

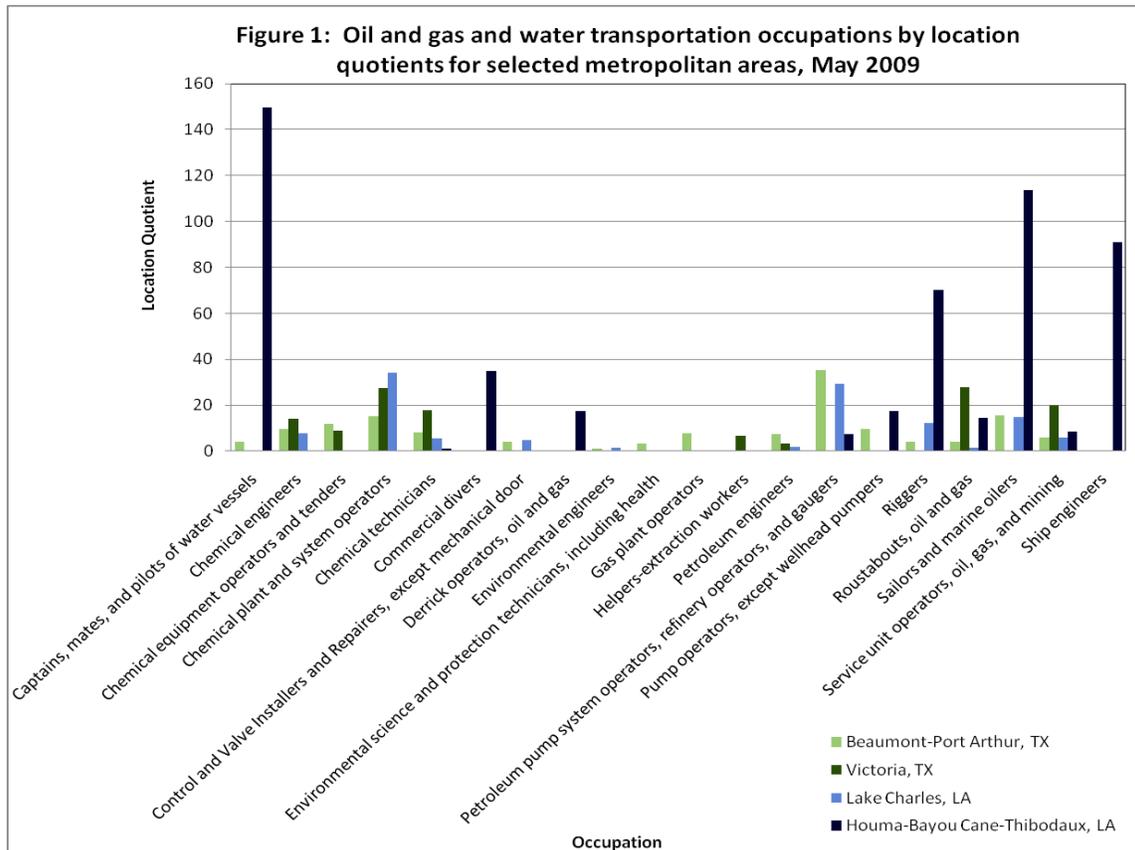
October 2010

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Highlights



Gulf Coast Occupational Employment and Wages

Some of the largest industries in areas along the Gulf of Mexico Coast are related to oil and gas drilling, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality. A closer look at the occupations and wages in these industries and areas prior to the Gulf oil spill could provide insight into potential implications of the spill for the labor force in the region, although it is difficult to say which occupations may be adversely affected in their employment or wages.



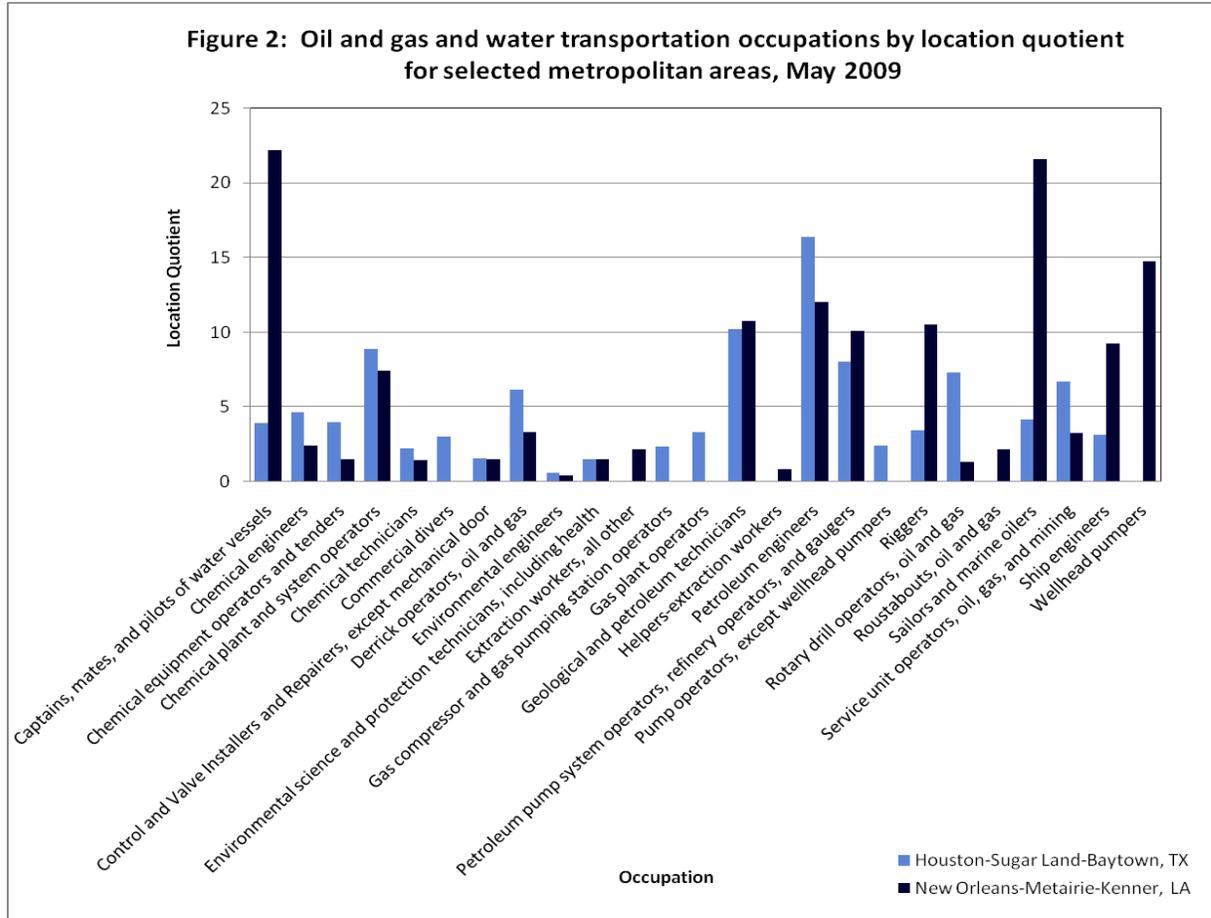
While the largest occupations in the Gulf areas were often the same large occupations found in other areas of the United States, location quotients¹ can be used to show occupations that are more highly concentrated in the Gulf areas than in other parts of the country. Location quotients compare an occupation's share of total employment in the area to its share of total U.S. employment. A location quotient greater than one indicates that the occupation is more concentrated in the area than in the United States as a whole. Occupations that were the most prevalent in the 25 areas² along the Gulf Coast, measured in terms of location quotients, are available at www.bls.gov/oes/highlight_gulf_table1.htm. Some of the occupations that were the most prevalent in the Gulf Coast areas included occupations associated with oil and gas extraction, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality.

Occupations closely related to oil and gas extraction and water transportation accounted for over 100,000 jobs across the 25 Gulf Coast areas. Six of the 19 metropolitan areas and 2 of the 6 nonmetropolitan areas had especially high employment concentrations of occupations prevalent in the oil and gas and/or water transportation industries. The location quotients for selected occupations in these 8 areas are shown in figures 1 through 4.

Four of the metropolitan areas—Beaumont-Port Arthur, Victoria, Lake Charles, and Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux—are smaller metropolitan areas consisting of 2 parishes or counties and are shown in figure 1. (See page 9 to view these data in table format.) The Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux metropolitan area dominates the graph with four occupations with location quotients over 60, including captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels; riggers; sailors and marine oilers; and ship engineers. Chemical plant and system operators and petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers also had high location quotients for 3 of the metropolitan areas.

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX, and New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, also had high employment concentrations of occupations related to the oil and gas and water transportation industries. In many of the occupations, the metropolitan areas were similar in the concentrations of employment. For instance, both areas had similar

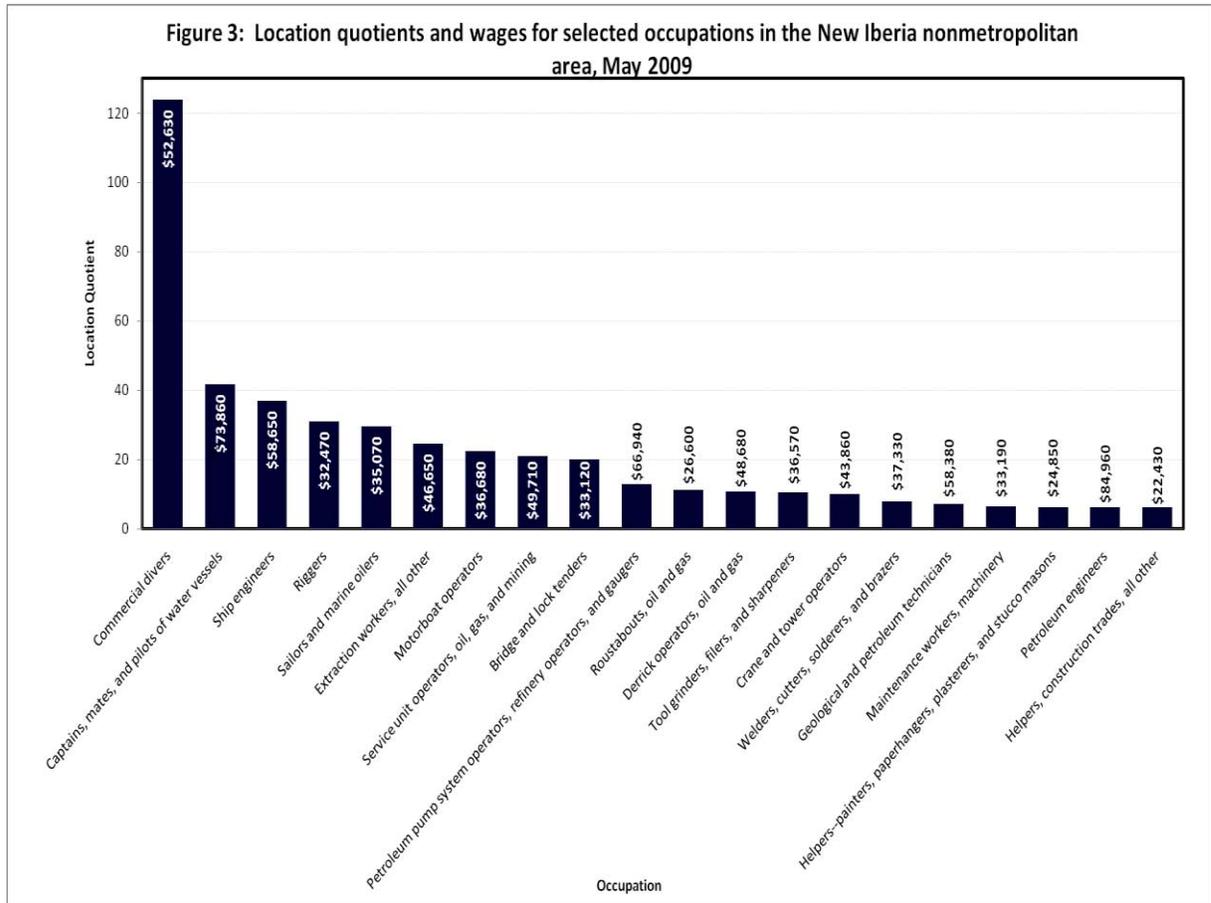
location quotients for geological and petroleum technicians as well as petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers. Both areas also had high concentrations of petroleum engineers. See figure 2.



(See page 10 to view these data in table format.)

Two nonmetropolitan areas with high concentrations of oil and gas occupations are shown in figures 3 and 4. The New Iberia nonmetropolitan area is located in Louisiana and consists of Acadia Parish, Assumption Parish, Iberia Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, St. James Parish, St. Landry Parish, St. Mary Parish, and Vermilion Parish. More than half of the 20 occupations with the highest location quotients in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area were in some way related to the oil and gas industry or to water transportation. Employment concentrations for several of these occupations were more than 10 times as high in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area than in the United States as a whole. For example, commercial divers were 124

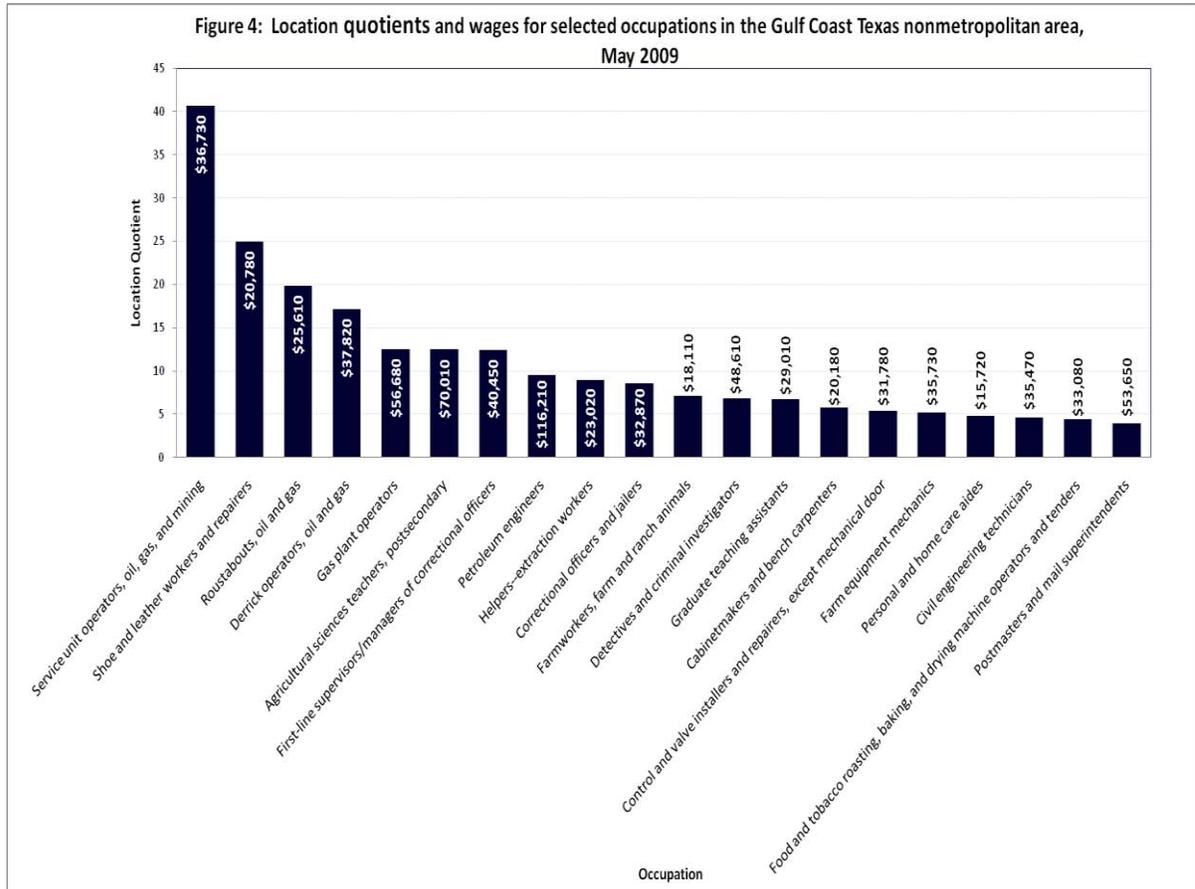
times more concentrated in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area than in the United States. The annual mean wages for almost half of these occupations also were above the U.S. all-occupations average of \$43,460. For instance, petroleum engineers had an annual wage of \$84,960 and a location quotient of 6.3. Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels also had a high location quotient and an annual wage of \$73,860. (See figure 3.)



(See page 11 to view these data in table format.)

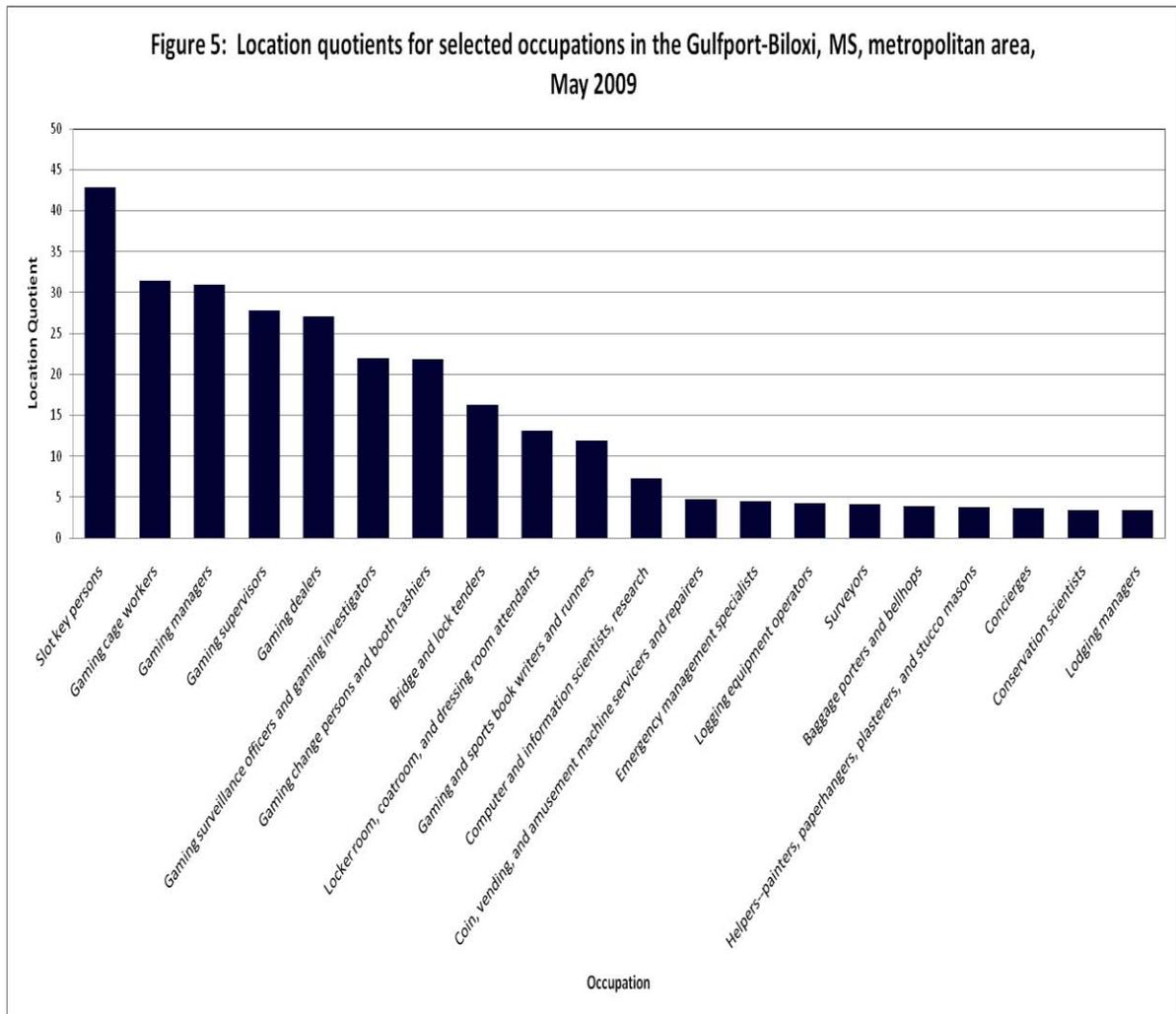
The Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan area is located in Texas and consists of 17 counties. The occupations with the highest location quotients in this area were more diverse, and included a number of occupations not closely related to oil and gas extraction, such as postsecondary agricultural science teachers and personal and home care aides. Among the oil- and gas-related occupations, service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining had an employment concentration approximately 41 times the

U.S. average. Petroleum engineers were also highly concentrated in this nonmetropolitan area, and had a high annual mean wage of \$116,210.



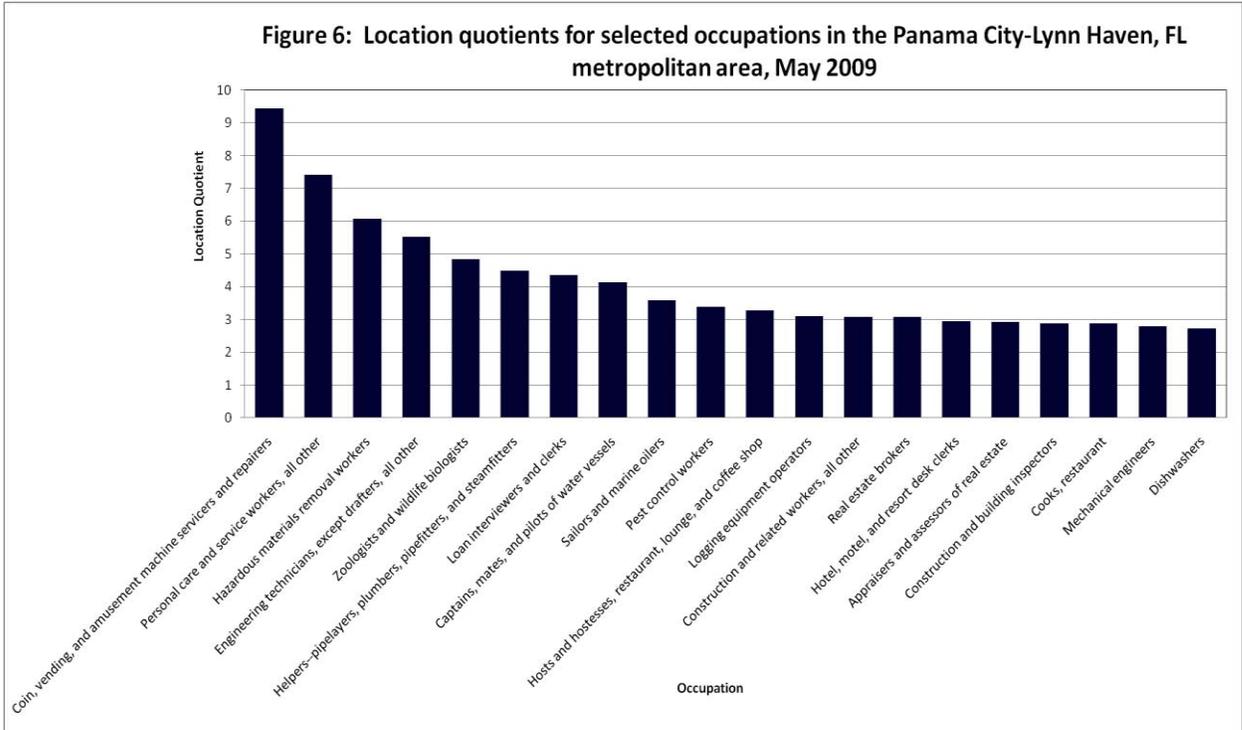
(See page 12 to view these data in table format.)

The proximity to water and the types of entertainment found around the Gulf Coast make it ideal for tourism and the service industries that support it, such as traveler accommodation and food service. Two metropolitan areas with high concentrations of leisure and hospitality-related occupations—Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, and Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL—are shown in figures 5 and 6. The occupations with high location quotients in Gulfport-Biloxi overwhelmingly consist of occupations that are directly related to gaming. Other leisure and hospitality-related occupations include concierges, baggage porters and bellhops, and lodging managers.

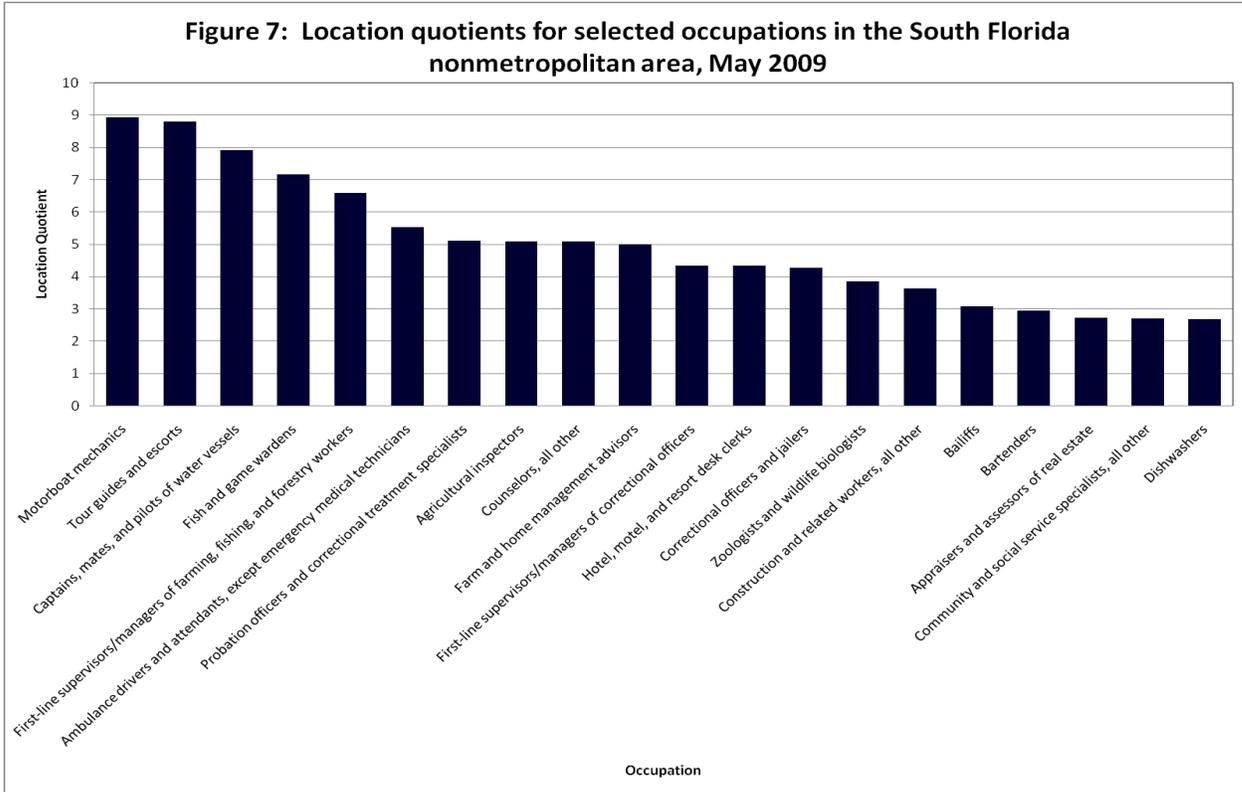


(See page 13 to view these data in table format.)

The Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL, metropolitan area also highlights the large concentrations of occupations in the leisure and hospitality industries. Particularly prevalent in this area were several occupations related to lodging and food service, including hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop; hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks; and restaurant cooks. Like some of the other Gulf Coast areas highlighted above, this area also included high concentrations of sailors and marine oilers and captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels.



(See page 14 to view these data in table format.)



(See page 15 to view these data in table format.)

The South Florida nonmetropolitan area also had high concentrations of several leisure and hospitality-related occupations, such as tour guides and escorts, bartenders, and dishwashers. (See figure 7.)

In addition to the occupations highlighted above, other occupations were also prevalent in specific Gulf Coast areas. For example, several nonmetropolitan areas had high concentrations of protective service occupations, including the Northeast Florida, South Florida, and Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan areas. The Southwest Alabama and Northwest Florida nonmetropolitan areas had high location quotients for logging occupations. Among metropolitan areas, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX, had high concentrations of several teaching occupations, while Naples-Marco Island, FL, had high concentrations of construction and landscaping occupations. Although occupations associated with oil and gas extraction, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality were prevalent across the Gulf Coast region, individual Gulf Coast areas also retained some occupational diversity, suggesting that not every area may be equally affected by the Gulf oil spill.

Complete Occupational Employment Statistics data for May 2009 are available from the OES home page at www.bls.gov/oes. This highlight was prepared by Swati Patel. For more information, please contact the OES program at www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm#contact.

¹ Location quotients represent **the ratio of an occupation's share of total local employment to the occupation's share of total U.S. employment. If a location quotient is equal to 1, then the occupation has the same share of area employment as it does of national employment.** Location quotients greater than 1 indicate that the occupation makes up a larger share of local area employment than it does of national employment. For example, if the location quotient for tile and marble setters was 4 in the Naples-Marco Island, FL, metropolitan area, then that means that the employment share of tile and marble setters was 4 times as high in Naples-Marco Island, FL, as in the United States as a whole.

² The 25 areas include 19 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and 6 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas that border the Gulf of Mexico.

Table 1. Oil and gas and water transportation occupations by location quotient for selected metropolitan areas, May 2009

Occupation	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	Victoria, TX	Lake Charles, LA	Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	4.00	(¹)	(¹)	149.70
Chemical engineers	9.50	14.05	7.91	(¹)
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	11.97	9.05	(¹)	(¹)
Chemical plant and system operators	15.14	27.46	34.29	(¹)
Chemical technicians	8.10	17.65	5.43	0.96
Commercial divers	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	35.00
Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door	4.13	(¹)	4.72	(¹)
Derrick operators, oil and gas	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	17.50
Environmental engineers	0.97	(¹)	1.44	(¹)
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	3.17	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Gas plant operators	7.64	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Helpers—extraction workers	(¹)	6.74	(¹)	(¹)
Petroleum engineers	7.50	3.30	1.70	(¹)
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	35.09	(¹)	29.46	7.46
Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers	9.63	(¹)	(¹)	17.63
Riggers	4.20	(¹)	12.20	70.10
Roustabouts, oil and gas	4.23	27.83	1.34	14.40
Sailors and marine oilers	15.67	(¹)	14.96	113.71
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	5.82	20.14	6.07	8.39
Ship engineers	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	91.00
⁽¹⁾ Estimate not released				

Table 2. Oil and gas and water transportation occupations by location quotient for selected metropolitan areas, May 2009

Occupation	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	3.91	22.22
Chemical engineers	4.64	2.40
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	3.97	1.50
Chemical plant and system operators	8.89	7.43
Chemical technicians	2.20	1.40
Commercial divers	3.00	(¹)
Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door	1.56	1.47
Derrick operators, oil and gas	6.13	3.31
Environmental engineers	0.59	0.39
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	1.46	1.50
Extraction workers, all other	(¹)	2.17
Gas compressor and gas pumping station operators	2.33	(¹)
Gas plant operators	3.27	(¹)
Geological and petroleum technicians	10.18	10.73
Helpers—extraction workers	(¹)	0.79
Petroleum engineers	16.40	12.00
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	8.00	10.09
Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers	2.40	(¹)
Riggers	3.40	10.50
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	7.30	1.30
Roustabouts, oil and gas	(¹)	2.17
Sailors and marine oilers	4.17	21.63
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	6.68	3.25
Ship engineers	3.13	9.25
Wellhead pumpers	(¹)	14.75
⁽¹⁾ Estimate not released		

Table 3. Location quotients and wages for selected occupations in the New Iberia, LA, nonmetropolitan area, May 2009

Occupation	Location Quotient	Annual Mean Wage	Employment
Commercial divers	124.00	\$52,630	340
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	41.83	73,860	1,330
Ship engineers	37.00	58,650	410
Riggers	31.10	32,470	430
Sailors and marine oilers	29.50	35,070	980
Extraction workers, all other	24.50	46,650	200
Motorboat operators	22.50	36,680	60
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	20.96	49,710	820
Bridge and lock tenders	20.00	33,120	80
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	12.89	66,940	630
Roustabouts, oil and gas	11.30	26,600	740
Derrick operators, oil and gas	10.75	48,680	240
Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners	10.55	36,570	160
Crane and tower operators	10.13	43,860	440
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	7.87	37,330	2,990
Geological and petroleum technicians	7.09	58,380	110
Maintenance workers, machinery	6.57	33,190	460
Helpers--painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons	6.33	24,850	110
Petroleum engineers	6.30	84,960	180
Helpers, construction trades, all other	6.19	22,430	140

Table 4. Location quotients and wages for selected occupations in the Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan area, May 2009

Occupation	Location Quotient	Annual Mean Wage	Employment
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	40.71	\$36,730	1,390
Shoe and leather workers and repairers	25.00	20,780	180
Roustabouts, oil and gas	19.87	25,610	1,140
Derrick operators, oil and gas	17.19	37,820	330
Gas plant operators	12.55	56,680	170
Agricultural sciences teachers, postsecondary	12.50	70,010	120
First-line supervisors/managers of correctional officers	12.43	40,450	530
Petroleum engineers	9.55	116,210	230
Helpers—extraction workers	8.95	23,020	210
Correctional officers and jailers	8.54	32,870	3,630
Farmworkers, farm and ranch animals	7.15	18,110	240
Detectives and criminal investigators	6.81	48,610	700
Graduate teaching assistants	6.72	29,010	760
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	5.76	20,180	530
Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door	5.41	31,780	210
Farm equipment mechanics	5.17	35,730	140
Personal and home care aides	4.82	15,720	2,840
Civil engineering technicians	4.62	35,470	350
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	4.42	33,080	60
Postmasters and mail superintendents	3.95	53,650	90

Table 5. Location quotients for selected occupations in the Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, metropolitan area, May 2009

Occupation	Location Quotient	Annual Mean Wage	Employment
Slot key persons	42.91	\$29,100	480
Gaming cage workers	31.50	25,640	390
Gaming managers	31.00	74,290	90
Gaming supervisors	27.79	48,190	540
Gaming dealers	27.05	23,040	1,850
Gaming surveillance officers and gaming investigators	22.00	34,340	130
Gaming change persons and booth cashiers	21.80	23,440	330
Bridge and lock tenders	16.33	22,610	50
Locker room, coatroom, and dressing room attendants	13.07	15,720	190
Gaming and sports book writers and runners	11.91	20,040	130
Computer and information scientists, research	7.35	76,820	150
Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers	4.69	32,740	140
Emergency management specialists	4.50	36,980	50
Logging equipment operators	4.28	31,940	80
Surveyors	4.18	40,120	170
Baggage porters and bellhops	3.92	18,900	150
Helpers—painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons	3.83	21,390	50
Concierges	3.69	20,580	60
Conservation scientists	3.46	50,860	50
Lodging managers	3.46	48,810	80

Table 6. Location quotients for selected occupations in the Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL, metropolitan area, May 2009

Occupation	Location Quotient	Annual Mean Wage	Employment
Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers	9.45	\$27,810	190
Personal care and service workers, all other	7.42	21,340	290
Hazardous materials removal workers	6.07	⁽¹⁾	130
Engineering technicians, except drafters, all other	5.53	57,860	200
Zoologists and wildlife biologists	4.85	65,490	40
Helpers—pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	4.48	26,120	160
Loan interviewers and clerks	4.36	29,140	450
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	4.13	46,290	70
Sailors and marine oilers	3.58	28,140	60
Pest control workers	3.39	24,350	110
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	3.28	16,930	580
Logging equipment operators	3.11	28,430	40
Construction and related workers, all other	3.08	30,930	80
Real estate brokers	3.08	40,080	80
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	2.94	21,200	350
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	2.92	42,600	100
Construction and building inspectors	2.88	50,140	140
Cooks, restaurant	2.88	20,390	1,360
Mechanical engineers	2.80	90,210	340
Dishwashers	2.73	17,210	740
⁽¹⁾ Estimate not released			

Table 7. Location quotients for selected occupations in the South Florida nonmetropolitan area, May 2009

Occupation	Location Quotient	Annual Mean Wage	Employment
Motorboat mechanics	8.93	\$48,000	130
Tour guides and escorts	8.79	31,780	210
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	7.91	42,720	180
Fish and game wardens	7.17	36,650	40
First-line supervisors/managers of farming, fishing, and forestry workers	6.60	43,600	100
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians	5.53	22,190	80
Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists	5.11	33,190	370
Agricultural inspectors	5.09	38,510	60
Counselors, all other	5.08	31,830	120
Farm and home management advisors	5.00	52,660	40
First-line supervisors/managers of correctional officers	4.34	50,590	150
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	4.34	21,970	750
Correctional officers and jailers	4.27	35,760	1,510
Zoologists and wildlife biologists	3.85	45,020	50
Construction and related workers, all other	3.64	31,820	130
Bailiffs	3.08	44,480	40
Bartenders	2.94	19,070	1,120
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	2.72	42,310	140
Community and social service specialists, all other	2.70	36,720	230
Dishwashers	2.68	17,180	1,070