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Occupational Employment and Wages in Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wis. MSA – May 2013

Workers in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.32 in May 2013, similar to the nationwide average of \$22.33, 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 significantly higher than their respective national averages in 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; sales and related; and education, training, and library. Nine groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; architecture and engineering; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; personal care and service; and business and financial operations. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including construction and extraction; food preparation and serving related; and education, training, and library. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations.....	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.33	\$22.32	0
Management.....	4.9	5.1	53.15	52.39	-1
Business and financial operations.....	5.0	5.6*	34.14	30.95*	-9
Computer and mathematical.....	2.8	2.8	39.43	35.77*	-9
Architecture and engineering.....	1.8	2.1*	38.51	33.20*	-14
Life, physical, and social science.....	0.9	0.5*	33.37	31.64*	-5
Community and social services.....	1.4	1.3*	21.50	21.34	-1
Legal.....	0.8	0.7*	47.89	42.32*	-12
Education, training, and library.....	6.3	5.4*	24.76	26.70*	8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	1.4*	26.72	22.63*	-15
Healthcare practitioner and technical.....	5.8	5.9	35.93	37.38	4
Healthcare support.....	3.0	3.0	13.61	13.83	2
Protective service.....	2.5	1.9*	20.92	20.25	-3
Food preparation and serving related.....	9.0	7.8*	10.38	9.81*	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.2	3.0*	12.51	12.45	0
Personal care and service.....	3.0	4.7*	11.88	11.31*	-5

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Sales and related.....	10.6	9.8*	18.37	20.87*	14
Office and administrative support.....	16.2	16.0	16.78	17.28*	3
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	(2) *	11.70	17.27*	48
Construction and extraction.....	3.8	2.6*	21.94	25.92*	18
Installation, maintenance, and repair.....	3.9	3.2*	21.35	22.80*	7
Production.....	6.6	10.1*	16.79	17.68*	5
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	7.1	16.28	14.74*	-9

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

⁽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. Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis had 82,450 jobs in production, accounting for 10.1 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.68, measurably above the national wage of \$16.79.

With employment of 8,890, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by machinists (5,380) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (5,350). Among the higher paying jobs were power distributors and dispatchers and power plant operators, with mean hourly wages of \$38.93 and \$34.57, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$10.57) and pressers, textile, garment, and related materials (\$10.99). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2013/may/oes_33340.htm.)

Location quotients allow for the exploration of an area's occupational make-up 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 Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, foundry mold and coremakers were employed at 5.6 times the national rate in Milwaukee, and computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic, at 4.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, helpers--production workers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Milwaukee, 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 Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Milwaukee 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 Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 5,153 establishments with a response rate of 74 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 **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wis. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.

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/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, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production Occupations.....	82,450	1.5	\$17.68	\$36,770
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers.....	5,350	1.5	29.09	60,500
Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers.....	250	2.8	18.89	39,280
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers.....	2,130	1.7	16.25	33,800
Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers.....	520	1.7	16.33	33,970
Engine and Other Machine Assemblers.....	(5)	(5)	18.39	38,250
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters.....	810	1.7	20.20	42,010
Team Assemblers.....	8,890	1.4	15.48	32,200
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other.....	2,360	1.5	13.43	27,930
Bakers.....	900	0.9	11.92	24,790
Butchers and Meat Cutters.....	720	0.9	15.27	31,760
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers.....	360	0.4	11.99	24,930
Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders.....	(5)	(5)	14.30	29,740
Food Batchmakers.....	890	1.3	14.42	29,990
Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders.....	200	1.0	15.88	33,020
Food Processing Workers, All Other.....	180	0.7	13.20	27,460
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic.....	3,830	4.5	18.97	39,460
Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers, Metal and Plastic.....	660	4.4	25.26	52,550
Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	340	0.8	15.72	32,700
Forging Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	90	0.7	18.14	37,740
Rolling Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	160	0.8	16.33	33,970
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	2,860	2.5	16.39	34,100
Drilling and Boring Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	290	2.3	20.14	41,900
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	960	2.2	17.19	35,750
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	800	3.1	18.47	38,420
Milling and Planing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	190	1.3	23.48	48,840
Machinists.....	5,380	2.2	20.60	42,850
Metal-Refining Furnace Operators and Tenders.....	300	2.3	18.48	38,440
Pourers and Casters, Metal.....	110	1.8	19.33	40,200
Model Makers, Metal and Plastic.....	100	2.7	24.85	51,680
Patternmakers, Metal and Plastic.....	100	3.7	21.11	43,900
Foundry Mold and Coremakers.....	450	5.6	13.04	27,120
Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	2,040	2.7	14.98	31,170
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	1,470	2.6	17.87	37,170
Tool and Die Makers.....	1,520	3.2	23.70	49,290
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers.....	3,060	1.4	20.54	42,720
Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	920	2.9	20.60	42,840
Heat Treating Equipment Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	270	2.1	17.75	36,930
Layout Workers, Metal and Plastic.....	40	0.4	21.48	44,680
Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic.....	710	3.2	14.83	30,840
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners.....	190	2.7	16.47	34,260

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other.....	180	1.3	14.24	29,630
Prepress Technicians and Workers.....	580	2.5	18.91	39,320
Printing Press Operators.....	2,760	2.7	17.72	36,850
Print Binding and Finishing Workers.....	970	3.0	16.85	35,050
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers.....	1,040	0.9	10.57	21,980
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials.....	210	0.7	10.99	22,860
Sewing Machine Operators.....	600	0.7	12.53	26,050
Shoe and Leather Workers and Repairers.....	170	4.4	12.80	26,630
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers.....	120	0.9	12.47	25,930
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers.....	(5)	(5)	12.22	25,420
Upholsterers.....	(5)	(5)	15.89	33,060
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers, All Other.....	(5)	(5)	9.30	19,340
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters.....	320	0.6	18.92	39,360
Furniture Finishers.....	(5)	(5)	16.17	33,630
Patternmakers, Wood.....	(5)	(5)	22.11	45,980
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood.....	(5)	(5)	14.26	29,660
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing.....	220	0.6	13.60	28,280
Power Distributors and Dispatchers.....	80	1.1	38.93	80,980
Power Plant Operators.....	350	1.4	34.57	71,900
Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators.....	130	0.6	24.98	51,960
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators.....	480	0.7	22.26	46,290
Chemical Plant and System Operators.....	(5)	(5)	21.78	45,310
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders.....	180	0.5	18.55	38,570
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	380	1.5	16.15	33,590
Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	240	1.3	16.44	34,200
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand.....	470	2.5	15.60	32,440
Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	600	0.8	20.04	41,680
Cutters and Trimmers, Hand.....	70	0.9	11.16	23,210
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	380	1.0	15.88	33,030
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	560	1.3	13.63	28,350
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders.....	140	1.1	19.74	41,060
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers.....	4,010	1.4	18.05	37,540
Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workers.....	110	0.8	18.03	37,510
Dental Laboratory Technicians.....	300	1.3	19.19	39,920
Medical Appliance Technicians.....	(5)	(5)	13.33	27,730
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians.....	170	1.0	14.86	30,900
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders.....	5,230	2.3	14.49	30,140
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	1,240	2.3	16.95	35,250
Painters, Transportation Equipment.....	230	0.8	23.64	49,160
Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers.....	(5)	(5)	13.01	27,060
Photographic Process Workers and Processing Machine Operators.....	250	1.1	13.47	28,030
Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders.....	70	0.7	13.54	28,160
Etchers and Engravers.....	70	1.2	15.84	32,950
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic.....	100	0.5	17.39	36,160
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	880	1.5	16.93	35,220
Helpers--Production Workers.....	2,890	1.1	12.47	25,940

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production Workers, All Other.....	2,000	1.6	14.94	31,080

⁽¹⁾ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33340.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.