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Occupational Employment and Wages in Gary — May 2017

Workers in the Gary Metropolitan Division had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.85 in May 2017, about 14 percent below the nationwide average of \$24.34, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 14 of the 22 major occupational groups including management; computer and mathematical; and life, physical, and social science. Two groups, construction and extraction and production, had wages significantly higher than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; food preparation and serving related; and construction and extraction. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; and office and administrative support. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Gary Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2017

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Gary	United States	Gary	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$24.34	\$20.85*	-14
Management	5.1	4.4*	57.65	43.17*	-25
Business and financial operations.....	5.2	2.9*	36.70	29.20*	-20
Computer and mathematical	3.0	1.0*	43.18	29.50*	-32
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	41.44	38.22	-8
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6*	35.76	25.46*	-29
Community and social service.....	1.5	1.2*	23.10	20.59*	-11
Legal.....	0.8	0.5*	51.62	(2)	
Education, training, and library.....	6.1	5.9	26.67	20.25*	-24
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.4	0.8*	28.34	19.16*	-32
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.0	7.1*	38.83	36.81	-5
Healthcare support	2.9	3.0	15.05	13.90*	-8
Protective service	2.4	2.3	22.69	19.31*	-15
Food preparation and serving related	9.3	11.0*	11.88	10.30*	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance ...	3.1	3.2	13.91	13.15*	-5
Personal care and service.....	3.6	3.1*	13.11	12.02*	-8
Sales and related	10.2	10.5	19.56	16.35*	-16
Office and administrative support.....	15.4	13.7*	18.24	16.34*	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	13.87	13.48	-3
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	5.4*	24.01	28.50*	19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.3*	23.02	22.90	-1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Gary Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2017 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Gary	United States	Gary	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Production	6.3	8.6*	18.30	19.02*	4
Transportation and material moving	7.0	7.6*	17.82	18.01	1

Footnotes:

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

(2) Estimate not released.

* 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. Gary had 23,060 jobs in production, accounting for 8.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.3-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$19.02, significantly above the national wage of \$18.30.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers (2,490); first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (2,020); and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (1,480). Among the higher paying jobs in this group were power plant operators with mean hourly wages of \$36.30 and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, \$30.15. At the lower end of the wage scale were pressers, textile, garment, and related materials (\$9.03) and laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$10.25). (Detailed data for production occupations are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_23844.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 Gary Metropolitan Division, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the production group. For instance, rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic were employed at 10.5 times the national rate in Gary, and extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic, at 4.7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Gary, 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 Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the release of the May 2017 estimates, the OES program has replaced 21 detailed occupations found in the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with 10 new aggregations of those occupations. In addition, selected 4- and 5-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries previously published by OES will no longer be published separately. Some of the 4-digit NAICS industries that are no longer being published separately will instead be published as OES-specific industry aggregations. More information about the new occupational and industry aggregations is available at www.bls.gov/oes/changes_2017.htm.

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 survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2017 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2017, November 2016, May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, and November 2014. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 72 percent based on establishments and 68 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted sample employment of 82 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Gary Metropolitan Division included 2,355 establishments with a response rate of 77 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.htm.

The May 2017 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2017 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 2017 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan 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 **Gary, Ind. Metropolitan Division** includes Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter 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/current/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, Gary Metropolitan Division, May 2017

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	23,060	1.4	\$19.02	\$39,570
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	2,020	1.8	30.15	62,710
Electrical, electronic, and electromechanical assemblers, except coil winders, tapers, and finishers ...	40	0.1	(5)	(5)
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	180	1.2	18.33	38,120
Assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers	2,490	1.0	14.10	29,320
Bakers	370	1.1	11.74	24,420
Butchers and meat cutters	210	0.8	14.26	29,670
Food batchmakers	250	0.9	19.93	41,450
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	110	1.8	12.46	25,910
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	290	1.1	21.85	45,450
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	650	4.7	18.15	37,750
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	500	10.5	25.29	52,600
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,120	3.1	16.65	34,630
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	16.69	34,720
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	17.20	35,770
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	190	3.4	19.40	40,350
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	2.7	17.73	36,870
Machinists	1,340	1.9	20.33	42,280
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	330	1.1	13.08	27,200
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	22.23	46,230
Tool and die makers	110	0.8	23.80	49,510
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	1,150	1.6	21.01	43,710
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	18.99	39,500
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	300	4.2	17.50	36,400
Metal workers and plastic workers, all other	110	2.6	16.88	35,100
Prepress technicians and workers	50	0.8	19.95	41,500
Printing press operators	240	0.8	16.93	35,210
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	510	1.3	10.25	21,320
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	(5)	(5)	9.03	18,790
Sewing machine operators	(5)	(5)	12.49	25,980
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	(5)	(5)	19.91	41,410
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders ..	30	1.2	(5)	(5)
Upholsterers	(5)	(5)	14.82	30,810
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	300	1.6	10.87	22,620
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	40	0.3	14.30	29,750
Power plant operators	(5)	(5)	36.30	75,510
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	60	1.0	24.81	51,600
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	250	1.1	21.33	44,360
Chemical plant and system operators	180	3.2	29.73	61,830
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	(5)	(5)	27.07	56,310
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	270	1.8	25.78	53,610

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Gary Metropolitan Division, May 2017 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders.....	70	0.8	17.98	37,390
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	140	2.3	17.08	35,520
Grinding and polishing workers, hand.....	(5)	(5)	14.44	30,030
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	310	1.3	19.19	39,910
Cutters and trimmers, hand.....	(5)	(5)	15.29	31,800
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	160	1.4	13.67	28,420
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	0.5	13.98	29,070
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	90	2.6	18.15	37,750
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers.....	1,480	1.5	17.29	35,950
Dental laboratory technicians	80	1.1	22.05	45,860
Medical appliance technicians.....	(5)	(5)	13.28	27,610
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(5)	(5)	18.70	38,900
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders ...	650	0.9	17.89	37,220
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	0.5	15.11	31,440
Painters, transportation equipment	100	1.1	24.81	51,600
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	110	1.4	16.35	34,000
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders ...	220	1.2	15.66	32,570
Helpers--production workers	510	0.7	13.93	28,970
Production workers, all other.....	220	0.5	16.62	34,570

Footnotes:

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Gary, IN Metropolitan Division, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_23844.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.