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Occupational Employment and Wages in Harrisburg-Carlisle – May 2013

Workers in the Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.70 in May 2013, about 3 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 10 of the 22 major occupational groups, including architecture and engineering and computer and mathematical. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Harrisburg-Carlisle	United States	Harrisburg-Carlisle	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$22.33	\$21.70	-3
Management	4.9	4.1*	53.15	49.96*	-6
Business and financial operations	5.0	6.8*	34.14	30.32*	-11
Computer and mathematical	2.8	3.6*	39.43	34.54*	-12
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	38.51	32.79*	-15
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.9	33.37	30.81*	-8
Community and social service	1.4	1.7*	21.50	20.43	-5
Legal	0.8	1.0*	47.89	44.34	-7
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.4	24.76	29.12	18
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2*	26.72	23.14*	-13
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.9	35.93	34.00*	-5
Healthcare support	3.0	2.7*	13.61	13.77	1
Protective service	2.5	2.0*	20.92	21.16	1
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.0*	10.38	10.31	-1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7*	12.51	11.97*	-4
Personal care and service	3.0	3.3	11.88	12.39	4
Sales and related	10.6	9.2*	18.37	17.88	-3
Office and administrative support	16.2	18.8*	16.78	16.81	0
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	11.70	15.18*	30
Construction and extraction	3.8	3.0*	21.94	21.29*	-3
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.7	21.35	20.36*	-5
Production	6.6	4.3*	16.79	16.55	-1
Transportation and material moving	6.8	9.8*	16.28	16.08	-1

* 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.

Footnotes:

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

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Harrisburg employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including transportation and material moving, office and administrative support, and business and financial operations. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation including production, sales and related, and management.

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Harrisburg had 30,170 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 9.8 percent of local area employment, significantly above the national share of 6.8 percent. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.08, not significantly different from the national wage of \$16.28.

With employment of 10,110, hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers was the largest occupation within the transportation and material moving group, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (5,780). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators, with a mean hourly wage of \$27.74, and first-line supervisors of hand helpers, laborers, and material movers with a wage of \$25.46. At the lower end of the wage scale were hand packers and packagers (\$10.35) and driver/sales workers (\$10.80). (Detailed occupational data for transportation and material moving are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25420.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 as it does nationally. In the Harrisburg area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in several of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers were employed at nearly twice the national rate in Harrisburg, and hand packers and packagers, at two-and-a-half times the U.S. average. In contrast, light truck or delivery services drivers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Harrisburg, indicating that this particular occupation's local employment share was similar to the national share.

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 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Harrisburg-Carlisle 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 the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year for a 3-year period. May 2013 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected in May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, November 2011, May 2011, and November 2010. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 75.3 percent based on establishments and 71.6 percent based on employment. The sample in the Harrisburg Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,720 establishments with a response rate of 75 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2013 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

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 **Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties in Pennsylvania.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2013/may/methods_statement.pdf. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment ⁽²⁾		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	30,170	1.4	\$16.08	\$33,450
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand.....	620	1.6	25.46	52,960
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators.....	500	1.1	27.74	57,700
Commercial pilots.....	30	0.3	(5)	91,480
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians.....	40	0.9	12.48	25,950
Bus drivers, transit and intercity.....	270	0.7	20.61	42,870
Bus drivers, school or special client.....	1,400	1.2	12.79	26,600
Driver/sales workers.....	1,470	1.6	10.80	22,460
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers.....	5,780	1.6	22.69	47,200
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers.....	1,960	1.1	15.33	31,890
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs.....	540	1.4	10.60	22,050
Motor vehicle operators, all other.....	80	0.6	16.89	35,120
Parking lot attendants.....	100	0.3	11.55	24,020
Automotive and watercraft service attendants.....	110	0.4	11.27	23,430
Crane and tower operators.....	100	1.0	26.92	55,990
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators.....	30	0.3	21.07	43,820
Industrial truck and tractor operators.....	2,150	1.8	17.08	35,520
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment.....	520	0.7	11.02	22,930
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	10,110	1.9	14.60	30,360
Machine feeders and offbearers.....	60	0.2	14.37	29,890
Packers and packagers, hand.....	3,910	2.5	10.35	21,530
Refuse and recyclable material collectors.....	110	0.4	14.93	31,040

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25420.htm

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

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

(5) Estimate not released.