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## Occupational Employment and Wages in Springfield, Mo. — May 2015

Workers in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.58 in May 2015, about 20 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 20 of the 22 occupational groups, including computer and mathematical; management; and architecture and engineering.

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

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Springfield	United States	Springfield	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations .....	100.0%	100.0%	\$23.23	\$18.58*	-20
Management .....	5.0	4.0*	55.30	42.62*	-23
Business and Financial Operations.....	5.1	3.5*	35.48	27.26*	-23
Computer and Mathematical .....	2.9	1.9*	41.43	28.20*	-32
Architecture and Engineering .....	1.8	0.8*	39.89	28.56*	-28
Life, Physical, and Social Science.....	0.8	0.4*	34.24	26.66*	-22
Community and Social Services.....	1.4	1.7*	22.19	16.85*	-24
Legal.....	0.8	0.6*	49.74	39.70*	-20
Education, Training, and Library.....	6.2	6.2	25.48	23.10	-9
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media .....	1.3	1.1*	27.39	19.03*	-31
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical.....	5.8	7.5*	37.40	30.49*	-18
Healthcare Support .....	2.9	3.3*	14.19	12.77*	-10
Protective Service .....	2.4	2.1*	21.45	17.61*	-18
Food Preparation and Serving Related.....	9.1	9.9*	10.98	9.62*	-12
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance..	3.2	2.7*	13.02	11.45*	-12
Personal Care and Service .....	3.1	3.4	12.33	10.74*	-13
Sales and Related .....	10.5	11.2	18.90	15.46*	-18
Office and Administrative Support.....	15.8	17.4*	17.47	14.83*	-15
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry .....	0.3	(2)	12.67	11.28*	-11
Construction and Extraction .....	4.0	3.5*	22.88	20.34*	-11
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.....	3.9	4.5*	22.11	19.12*	-14
Production .....	6.6	5.9	17.41	16.03*	-8
Transportation and Material Moving.....	6.9	8.3	16.90	16.06	-5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Springfield 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—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Springfield had 34,190 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.4 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$14.83, significantly below the national wage of \$17.47.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included customer service representatives (5,690), secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (4,880), and general office clerks (3,990). Among the higher-paying jobs were postal service mail carriers and first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers, with mean hourly wages of \$24.45 and \$22.90, respectively. Occupations at the lower end of the wage scale included hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.17) and order clerks (\$10.47). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes\\_44180.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes_44180.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 Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, interviewers, except eligibility and loan were employed at 2.6 times the national rate in Springfield, and order clerks, at 1.8 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, general office clerks had a location quotient of 1.0 in Springfield, 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 Missouri Department of Economic Development.

### **Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data**

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa\\_def.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.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 mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm).

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 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 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 Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,067 establishments with a response rate of 64 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The May 2015 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](http://www.bls.gov/soc) and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at [www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm](http://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 **Springfield, Mo. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, and Webster Counties.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains](http://www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains). Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm](http://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/2015/may/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2015/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, Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Office and Administrative Support Occupations .....	34,190	1.1	\$14.83	\$30,850
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers .....	1,820	0.9	22.90	47,640
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service ....	140	1.0	12.46	25,920
Bill and Account Collectors .....	230	0.5	13.67	28,430
Billing and Posting Clerks .....	750	1.1	14.49	30,130
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks .....	2,080	0.9	15.03	31,260
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks .....	220	0.9	17.35	36,080
Procurement Clerks .....	100	1.0	16.90	35,160
Tellers .....	1,200	1.7	10.99	22,850
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks .....	320	1.7	14.21	29,570
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks .....	150	2.6	17.61	36,630
Customer Service Representatives .....	5,690	1.5	14.53	30,230
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs .....	190	1.0	15.84	32,950
File Clerks .....	230	1.1	13.02	27,090
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks .....	220	0.6	9.17	19,080
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan .....	690	2.6	13.88	28,860
Library Assistants, Clerical .....	30	0.2	10.45	21,730
Loan Interviewers and Clerks .....	400	1.3	16.99	35,350
New Accounts Clerks .....	170	2.4	14.95	31,100
Order Clerks .....	490	1.8	10.47	21,780
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping .....	300	1.5	15.22	31,660
Receptionists and Information Clerks .....	1,170	0.8	11.29	23,480
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks .....	40	0.2	11.70	24,340
Information and Record Clerks, All Other .....	160	0.6	22.51	46,820
Cargo and Freight Agents .....	50	0.4	21.08	43,840
Couriers and Messengers .....	90	0.8	11.87	24,690
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers .....	210	1.5	15.99	33,250
Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance .....	370	1.3	18.83	39,160
Postal Service Clerks .....	120	1.1	21.13	43,940
Postal Service Mail Carriers .....	510	1.1	24.45	50,850
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators .....	190	1.2	24.37	50,700
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks .....	340	0.8	18.11	37,680
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks .....	710	0.7	14.98	31,150
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers .....	2,570	0.9	11.90	24,750
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping .....	180	1.8	11.78	24,510
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants .....	610	0.6	21.51	44,740
Legal Secretaries .....	90	0.3	18.08	37,600
Medical Secretaries .....	1,110	1.5	15.39	32,010
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive .....	4,880	1.5	14.23	29,600
Computer Operators .....	40	0.6	18.28	38,030
Data Entry Keyers .....	200	0.7	12.26	25,510
Word Processors and Typists .....	(5)	(5)	16.47	34,260
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks .....	(5)	(5)	18.84	39,190
Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service .....	90	0.7	13.08	27,200
Office Clerks, General .....	3,990	1.0	12.53	26,060
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer .....	140	1.5	11.96	24,880
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other .....	160	0.5	16.47	34,250

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing for all detailed occupations in the Springfield, MO Metropolitan Statistical Area, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_44180.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_44180.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.