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Occupational Employment and Wages in Scranton—Wilkes-Barre – May 2013

Workers in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.88 in May 2013, roughly 15 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 15 of the 22 major occupational groups, including legal, management, and business and financial operations. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre	United States	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$22.33	\$18.88*	-15
Management	4.9	3.2*	53.15	44.61*	-16
Business and financial operations	5.0	3.5*	34.14	27.52*	-19
Computer and mathematical	2.8	1.3*	39.43	28.83*	-27
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.0*	38.51	33.57*	-13
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.5*	33.37	30.20	-9
Community and social service	1.4	2.3*	21.50	19.13*	-11
Legal	0.8	0.6*	47.89	28.70*	-40
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.8	24.76	26.29*	6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9*	26.72	18.88*	-29
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.6*	35.93	30.71*	-15
Healthcare support	3.0	3.9*	13.61	12.84*	-6
Protective service	2.5	2.1*	20.92	19.46	-7
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.4*	10.38	9.85*	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.2	12.51	11.76*	-6
Personal care and service	3.0	2.9	11.88	11.33*	-5
Sales and related	10.6	11.1	18.37	15.26*	-17
Office and administrative support	16.2	16.9*	16.78	15.32*	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	11.70	15.41*	32
Construction and extraction	3.8	3.8	21.94	21.44	-2
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.9	21.35	19.39*	-9
Production	6.6	8.2*	16.79	16.92	1
Transportation and material moving	6.8	9.7*	16.28	16.03	-2
* 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 Scranton--Wilkes-Barre is above the national mean wage, while a negative percent difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Scranton employment was more highly concentrated in six occupational groups including transportation and material moving, production, and community and social service. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included management, business and financial operations, and computer and mathematical.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Scranton had 20,590 jobs in production, accounting for 8.2 percent of local area employment, significantly above the 6.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.92, similar to the national wage of \$16.79.

With employment of 1,910, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by production helpers (1,560). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with a mean hourly wage of \$28.91, and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers with a wage of \$18.72. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry cleaning workers (\$10.04) and food batchmakers (\$12.95). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_42540.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 Scranton, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, metal and plastic extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at nearly four-and-a-half times the national rate in Scranton, and printing press operators, at over twice the U.S. rate. In contrast, first-line supervisors of production and operating workers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Scranton, 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 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre 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 Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,520 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 **Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming 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, Scranton--Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment ⁽²⁾		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	20,590	1.2	\$16.92	\$35,200
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,120	1.0	28.91	60,120
Engine and other machine assemblers	40	0.6	18.79	39,090
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	200	1.4	19.37	40,300
Fiberglass laminators and fabricators	(5)	(5)	17.07	35,500
Team assemblers	1,910	1.0	14.15	29,440
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	260	0.6	13.27	27,590
Bakers	560	1.8	12.42	25,830
Butchers and meat cutters	520	2.0	16.40	34,110
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	80	0.3	13.17	27,390
Slaughterers and meat packers	100	0.6	13.50	28,090
Food batchmakers	330	1.6	12.95	26,930
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	100	1.6	15.45	32,140
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	250	0.9	16.78	34,910
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	610	4.4	16.56	34,450
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	16.63	34,580
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	2.1	17.72	36,870
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	520	1.5	16.14	33,560
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	80	0.6	13.94	28,990
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	15.21	31,640
Machinists	440	0.6	18.04	37,530
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	270	1.2	15.04	31,280
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	220	1.3	12.68	26,380
Tool and die makers	150	1.0	20.86	43,390
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	590	0.9	18.72	38,930
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	16.87	35,100
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.9	14.96	31,110
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	80	1.2	19.89	41,360
Prepress technicians and workers	130	1.8	17.50	36,410
Printing press operators	690	2.2	14.09	29,300
Print binding and finishing workers	210	2.1	(5)	(5)
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	470	1.3	10.04	20,880
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	70	0.8	10.08	20,970
Sewing machine operators	250	0.9	14.30	29,730
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	2.0	12.49	25,970
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	11.70	24,340
Upholsterers	40	0.7	15.49	32,220
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	(5)	(5)	16.62	34,570
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	120	1.5	12.19	25,350
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	130	1.0	16.97	35,300
Power plant operators	50	0.6	31.48	65,490
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	60	0.8	20.20	42,010

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Scranton--Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment ⁽²⁾		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	320	1.5	21.44	44,580
Plant and system operators, all other	30	1.6	20.26	42,140
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	110	1.0	14.43	30,020
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	60	1.0	17.65	36,700
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	260	1.2	16.19	33,670
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	120	1.0	14.26	29,660
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,020	1.2	16.98	35,310
Dental laboratory technicians	100	1.4	17.81	37,040
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(5)	(5)	13.57	28,220
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,510	2.1	13.33	27,720
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	0.9	13.54	28,160
Painters, transportation equipment	(5)	(5)	18.48	38,430
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	30	0.5	12.63	26,270
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	130	2.1	17.81	37,050
Helpers--production workers	1,560	1.9	12.14	25,260
Production workers, all other	290	0.7	13.86	28,830

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_42540.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.