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Occupational Employment and Wages in Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn — May 2014

Workers in the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$24.30 in May 2014, about 7 percent above the nationwide average of \$22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 6 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; transportation and material moving; and production. Three groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages: life, physical, and social science; legal; and healthcare support.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; architecture and engineering; and healthcare practitioners and technical. Conversely, seven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including sales and related; education, training, and library; and construction and extraction. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Detroit	United States	Detroit	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.71	\$24.30*	7
Management	5.0	5.1	54.08	55.71	3
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.2	34.81	33.80	-3
Computer and mathematical	2.8	3.3*	40.37	39.30	-3
Architecture and engineering	1.8	4.3*	39.19	41.02	5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5*	33.69	28.70*	-15
Community and social services	1.4	1.6*	21.79	20.90	-4
Legal	0.8	(2)	48.61	45.12*	-7
Education, training, and library	6.2	4.7*	25.10	26.29*	5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2	26.82	25.94	-3
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.8*	36.54	37.89	4
Healthcare support	2.9	3.4*	13.86	13.28*	-4
Protective service	2.4	2.1	21.14	22.02	4
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.4*	10.57	10.50	-1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7*	12.68	13.03	3
Personal care and service	3.1	2.8	12.01	11.82	-2
Sales and related	10.5	8.6*	18.59	18.30	-2
Office and administrative support	16.0	15.1	17.08	17.52	3
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(2)*	12.09	16.12*	33
Construction and extraction	3.9	2.5*	22.40	26.50*	18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.7	21.74	22.90*	5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Detroit	United States	Detroit	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Production	6.6	9.5*	17.06	20.03*	17
Transportation and material moving	6.8	7.7*	16.57	20.64*	25

Footnotes:

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

(2) Estimate not released

(2) Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent.

* 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.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn had 68,260 jobs in production, accounting for 9.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$20.03, significantly above the national wage of \$17.06.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the production group included team assemblers (21,140), first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (4,430), and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (3,960). Among the higher paying jobs were power plant operators; and model makers, metal and plastic, with mean hourly wages of \$34.47 and \$34.09, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were pressers, textile, garment, and related materials (\$9.01) and meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers (\$9.78). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/oes_19804.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the production group. For instance, tool and die makers were employed at 3.7 times the national rate in Detroit, and team assemblers, at 3.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders had a location quotient of 1.0 in Detroit, 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 Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

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. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division included 4,031 establishments with a response rate of 70 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 2014 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 **Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, Mich. Metropolitan Division** includes Wayne County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/midwest. 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/2014/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: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division, May 2014

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production Occupations	68,260	1.4	\$20.03	\$41,670
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	4,430	1.4	31.76	66,060
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	390	0.4	13.18	27,420
Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	90	0.4	16.19	33,670
Engine and Other Machine Assemblers	630	3.1	24.40	50,760
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	300	0.7	19.80	41,180
Fiberglass Laminators and Fabricators	(5)	(5)	21.67	45,060
Team Assemblers	21,140	3.5	20.88	43,430
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	2,610	2.1	13.45	27,970
Bakers	960	1.0	13.71	28,510
Butchers and Meat Cutters	620	0.9	15.37	31,980
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	170	0.2	9.78	20,340
Slaughterers and Meat Packers	(5)	(5)	13.53	28,140
Food Batchmakers	240	0.4	14.28	29,700
Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders	(5)	(5)	11.14	23,180
Food Processing Workers, All Other	60	0.2	9.67	20,120
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	1,260	1.6	17.75	36,920
Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers, Metal and Plastic	160	1.2	25.54	53,120
Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	300	0.8	16.36	34,020
Forging Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	280	2.4	14.62	30,400
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	3,280	3.2	22.14	46,050
Drilling and Boring Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	230	2.5	17.75	36,930
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	310	0.8	16.71	34,750
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	390	1.7	17.23	35,840
Milling and Planing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	200	1.7	16.80	34,940
Machinists	2,920	1.4	21.06	43,810
Model Makers, Metal and Plastic	250	7.7	34.09	70,900
Patternmakers, Metal and Plastic	(5)	(5)	24.27	50,480
Foundry Mold and Coremakers	(5)	(5)	15.28	31,780
Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	1,220	1.8	13.74	28,590
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	500	1.0	18.63	38,750
Tool and Die Makers	1,500	3.7	28.73	59,770
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	1,740	0.9	21.32	44,340
Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	(5)	(5)	21.17	44,040
Heat Treating Equipment Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	190	1.7	16.96	35,270
Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	(5)	(5)	13.30	27,670
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	60	1.0	23.13	48,110
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other	(5)	(5)	15.29	31,810
Prepress Technicians and Workers	110	0.6	17.76	36,930
Printing Press Operators	680	0.8	19.27	40,090
Print Binding and Finishing Workers	210	0.8	15.14	31,480
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	1,410	1.3	10.84	22,560
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	90	0.4	9.01	18,750
Sewing Machine Operators	240	0.3	11.94	24,840

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Division, May 2014 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Textile Cutting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	50	0.6	11.93	24,810
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers, All Other	40	0.5	(5)	(5)
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	70	0.2	13.02	27,090
Patternmakers, Wood.....	60	11.0	24.71	51,390
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood.....	(5)	(5)	19.36	40,270
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing.....	80	0.2	13.22	27,490
Power Plant Operators	350	1.6	34.47	71,700
Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators.....	370	1.9	27.70	57,620
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	270	0.5	22.73	47,280
Gas Plant Operators.....	190	2.2	33.11	68,870
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	140	0.4	26.66	55,460
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	160	0.7	19.12	39,770
Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	650	1.0	16.09	33,460
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	110	0.3	13.71	28,510
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	110	0.3	16.78	34,890
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers ...	3,960	1.5	18.36	38,190
Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workers.....	(5)	(5)	16.56	34,450
Dental Laboratory Technicians	360	1.9	19.16	39,850
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	40	0.3	22.34	46,480
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders..	2,210	1.1	13.10	27,250
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	320	0.7	14.35	29,840
Painters, Transportation Equipment.....	220	0.8	32.19	66,960
Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers	40	0.5	15.75	32,760
Photographic Process Workers and Processing Machine Operators	(5)	(5)	11.66	24,260
Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders.....	100	1.1	11.45	23,820
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic.....	140	0.8	13.59	28,260
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders .	490	1.0	12.59	26,200
Helpers--Production Workers	1,500	0.7	11.66	24,250
Production Workers, All Other	1,000	0.9	18.38	38,220

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, MI Metropolitan Division, see www.bls.gov/oes/tables.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.