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Occupational Employment and Wages in Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis — May 2018

Workers in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$24.54 in May 2018, about 2 percent below the nationwide average of \$24.98, 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 10 of the 22 major occupational groups, including architecture and engineering; computer and mathematical; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media. Two groups has significantly higher wages than their respective national averages, including construction and extraction and sales and related.

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, 14 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including food preparation and serving related, sales and related, and transportation and material moving. (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 2018

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	\$24.98	\$24.54*	-2
Management	5.3	5.1*	58.44	59.47	2
Business and financial operations.....	5.3	6.0*	36.98	33.45*	-10
Computer and mathematical	3.0	3.2	44.01	38.14*	-13
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.0*	42.01	35.11*	-16
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5*	36.62	33.96*	-7
Community and social service.....	1.5	1.4	23.69	21.77*	-8
Legal.....	0.8	0.7*	52.25	53.47	2
Education, training, and library.....	6.1	5.3*	27.22	25.75*	-5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.	1.3	1.4	28.74	23.04*	-20
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.0	6.6*	39.42	41.08	4
Healthcare support	2.8	2.5*	15.57	15.60	0
Protective service	2.4	1.8*	23.36	22.57	-3
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	8.2*	12.30	11.26*	-8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.1	2.9*	14.43	14.17	-2
Personal care and service.....	3.8	5.6*	13.51	12.35*	-9
Sales and related	10.0	9.1*	20.09	21.94*	9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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 2018 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Office and administrative support.....	15.1	14.5*	18.75	18.82	0
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.1*	14.49	16.16	12
Construction and extraction.....	4.1	3.4*	24.62	28.34*	15
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.4*	23.54	23.86	1
Production	6.3	10.3*	18.84	18.81	0
Transportation and material moving.....	7.1	6.1*	18.41	17.72*	-4

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The mean hourly wage or percent share of employment 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 87,020 jobs in production, accounting for 10.3 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.3-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.81, compared to the national wage of \$18.84.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers (11,620); first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (6,230); and packaging and filling machine operators and tenders (5,400). Among the higher-paying jobs in this group were power distributors as well as dispatchers and power plant operators, with mean hourly wages of \$43.53 and \$38.43, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders (\$11.29) and laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$11.92). (Detailed data for the production occupations are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33340.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 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 7.0 times the national rate in Milwaukee, and computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic, at 5.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, helpers--production workers had a location quotient of 1.0 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.

Area Changes to the May 2018 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

OES continues to publish data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas that cover the full geography of the United States. However, the level of detail available has decreased.

OES no longer publishes data for metropolitan divisions. Data for the 11 large metropolitan areas that contain divisions are now available at the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or New England City and Town Area (NECTA) level only.

In addition, some smaller nonmetropolitan areas have been combined to form larger nonmetropolitan areas. The May 2018 OES estimates contain data for 134 nonmetropolitan areas, compared with 167 nonmetropolitan areas in the May 2017 estimates.

More information on these area changes is available at www.bls.gov/oes/areas_2018.htm.

Implementing the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System

The OES program plans to begin implementing the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system with the May 2019 estimates, to be released by early April of 2020. Because each set of OES estimates is produced by combining three years of survey data, estimates for May 2019 and May 2020 will be based on a combination of survey data collected under the 2010 SOC and data collected under the 2018 SOC, and will use a hybrid of the two classification systems. The May 2021 OES estimates, to be released by early April of 2022, will be the first set of estimates based fully on the 2018 SOC. For more information, please see www.bls.gov/oes/soc_2018.htm.

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 580 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-digit, most 4-digit, 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.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies collect most of the data. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 180,000 to 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 2018 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2018, November 2017, May 2017, November 2016, May 2016, and November 2015. The unweighted sample employment of 83 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The overall national

response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 71 percent based on establishments and 68 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The sample in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,819 establishments with a response rate of 75 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.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.

The May 2018 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 **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI 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/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, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2018

Occupation (1)	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level (2)	Location quotient (3)	Hourly	Annual (4)
Production occupations	87,020	1.6	\$18.81	\$39,120
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	6,230	1.7	30.88	64,230
Coil winders, tapers, and finishers	(5)	(5)	16.79	34,920
Electrical, electronic, and electromechanical assemblers, except coil winders, tapers, and finishers	5,120	3.2	18.04	37,520
Engine and other machine assemblers	210	0.7	18.16	37,760
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	700	1.6	20.99	43,650
Assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers	11,620	1.5	15.47	32,180
Bakers	1,120	1.1	14.43	30,020
Butchers and meat cutters	520	0.7	19.60	40,760
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	750	0.8	13.59	28,270
Slaughterers and meat packers	(5)	(5)	14.33	29,810
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	400	3.2	11.29	23,470
Food batchmakers	1,360	1.5	13.32	27,700
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	80	0.4	17.84	37,110
Food processing workers, all other	130	0.5	12.95	26,940
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	4,770	5.5	21.70	45,140
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	460	3.3	25.07	52,140
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	20.85	43,360
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	21.27	44,240
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	220	1.4	19.27	40,090
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	3,470	3.2	18.42	38,310
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	80	1.3	22.65	47,110
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,900	4.5	17.37	36,120
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	510	2.9	20.86	43,380
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	50	0.5	23.32	48,500
Machinists	4,360	1.9	20.87	43,410
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	120	1.1	19.54	40,650
Pourers and casters, metal	130	2.8	16.26	33,810
Patternmakers, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	20.16	41,920
Foundry mold and coremakers	640	7.0	18.76	39,020
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	2,400	2.5	17.12	35,610
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,170	1.5	17.37	36,120
Tool and die makers	1,520	3.6	23.99	49,900
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	3,660	1.6	21.32	44,340
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	110	0.5	18.16	37,770
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	280	2.4	18.19	37,830
Layout workers, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	20.87	43,410
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	380	1.6	15.49	32,230
Prepress technicians and workers	460	2.6	21.38	44,480

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2018 - Continued

Occupation (1)	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level (2)	Location quotient (3)	Hourly	Annual (4)
Printing press operators	2,840	2.8	18.44	38,350
Print binding and finishing workers.....	1,410	5.3	15.98	33,230
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	950	0.8	11.92	24,800
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	240	1.1	12.42	25,840
Sewing machine operators.....	570	0.7	13.99	29,110
Shoe and leather workers and repairers	160	3.1	13.12	27,280
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	(5)	(5)	14.78	30,750
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	120	1.0	12.06	25,070
Upholsterers	50	0.3	12.97	26,970
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	640	1.1	20.31	42,250
Furniture finishers.....	60	0.6	17.12	35,610
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood.....	(5)	(5)	17.01	35,370
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing.....	270	0.6	15.23	31,670
Power distributors and dispatchers	(5)	(5)	43.53	90,550
Power plant operators	80	0.4	38.43	79,930
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	200	1.1	28.92	60,140
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	380	0.5	30.01	62,430
Chemical plant and system operators.....	(5)	(5)	34.44	71,640
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	770	1.6	21.08	43,850
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders.....	360	1.2	21.33	44,360
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	17.28	35,930
Grinding and polishing workers, hand.....	790	4.5	13.12	27,300
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,070	1.4	18.12	37,680
Cutters and trimmers, hand.....	(5)	(5)	14.41	29,980
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	670	1.9	16.53	34,390
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders.....	400	1.0	16.06	33,400
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	15.70	32,660
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	4,450	1.4	20.23	42,080
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	(5)	(5)	26.95	56,050
Dental laboratory technicians	350	1.7	20.27	42,160
Medical appliance technicians.....	100	1.2	16.26	33,810
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	210	1.3	14.74	30,660
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	5,400	2.3	13.97	29,050
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,420	2.7	17.89	37,210
Painters, transportation equipment	400	1.2	20.70	43,060
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators.....	170	1.8	13.20	27,460
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	16.79	34,920
Etchers and engravers	(5)	(5)	18.60	38,690
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	360	1.4	17.09	35,550
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,250	2.2	19.26	40,060
Helpers--production workers	2,100	1.0	13.41	27,890
Production workers, all other.....	690	0.5	16.28	33,860

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI Metropolitan Statistical Area, 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.