



**For Release: Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**17-690-KAN**

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.

Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains

Media contact: (816) 285-7000

## Occupational Employment and Wages in Fort Collins — May 2016

Workers in the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$23.44 in May 2016, similar to the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; business and financial operations; and education, training, and library. Four groups had significantly higher wages than their respective national averages, including architecture and engineering; healthcare support; and production.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including food preparation and serving related; sales and related; and construction and extraction. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; production; 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 Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Fort Collins	United States	Fort Collins	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations .....	100.0	100.0	\$23.86	\$23.44	-2
Management .....	5.1	3.8*	56.74	54.59*	-4
Business and financial operations.....	5.2	5.3	36.09	33.13*	-8
Computer and mathematical .....	3.0	3.4*	42.25	41.34	-2
Architecture and engineering .....	1.8	2.9*	40.53	43.80*	8
Life, physical, and social science .....	0.8	1.9*	35.06	33.31*	-5
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.3*	22.69	22.96	1
Legal.....	0.8	0.4*	50.95	51.71	1
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	7.0*	26.21	23.77*	-9
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.4	1.4	28.07	22.61*	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical .....	5.9	6.1	38.06	38.62	1
Healthcare support .....	2.9	2.4*	14.65	16.22*	11
Protective service .....	2.4	1.8*	22.03	22.58	2
Food preparation and serving related .....	9.2	11.5*	11.47	11.80	3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance ...	3.2	3.3	13.47	14.16	5
Personal care and service.....	3.2	3.1	12.74	13.91*	9
Sales and related .....	10.4	11.8*	19.50	18.75	-4
Office and administrative support.....	15.7	14.3*	17.91	17.71	-1
Farming, fishing, and forestry .....	0.3	0.2*	13.37	13.96	4
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	5.3*	23.51	21.68*	-8
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	3.9	4.0	22.45	22.87	2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Fort Collins	United States	Fort Collins	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Production .....	6.5	4.7*	17.88	19.30*	8
Transportation and material moving .....	6.9	4.4*	17.34	16.47*	-5

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area 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.

**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. 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](http://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 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,872 establishments with a response rate of 76 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_tec.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.htm).

The May 2016 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 **Fort Collins, Colo. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Larimer County.

### **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/current/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://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, Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Food preparation and serving related occupations .....	17,160	1.2	\$11.80	\$24,550
Chefs and head cooks.....	60	0.4	21.71	45,160
First-line supervisors of food preparation and serving workers.....	1,080	1.1	18.27	38,000
Cooks, fast food .....	(5)	(5)	10.10	21,010
Cooks, institution and cafeteria .....	560	1.3	12.85	26,720
Cooks, restaurant.....	2,390	1.8	12.53	26,070
Cooks, short order.....	(5)	(5)	9.76	20,300
Food preparation workers .....	650	0.7	11.38	23,670
Bartenders.....	930	1.5	13.08	27,200
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food .....	4,890	1.3	10.07	20,940
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop.....	320	0.6	9.67	20,100
Waiters and waitresses .....	3,280	1.2	12.61	26,220
Food servers, nonrestaurant .....	380	1.4	11.67	24,280
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers.....	520	1.2	10.05	20,900
Dishwashers.....	610	1.1	10.11	21,020
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop.....	760	1.8	10.35	21,530
Food preparation and serving related workers, all other.	(5)	(5)	9.04	18,800

Footnotes:

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_22660.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_22660.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.