



NEWS RELEASE



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Occupational Employment And Wages In Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, May 2013

Workers in the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.51 in May 2013, similar to the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 4 of the 22 major occupational groups, including management and sales and related. Twelve groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including construction and extraction; education, training, and library; and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including sales and related, business and financial operations, and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; construction and extraction; and production. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—business and financial operations—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill had 54,410 jobs in business and financial operations, accounting for 6.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.0-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$34.90, measurably above the national wage of \$34.14.

With employment of 9,390, accountants and auditors was the largest occupation within the business and financial operations group, followed by loan officers (4,780) and management analysts (3,860). Among the higher paying jobs were personal financial advisors and credit analysts, with mean hourly wages of \$51.48 and \$40.74, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products (\$27.93) and human resource specialists (\$28.92). (Detailed occupational data for business and financial operations are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_16740.htm.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Charlotte	United States	Charlotte	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.33	\$22.51	1
Management	4.9	5.5*	53.15	58.73*	10
Business and financial operations.....	5.0	6.2*	34.14	34.90*	2
Computer and mathematical	2.8	3.5*	39.43	39.66	1
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5*	38.51	35.77*	-7
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.5*	33.37	33.69	1
Community and social services.....	1.4	1.0*	21.50	20.85	-3
Legal	0.8	0.8	47.89	42.38*	-12
Education, training, and library.....	6.3	5.0*	24.76	20.89*	-16
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	1.1*	26.72	24.25*	-9
Healthcare practitioner and technical.....	5.8	5.5	35.93	35.68	-1
Healthcare support.....	3.0	2.6*	13.61	12.44*	-9
Protective service.....	2.5	2.9*	20.92	17.05*	-18
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.8	10.38	9.96*	-4
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7*	12.51	11.06*	-12
Personal care and service.....	3.0	2.5*	11.88	11.34*	-5
Sales and related	10.6	12.2*	18.37	19.93*	8
Office and administrative support.....	16.2	16.5	16.78	16.88	1
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.1*	11.70	13.67*	17
Construction and extraction	3.8	3.3*	21.94	17.95*	-18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.0	21.35	20.92*	-2
Production	6.6	6.2*	16.79	16.38*	-2
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	7.7*	16.28	16.68	2

¹ A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Charlotte 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.

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 Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the business and financial operations group. For instance, credit analysts were employed at 4.0 times the national rate in Charlotte, and loan officers, at 2.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, training and development specialists had a location quotient of 1.0 in Charlotte, 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 North Carolina Department of Commerce.

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 for a 3-year period. May 2013 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected in May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, November 2011, May 2011, and November 2010. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 75.3 percent based on establishments and 71.6 percent based on employment. The sample in the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area included 5,905 establishments with a response rate of 82 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 2013 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 **Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, N.C.-S.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties of North Carolina, and York County of South Carolina.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southeast. 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/2013/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, Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	54,410	1.2	\$34.90	\$72,590
Agents and Business Managers of Artists, Performers, and Athletes..	150	1.9	34.61	71,990
Buyers and Purchasing Agents, Farm Products	90	1.1	24.15	50,230
Wholesale and Retail Buyers, Except Farm Products	850	1.1	26.16	54,400
Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, and Farm Products	1,560	0.8	27.93	58,090
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators.....	1,970	1.1	29.25	60,840
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage	60	0.7	28.91	60,130
Compliance Officers	1,190	0.8	32.04	66,630
Cost Estimators	1,590	1.2	29.53	61,420
Human Resources Specialists.....	3,500	1.2	28.92	60,160
Labor Relations Specialists	220	0.4	30.76	63,970
Logisticians	450	0.6	30.20	62,820
Management Analysts	3,860	1.0	38.12	79,280
Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners	480	1.0	22.20	46,170
Fundraisers.....	180	0.5	25.23	52,480
Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists	600	1.1	32.64	67,900
Training and Development Specialists.....	1,460	1.0	32.58	67,760
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	3,700	1.3	32.99	68,620
Business Operations Specialists, All Other.....	5,810	0.9	36.23	75,360
Accountants and Auditors	9,390	1.2	35.75	74,360
Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate.....	570	1.4	28.21	58,680
Budget Analysts	110	0.3	30.71	63,880
Credit Analysts.....	1,740	4.0	40.74	84,740
Financial Analysts	3,120	1.9	39.51	82,190
Personal Financial Advisors.....	2,380	2.0	51.48	107,070
Insurance Underwriters.....	1,280	2.1	41.59	86,520
Financial Examiners	690	3.4	40.42	84,080
Credit Counselors	180	1.0	22.54	46,880
Loan Officers	4,780	2.4	33.17	68,990
Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents.....	290	0.7	26.49	55,090
Tax Preparers	330	0.8	26.80	55,750
Financial Specialists, All Other	1,830	1.9	35.81	74,490

⁽¹⁾ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_16740.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.