain., and related industries</td>
<td>3,280</td>
<td>$57,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion picture and sound recording industries</td>
<td>2,690</td>
<td>$63,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>$52,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal, state, and local government (C&amp;G designation)</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>$51,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of companies and enterprises</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>$57,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and support services</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>$47,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other industries</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>$57,310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While the U.S. average annual wage grew 18.9 percent from 2002 to 2008, from $35,560 to $42,270, wage growth of occupational groups varied and was correlated with the groups’ 2002 wages.

In general, the lower the initial wage of an occupational group, the lower the wage growth of that occupational group. For example, personal care and service occupations had a below-average wage of $21,350 in 2002 and below-average wage growth of 12.9 percent from 2002 to 2008. The two occupational groups of architecture and engineering and business and financial operations occupations both had average wages of more than $53,000 in 2002, and their wages grew more than average, by 23 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

Exceptions to the general trend are those occupational groups in the upper-left and lower-right quadrants. These include construction and extraction occupations, which had slightly above average wages.
Overall, counselors earned relatively high wages in elementary and secondary schools and relatively low wages in individual and family services and vocational rehabilitation services.

**Figure 9**

- Rehabilitation counselors had the lowest overall mean wage of these occupations. Their largest employer, vocational rehabilitation services, was the lowest paying of these occupations. This occupation was concentrated in elementary and secondary schools, an industry that paid relatively high wages to counselors.
- Elementary and secondary schools paid the highest wages for four of the five types of counselors.
- Vascular rehabilitation services and individual and family services had the lowest average wages from the industries shown.

The selected industries all employed relatively large numbers of counselors. Individual and family services employed a particularly high number of each type of counselor.

Other industries employing counselors include State government; residential mental health and substance abuse facilities; and colleges, universitites, and professional schools.

**Figure 10**

- From May 2004 to May 2008, employment of reporters and correspondents decreased among newspaper publishers and television broadcasters and in cable and other subscription programming.
- Employment of these professionals increased in radio broadcasting and among periodical, book, directory, and other publishers.
- Between May 2004 and May 2008, wages of reporters and correspondents showed a large increase in the radio broadcasting industry, from a mean of $31,830 to a mean of $46,690.
- Reporters and correspondents experienced less wage growth in newspaper publishing than in other media, from $35,760 in May 2004 to $39,720 in May 2008.

**OCCUPATIONS IN INDUSTRIES**

**Wages of counselors in selected industries, May 2008**

- Elementary and secondary schools paid the highest wages for four of the five types of counselors.
- Vascular rehabilitation services and individual and family services had the lowest average wages from the industries shown.

**Employment of reporters and correspondents across all industries decreased from 52,550 in May 2004 to 50,690 in May 2008.**

**OCCUPATIONS IN INDUSTRIES**

**Employment of reporters and correspondents by medium, May 2004 and May 2008**

- From May 2004 to May 2008, employment of reporters and correspondents decreased among newspaper publishers and television broadcasters and in cable and other subscription programming.
- Employment of these professionals increased in radio broadcasting and among periodical, book, directory, and other publishers.
- Between May 2004 and May 2008, wages of reporters and correspondents showed a large increase in the radio broadcasting industry, from a mean of $31,830 to a mean of $46,690.
- Reporters and correspondents experienced less wage growth in newspaper publishing than in other media, from $35,760 in May 2004 to $39,720 in May 2008.
Many occupations in the U.S. were concentrated in a single industry: 286 occupations had a majority of their employment in one industry, and 59 of these occupations had over 90 percent of their employment in one industry.

**Occupations with employment concentrated primarily in a single industry, May 2008**

- **Security guards**
- **Bus drivers**
- **Retail salespersons**
- **Cashiers**
- **Taxi drivers and chauffeurs**
- **Farmworkers and laborers**
- **Truck drivers**
- **Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists**
- **Combined food preparation and serving workers**
- **Sewing machine operators**
- **Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders**

**Industries with employment concentrated primarily in a single occupation, May 2008**

- **Security guards**
- **Bus drivers**
- **Retail salespersons**
- **Cashiers**
- **Taxi drivers and chauffeurs**
- **Farmworkers and laborers**
- **Truck drivers**
- **Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists**
- **Combined food preparation and serving workers**
- **Sewing machine operators**
- **Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders**

A variety of industries had their employment concentrated in a single occupation.
On average, wages of workers who design and develop software and systems were higher than wages of workers who support and maintain existing systems, but wages varied by industry.

Mean wages of computer scientists, systems analysts, and software engineers in selected industries, May 2008

Mean wages of network and database occupations and of programming occupations in selected industries, May 2008

Cross-industry mean wages of software engineers and of computer systems analysts and researchers were above $75,000 per year, while wages for network and database administrators and analysts and computer programmers were below $75,000 per year.

Colleges, universities, and professional schools was one of the lowest paying industries for all of these occupations.

Software publishers and computer systems design and related services were among the highest paying industries for most IT occupations in which workers support and maintain existing systems, but were not among the highest paying industries for development-related occupations.

The mean wages of computer support specialists ranged between $40,000 and $50,000 in the industries shown, and the mean wages of computer and information research scientists ranged between $65,000 and $130,000 in the industries shown.

On average, wages of workers who design and develop software and systems were higher than wages of workers who support and maintain existing systems, but wages varied by industry.
Industry Focus

Home health aides was one of the fastest growing healthcare occupations between May 2004 and May 2008.

- Home health aides had the greatest absolute and percentage employment increase from May 2004 to May 2008, increasing by 293,650, or 54.3 percent.
- Medical assistants had faster percentage growth, at 24.4 percent, than registered nurses, which grew 10.2 percent.
- The two relatively small occupations of radiologic technologists and technicians and emergency medical technicians and paramedics both grew at a faster pace than most occupations shown, by 17.8 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively.

Medical and clinical laboratory technicians
Medical records and health information technicians
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists
Healthcare support workers, all other
Physical therapists
Dental hygienists
Radiologic technologists and technicians
Dental assistants
Medical assistants
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses
Home health aides
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants
Registered nurses

Employment and mean wages of the largest occupations in the health insurance industry, May 2008.

- Of the 12 largest occupations in the health insurance industry, 8 had average hourly wages above the U.S. average hourly wage of $20.32.
- Three of the four occupations shown in the chart with average hourly wages below the U.S. average are office and administrative support occupations.
- Three of the largest occupations in the industry are specific to the health and other insurance industries, including insurance sales agents, claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators, and insurance claims and policy processing clerks.

Many of the largest occupations in the health insurance industry were office and administrative support occupations, with customer service representatives alone making up about 18 percent of employment in the industry.
Many food service workers start as untrained food preparation workers and advance to cook positions as they acquire kitchen skills and demonstrate greater responsibility.

### FIGURE 17

- Dishwashers and combined food preparation and serving workers were among the lowest paid workers in the full-service restaurant industry. There was little variation in their wages. 80 percent of dishwashers were paid between $6.90 and $10.17.
- In contrast, chefs and head cooks as well as food service managers had the highest wages and greatest wage variation. Eighty percent of chefs and head cooks earned between $10.20 and $30.01 per hour, and 80 percent of food service managers earned between $15.05 and $37.52.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Mean wage</th>
<th>10th percentile</th>
<th>25th percentile</th>
<th>50th percentile</th>
<th>75th percentile</th>
<th>90th percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dishwashers, combined food preparation and serving workers</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks, restaurant</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$27.00</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chefs and head cooks</td>
<td>$10.20</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service managers</td>
<td>$15.05</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wages were lower than average in full-service restaurants for dishwashers, combined food preparation and serving workers, restaurant cooks, and chefs and head cooks.

Many workers earn progressively higher wages as they gain experience or switch to jobs in establishments offering more advancement opportunities or higher pay, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Career Guide to Industries. For example, waiters and waitresses may transfer to jobs in more expensive or busier restaurants where they tend to receive more money from tips.

### FIGURE 18

- Chemical technicians, for whom the most common level of education and training was an associate degree, had almost the same wage range as chemical equipment operators and tenders, for whom the most common level of education and training was moderate-term on-the-job training.
- Some occupations shown in the chart for which a master’s degree or a doctoral degree was the most common level of education—such as microbiologists—had lower 90th-percentile wages than a few occupations in which workers did not have either of those degrees—such as industrial production managers.

### Wage Ranges for Selected Occupations in the Chemical Manufacturing Industry

**Occupations within the chemical manufacturing industry varied widely in wages and fit into various education and training categories.**

- **Bachelor’s degree**
  - Chemical engineers
  - Chemical technicians
- **Master’s degree**
  - Environmental scientists and specialists, excluding health
  - Statisticians
- **Doctoral degree**
  - Microbiologists
  - Biochemists and biophysicists

**Legend, wage percentiles**
- 10th percentile
- 25th percentile
- 50th percentile
- 75th percentile
- 90th percentile

**Annual wage**
- $0
- $25,000
- $50,000
- $100,000
- $150,000
The largest mining industry, nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying, had the lowest average wages for each of the occupations shown.

- Metal ore mining, the smallest mining industry, had the highest average wages for 9 of the 12 largest occupations.
- First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers had the highest average wage of the occupations shown for all three mining (except oil and gas) industries.
- Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers had the greatest average annual wage differentials across the three industries; they made $42,420 in metal ore mining, $34,380 in coal mining, and $26,100 in nonmetallic mineral mining.

Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators was the largest occupation in each of the three industries, with total employment of 24,300 across all three industries.

- Coal mining employed the greatest number of electricians, industrial machinery mechanics, mine cutting and channeling machine operators, first-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers, and continuous mining machine operators.

### FIGURE 19

**Mean annual wages of the largest occupations in selected mining industries, May 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Mean annual wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders</td>
<td>$25,000 - $30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>$30,000 - $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial machinery mechanics</td>
<td>$40,000 - $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance and repair workers, general</td>
<td>$50,000 - $60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers</td>
<td>$60,000 - $70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile heavy equipment mechanics, except engines</td>
<td>$70,000 - $80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers</td>
<td>$80,000 - $90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous mining machine operators</td>
<td>$90,000 - $100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excavating and loading machine and driller operators</td>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operators and other construction equipment operators</td>
<td>$150,000 - $200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FIGURE 20

**Employment in the largest occupations of selected mining industries, May 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders</td>
<td>0 - 2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>2,500 - 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial machinery mechanics</td>
<td>5,000 - 7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance and repair workers, general</td>
<td>7,500 - 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers</td>
<td>10,000 - 12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile heavy equipment mechanics, except engines</td>
<td>12,500 - 15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers</td>
<td>15,000 - 17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous mining machine operators</td>
<td>17,500 - 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excavating and loading machine and driller operators</td>
<td>20,000 - 22,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operators and other construction equipment operators</td>
<td>22,500 - 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal mining</td>
<td>25,000 - 27,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators</td>
<td>27,500 - 30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock-pickers</td>
<td>30,000 - 32,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**INDUSTRY FOCUS**

- Metal ore mining, the smallest mining industry, had the highest average wages for 9 of the 12 largest occupations.
- First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers had the highest average wage of the occupations shown for all three mining (except oil and gas) industries.
- Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers had the greatest average annual wage differentials across the three industries; they made $42,420 in metal ore mining, $34,380 in coal mining, and $26,100 in nonmetallic mineral mining.
The supersector with the second-highest number of job openings in May 2008, professional and business services, had employment in a wide variety of occupations.

Largest occupations in the industry supersector with the second-highest number of job openings: professional and business services, May 2008

- Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners
- Security guards
- Office clerks, general
- Customer service representatives
- Landscaping and groundskeeping workers
- Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand
- Accountants and auditors
- Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks
- Executive secretaries and administrative assistants
- Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive
- General and operations managers
- Computer software engineers, applications
- Management analysts
- Legal secretaries
- First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers
- Computer systems analysts
- Technicians
- Business operations specialists, all other
- Computer programmers
- Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand
- Custodial workers, except maids and housekeeping cleaners
- Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks
- Sales representatives
- Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners
- Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive
- Accountants and auditors
- Management analysts
- Computer software engineers, applications
- Management analysts
- Legal secretaries
- First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers
- Computer systems analysts
- Technicians
- Business operations specialists, all other
- Computer programmers
Michigan had higher-than-average employment concentrations of architecture and engineering occupations and production occupations, and lower-than-average concentrations of office and administrative support occupations and construction and extraction occupations.

Distribution of employment in the United States and in Michigan, by occupational group, May 2008

Wages and employment of selected occupations in Michigan, May 2008
States with different rates of layoffs had varying occupational compositions.

- States with high concentrations of employment in computer and mathematical science; business and financial operations; and education, training, and library occupations tended to have low rates of separations due to layoffs. Other occupations in which mass layoffs did not cause many separations and were generally not analytical or administrative in nature.

- States with high concentrations of employment in food preparation and serving related, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and transportation and material moving occupations tended to have high overall separations rates due to layoffs. Occupations in these groups involved physical labor or were related to personal service and sales, with the exception of some architecture and engineering occupations.

- The rate of mass- layoff-induced separation in each State represents the State’s private, nonfarm, non-seasonal, and non-vacation separations in 2008 as a percentage of total private, nonfarm employment among establishments with more than 50 employees in the State in March 2008. Separations data are from the BLS Mass Layoff Statistics program, and total State employment data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

F I G U R E 24

- The State with the smallest wage range for structural metal fabricators and fitters was Maine, with a difference between the 10th and 90th percentiles of only $9.90. New York had the widest wage range for this occupation, with a difference of $21.71 between the 10th- and 90th-percentile wages.
- New York and Arizona had similar 10th percentile wages, but New York’s 90th percentile wage was $12.24 higher than Arizona’s for this occupation.
- Minnesota had the third highest median wage of all States for this occupation, $20.51.

Wages of structural metal fabricators and fitters, for selected States, May 2008

F I G U R E 25

- States with high concentrations of employment in computer and mathematical science; business and financial operations; and education, training, and library occupations tended to have low rates of separations due to layoffs. Other occupations in which mass layoffs did not cause many separations and were generally not analytical or administrative in nature.

- States with high concentrations of employment in food preparation and serving related, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and transportation and material moving occupations tended to have high overall separations rates due to layoffs. Occupations in these groups involved physical labor or were related to personal service and sales, with the exception of some architecture and engineering occupations.

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Differences between States’ mean wages and the U.S. mean wage, May 2008

Delaware and California had average wages above the national average in part because they had above-average wages for their occupations, and in part because more of their employment was in higher paying occupations.

A State’s overall average wage is influenced by two factors—the wages of occupations in the State, and the way in which employment is distributed among higher and lower paying occupations.

The chart shows the difference between the average wage in the Nation and the average wage in the State (represented by the green bar), how much of that difference is due to different occupational wages (represented by the pink bar), and how much is due to greater employment concentrations in higher or lower paying occupations as compared with the Nation’s occupational composition (represented by the blue bar).

South Dakota and North Carolina had average wages below the national average because they had below-average occupational wages and more employment concentrated in lower paying occupations.

Rhode Island’s overall average wage was above average despite more employment in lower paying occupations because occupational wages in Rhode Island were above average. In contrast, the average wage in New Hampshire was above average because the State’s employment was concentrated in higher paying occupations. The average wage of occupations in New Hampshire was above average because the State’s employment was concentrated in higher paying occupations. Wyoming and Hawaii both had an average wage below the U.S. average. Hawaii’s below average wage was due to high concentrations of employment in lower paying occupations. Wyoming’s mean wage was below average because of low occupational wages, even though the State had more employment in higher paying occupations.
Real average wages declined in Nevada and Indiana because of shifts in employment towards lower paying occupations as well as declines in the average wages of individual occupations.

A change in a State’s real average wage can be divided into two factors: changes in the average wages of workers in specific occupations and changes in the occupational structure of employment—that is, whether on the whole employment is moving from higher to lower paying occupations or from lower to higher paying occupations.

Each green bar in the chart shows the change in the real average wage of the State in question. The pink bar shows the amount of the change in the average wage that is due to changes in the wages of individual occupations, whereas the blue bar shows the amount of the change in the average wage that is due to shifts in employment towards higher or lower paying occupations.

Real average wages in Colorado and Wyoming rose because of increases in the average wages of occupations and shifts in employment towards higher paying occupations.

Ohio had a decrease in its real average wage of over $0.20, despite an average increase in occupational wages of almost $0.20, because employment in the State shifted to lower paying occupations—a pattern also seen in Arizona.

Wage increases in Illinois and Virginia caused increases in the average wage despite a shift towards lower paying occupations in both States.

Shifts towards higher paying occupations in New York and Minnesota accounted for the increase in the average wage in each of those States.

A shift towards higher paying occupations in Georgia and Kentucky slowed the declines in the average wage in these States; in each state, the decrease in the average wage was due to declines in the wages of individual occupations.
States with higher concentrations of employment in computer and mathematical occupations generally had high wages for these occupations.

Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Colorado, and Washington had the highest concentrations of computer and mathematical occupations, with 4 to 5 percent of their employment in these occupations.

Wyoming, Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia, and Nevada each had about 1 percent of total employment in these occupations.

Virginia had a high level of employment in the following computer and mathematical occupations: computer systems analysts (employment of 33,590); computer software engineers, applications (employment of 31,830); computer software engineers, systems software (26,060); and computer support specialists (18,750).

Wyoming’s largest computer and mathematical occupations were computer support specialists (employment of 460), computer systems analysts (350), network and computer system administrators (300), and computer specialists, all other (280).

The States with the highest average wages for computer and mathematical occupations were Massachusetts ($86,760), Virginia ($85,650), California ($83,790), New Jersey ($83,120), and Maryland ($82,740).

The States with the lowest average wages for these occupations were North Dakota ($49,460), Wyoming ($53,270), South Dakota ($53,430), Mississippi ($54,030), and Louisiana ($54,690).

States with high concentrations of employment in computer and mathematical occupations tended to have more of this employment concentrated in the higher paying computer occupations, including computer systems analysts, computer software engineers, applications, and computer software engineers, systems software. Computer support specialists, the lowest paid of the computer occupations, made up a higher percentage of computer and mathematical employment in States with lower concentrations of employment in the computer and mathematical occupational group.
Eighty-six percent of U.S. employment was found in metropolitan areas, but some occupations were concentrated in nonmetropolitan areas. Fourteen percent of all U.S. jobs were in nonmetropolitan areas. Most of the occupations with employment concentrated in nonmetropolitan areas were related to mining, extraction, and logging. Postmasters and mail superintendents, and slaughterers and meat packers, are the only occupations listed that do not directly involve mining or logging.

Figure 30
Occupations found primarily in nonmetropolitan areas, May 2008

Figure 31
Occupations with the highest concentration of employment in metropolitan areas, May 2008

Seven of the occupations concentrated almost exclusively in metropolitan areas are related to the performing arts, media, or sports: theatrical and performance makeup artists; sound engineering technicians; agents of artists, performers, and athletes; all other entertainers and performers; computer software engineers, systems software; insurance appraisers, auto damage; agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes; and computer hardware engineers.

Some of the other occupations shown, particularly subway and streetcar operators, are necessary to run or maintain infrastructure found primarily in urban areas.
Durham, NC, had higher-than-average employment concentrations in six of the seven highest paying occupational groups and lower-than-average employment shares in many of the lower paying occupational groups, such as the food preparation and serving related group and the personal care and service group.

- The employment share of life, physical, and social science occupations was 4.65 times higher in Durham, NC, than in the Nation as a whole. Only about 4 out of every 100 U.S. jobs was in this occupational group, compared with more than 4 out of every 100 jobs in Durham.
- Computer and mathematical science occupations had an employment concentration 3.8 times higher in Durham, NC, than at the national level, as this group accounted for about 7 in 100 Durham jobs and about 4 in 100 U.S. jobs.
- Transportation and material moving occupations, which had below-average wages, accounted for 7 percent of jobs in the United States but only 4 percent of jobs in Durham.
- Only 4 out of 22 occupational groups had average wages significantly higher in Durham, NC, than at the national level.

The main factor that caused the average wage in Durham, North Carolina, to exceed the U.S. average by 16 percent was the higher-than-average shares of employment in occupations that paid above-average wages.

**Figure 32**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational group</th>
<th>Percent of total U.S. employment</th>
<th>Percent of total Durham, NC employment</th>
<th>Concentration factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer and mathematical science</td>
<td>1.250</td>
<td>4.490</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, physical, and social science</td>
<td>0.510</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, professional, and related</td>
<td>1.780</td>
<td>0.626</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service group</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and material moving</td>
<td>0.740</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and related</td>
<td>0.510</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and financial operations</td>
<td>1.250</td>
<td>4.490</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 33**

- The concentration factor column in the table shows how individual occupational shares of employment in Durham, NC, related to the same occupational shares of employment at the national level. For example, loan counselors' employment concentration in Durham, NC, was 11.5 times higher than loan counselors' employment concentration at the national level. Of the 21 detailed occupations with the highest employment concentrations in Durham, NC, related to the United States, over half were life, physical, and social science occupations, and more than 4 were computer and mathematical science occupations.
- The employment share of clinical, counseling, and school psychologists in Durham was about three times the U.S. employment share for this occupation, making this the only life, physical, and social science occupation with a lower employment concentration at the national level. For example, the concentrations of employment in six of the seven highest paying occupational groups and lower-than-average employment shares in many of the lower paying occupational groups, such as the food preparation and serving related group and the personal care and service group.

The employment share of life, physical, and social science occupations was 4.65 times higher in Durham, NC, than in the Nation as a whole. Only about 4 out of every 100 U.S. jobs was in this occupational group, compared with more than 4 out of every 100 jobs in Durham. Computer and mathematical science occupations had an employment concentration 3.8 times higher in Durham, NC, than at the national level, as this group accounted for about 7 in 100 Durham jobs and about 4 in 100 U.S. jobs. Transportation and material moving occupations, which had below-average wages, accounted for 7 percent of jobs in the United States but only 4 percent of jobs in Durham. Only 4 out of 22 occupational groups had average wages significantly higher in Durham, NC, than at the national level.
Occupational mean wages in all metropolitan areas in North Carolina were below national occupational mean wages, but employment was concentrated in higher paying occupations in three metropolitan areas.

**Differences between North Carolina metropolitan area wages and the U.S. mean wage, May 2008**

**In the chart, the green bar shows the difference between average wages in the metropolitan areas in North Carolina and average wage in the United States. The pink bar shows the difference in total wages that is due to differences in occupational wages. The blue bar shows the difference that is due to employment being concentrated in higher or lower paying occupations.**

- Although the wages of individual occupations in Durham, NC, and Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC, were lower overall than the U.S. average wages for the respective occupations, these metropolitan areas had average wages above the U.S. average because they had a greater concentration of employment in higher paying occupations, as indicated by the blue bars in the chart.
- Durham, NC, had the highest average wage of all metropolitan areas in North Carolina because of Durham’s high concentration of employment in higher paying occupations.

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**Interactive component**

The interaction component captures the part of the average wage that is not attributable solely to either occupational composition or occupational wages.
Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for 16 percent of employment in the Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA, metropolitan area, but only 2 percent of employment in the Los Alamos, NM, nonmetropolitan area.

The areas with the highest concentrations of employment in transportation and material moving occupations were the Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA, metropolitan area (163 per 1,000 workers); southwestern Wisconsin nonmetropolitan area (144 per 1,000 workers); Joplin, MO, metropolitan area (124 per 1,000 workers); and Linn County, OR, nonmetropolitan area (120 per 1,000 workers).

Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA, had a total of 15,440 transportation and material moving jobs. Two of the largest transportation and material moving occupations were related to water transportation: captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels (with employment of 3,350); and sailors and marine oilers (with employment of 2,700).

The two largest transportation and material moving occupations in the other four areas listed above were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and the occupation of laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.

The areas with the highest wages for the transportation and material moving occupations included several nonmetropolitan areas, such as the southeast Alaska nonmetropolitan area ($44,780), railbelt/southwestern Alaska nonmetropolitan area ($44,530), and Nantucket Island and Martha’s Vineyard nonmetropolitan area ($43,250).

In the southeast Alaska nonmetropolitan area, occupations with high wages included ship engineers ($66,860); first-line supervisors/managers of transportation and material moving machine and vehicle operators ($65,110); commercial pilots ($56,780); first-line supervisors/managers of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand ($56,670); and captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels ($53,660).

Mean annual wage of transportation and material moving occupations, by area, May 2008

Mean annual wage

- $1 - $27,320
- $27,321 - $29,810
- $29,811 - $32,480
- $32,481 - $36,690
- $36,691 - $44,780
- $44,801 - $47,780
- $47,781 - $54,810
- $54,811 - $62,480
- $62,481 - $74,480
The enclosed compact disk (CD) contains electronic copies of all figures in this book; files with May 2008 OES data for all occupations in all industries, States, and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; and technical notes regarding the estimates. The CD includes electronic versions—with updated data—of the tables that were published in printed form in previous years. These tables comprise national cross-industry employment and wage data for all occupations, industry-specific data on the largest occupations in over 300 industries, and profiles for all occupations. Current and archived data are available on the Web site http://www.bls.gov/oes.

The charts are in Portable Document Format (PDF). The PDF files are created by Adobe Acrobat software and can be viewed with Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have this viewer configured on a local drive, you may download it at no cost from Adobe's Web site: http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

To open the CD on a Windows PC, do the following:

1. Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. Open “My Computer” from either the Start menu or the desktop.
3. Double-click on the CD-ROM drive to view its contents.
Find OES data on our Web site: http://www.bls.gov/oes

- Create customized data tables using our data query tool:
  http://data.bls.gov/oes/search.jsp
- Download data from current and previous years as Excel files:
  http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_dl.htm
- Download data from current and previous years as text files:
  http://wwwftp.bls.gov/pub/time.series/oe
- View OES data highlights:
  http://www.bls.gov/oes/previous_highlights.htm
- Find economic news releases:
  http://www.bls.gov/oes/news.htm
- Read published analytical articles:
  http://www.bls.gov/oes/publications.htm
- View this chartbook online: