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Occupational Employment and Wages in Sioux Falls — May 2014

Workers in the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.22 in May 2014, compared to the nationwide average of \$22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that among 22 occupational groups, transportation and material moving jobs paid \$15.27 per hour and workers in office and administrative support jobs averaged \$14.32 an hour.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical; office and administrative support; and sales and related. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; management; and protective service. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Sioux Falls	United States	Sioux Falls	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.71	\$19.22*	-15
Management	5.0	2.8*	54.08	52.53	-3
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.1	34.81	30.61*	-12
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.5*	40.37	29.36*	-27
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.0*	39.19	29.61*	-24
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6*	33.69	30.08*	-11
Community and social services	1.4	1.3*	21.79	18.87*	-13
Legal	0.8	0.4*	48.61	33.80*	-30
Education, training, and library	6.2	4.0*	25.10	18.81*	-25
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.5*	26.82	17.27*	-36
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	8.6*	36.54	31.67*	-13
Healthcare support	2.9	2.7*	13.86	12.69*	-8
Protective service	2.4	1.3*	21.14	19.64	-7
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.7*	10.57	9.43*	-11
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.6*	12.68	11.39*	-10
Personal care and service	3.1	3.5	12.01	11.65	-3
Sales and related	10.5	12.0*	18.59	19.13	3
Office and administrative support	16.0	17.6*	17.08	14.32*	-16
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	12.09	14.36*	19
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.5*	22.40	17.74*	-21
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8	21.74	21.08*	-3
Production	6.6	6.9	17.06	14.96*	-12
Transportation and material moving	6.8	7.4*	16.57	15.27*	-8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

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

* 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—healthcare practitioners and technical—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Sioux Falls had 12,550 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical, accounting for 8.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$31.67, significantly below the national wage of \$36.54.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group included registered nurses (5,580), licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (720), and pharmacy technicians (610). Among the higher paying jobs were internists, general at \$117.25 per hour and family and general practitioners with mean hourly wages of \$89.66. At the lower end of the wage scale were pharmacy technicians (\$13.97) and opticians, dispensing (\$14.39). (Detailed occupational data for healthcare practitioners and technical are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/oes_43620.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 Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, diagnostic medical sonographers were employed at 2.8 times the national rate in Sioux Falls, and surgical technologists, at 2.1 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses had a location quotient of 1.0 in Sioux Falls, 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 South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

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 Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,911 establishments with a response rate of 86 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 **Sioux Falls, S.D. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, and Turner 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/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, Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	12,550	1.5	\$31.67	\$65,870
Chiropractors	50	1.7	47.37	98,540
Dentists, General	160	1.5	76.94	160,030
Dietitians and Nutritionists	70	1.1	25.39	52,820
Pharmacists	520	1.7	52.13	108,430
Family and General Practitioners	150	1.1	89.66	186,480
Internists, General	90	1.7	117.25	243,880
Surgeons	160	3.7	(7)	(7)
Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	170	0.5	115.37	239,980
Physician Assistants	150	1.6	45.00	93,610
Occupational Therapists	160	1.4	31.30	65,110
Physical Therapists	240	1.1	32.70	68,020
Respiratory Therapists	170	1.3	22.70	47,210
Speech-Language Pathologists	130	1.0	27.59	57,390
Veterinarians	40	0.6	35.48	73,790
Registered Nurses	5,580	1.9	26.30	54,700
Nurse Anesthetists	140	3.5	82.31	171,210
Nurse Practitioners	250	1.9	42.59	88,590
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	350	2.0	26.22	54,540
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	200	1.2	16.22	33,730
Dental Hygienists	240	1.2	27.42	57,040
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	100	1.8	24.17	50,280
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	180	2.8	26.95	56,060
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	100	4.7	26.13	54,340
Radiologic Technologists	400	1.9	22.37	46,530
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	40	1.2	23.81	49,530
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	130	0.5	15.65	32,560
Pharmacy Technicians	610	1.5	13.97	29,060
Surgical Technologists	220	2.1	18.46	38,400
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	(5)	(5)	17.72	36,860
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	720	1.0	16.88	35,120
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	370	1.9	18.26	37,970
Opticians, Dispensing	160	2.0	14.39	29,920
Orthotists and Prosthetists	30	3.6	31.38	65,270
Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	60	0.6	23.47	48,820
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	50	0.7	28.50	59,280
Athletic Trainers	30	1.3	(5)	41,870

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Sioux Falls, SD, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_43620.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.

(7) This wage is equal to or greater than \$80.00 per hour or \$166,400 per year.