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Occupational Employment and Wages in Louisville/Jefferson County – May 2016

Workers in the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.28 in May 2016, about 11 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.86, 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 lower than their respective national averages in 16 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; architecture and engineering; and business and financial operations. One group—farming, fishing, and forestry—had a significantly higher wage than its respective national average.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 4 of the 22 occupational groups, including production and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 15 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; business and financial operations; and sales and related. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Louisville/ Jefferson County	United States	Louisville/ Jefferson County	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$23.86	\$21.28*	-11
Management	5.1	4.6*	56.74	48.33*	-15
Business and financial operations	5.2	4.3*	36.09	30.34*	-16
Computer and mathematical	3.0	2.2*	42.25	34.99*	-17
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.2*	40.53	33.29*	-18
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.3*	35.06	28.97*	-17
Community and social services	1.4	1.2*	22.69	21.17*	-7
Legal	0.8	0.5*	50.95	37.15*	-27
Education, training, and library	6.2	4.4*	26.21	25.04	-4
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.0*	28.07	22.03*	-22
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.9	6.7*	38.06	34.82*	-9
Healthcare support	2.9	2.5*	14.65	14.86	1
Protective service	2.4	2.0*	22.03	17.19*	-22
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	9.3	11.47	10.22*	-11
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.6*	13.47	12.54*	-7
Personal care and service	3.2	3.0	12.74	11.96*	-6
Sales and related	10.4	9.6*	19.50	18.26*	-6
Office and administrative support	15.7	15.9	17.91	17.06*	-5
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	13.37	14.90*	11
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.5*	23.51	21.86*	-7
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2*	22.45	22.11	-2
Production	6.5	10.5*	17.88	18.04	1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Louisville/ Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Louisville/ Jefferson County	United States	Louisville/ Jefferson County	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Transportation and material moving	6.9	10.3*	17.34	19.11	10

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Louisville/Jefferson County 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.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Louisville/Jefferson County had 67,460 jobs in production, accounting for 10.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.04, compared to the national wage of \$17.88.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included team assemblers (16,010), inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (4,400), and metal and plastic cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders (3,910). Among the higher paying jobs were power plant operators and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with mean hourly wages of \$40.02 and \$27.31, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$9.88) and textile, garment, and related materials pressers (\$9.96). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31140.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 Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the production group. For instance, team assemblers were employed at 3.1 times the national rate in Louisville/Jefferson County, and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, at 1.9 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, machinists had a location quotient of 1.0 in Louisville/Jefferson County, 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 Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment.

Note on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

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.

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 Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,967 establishments with a response rate of 76 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.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 and information about the 2012 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 **Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties of Kentucky, and Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington Counties of Indiana.

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/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, Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	67,460	1.6	\$18.04	\$37,520
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	3,570	1.3	27.31	56,810
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	470	0.5	14.22	29,570
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	520	1.5	22.07	45,900
Team assemblers	16,010	3.1	19.60	40,770
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	5,950	5.6	11.96	24,880
Bakers	290	0.4	12.78	26,580
Butchers and meat cutters	490	0.8	16.14	33,570
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	(5)	(5)	12.71	26,450
Slaughters and meat packers	(5)	(5)	11.58	24,100
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	190	2.1	15.12	31,450
Food batchmakers	880	1.3	14.69	30,550
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	350	2.1	18.56	38,610
Food processing workers, all other	160	0.8	14.33	29,800
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	600	0.9	17.79	37,000
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	90	0.7	19.16	39,850
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	330	1.0	14.97	31,140
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	120	1.3	17.47	36,340
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	540	4.0	18.00	37,440
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	3,910	4.4	22.19	46,160
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.8	16.36	34,030
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	220	0.7	16.65	34,620
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.3	18.95	39,410
Machinists	1,770	1.0	21.02	43,720
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	150	1.9	19.10	39,730
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,030	1.6	14.08	29,290
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	710	1.3	16.58	34,480
Tool and die makers	740	2.3	26.57	55,260
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	3,320	1.9	19.51	40,580
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	500	2.3	15.41	32,040
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	150	0.9	13.18	27,420
Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners	50	1.1	14.63	30,430
Metal workers and plastic workers, all other	80	0.8	16.25	33,790
Prepress technicians and workers	240	1.6	19.30	40,130
Printing press operators	1,670	2.2	17.60	36,610
Print binding and finishing workers	280	1.2	16.33	33,960
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	620	0.7	9.88	20,560
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	230	1.1	9.96	20,730
Sewing machine operators	600	0.9	13.92	28,940
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	70	0.7	14.58	30,330
Extruding and forming machine setters, operators, and tenders, synthetic and glass fibers	140	1.6	17.70	36,820
Upholsterers	80	0.5	14.99	31,180
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	670	1.5	17.02	35,400

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Furniture finishers.....	190	2.4	13.88	28,870
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood .	290	1.2	13.04	27,120
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing.....	1,040	3.0	14.49	30,150
Power plant operators	80	0.5	40.02	83,240
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	50	0.3	26.03	54,140
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	310	0.6	21.60	44,930
Chemical plant and system operators	90	0.6	23.99	49,900
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	50	0.2	36.85	76,640
Plant and system operators, all other.....	30	0.6	33.71	70,120
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	410	1.2	23.87	49,650
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders.....	180	0.8	16.65	34,620
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	120	0.9	15.63	32,510
Grinding and polishing workers, hand.....	170	1.4	13.67	28,440
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	680	1.1	18.34	38,150
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	360	1.3	16.28	33,860
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	430	1.3	15.61	32,470
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	50	0.6	18.87	39,250
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers.....	4,400	1.9	19.28	40,110
Dental laboratory technicians	130	0.8	19.66	40,890
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	40	0.3	11.80	24,550
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	2,100	1.2	15.70	32,660
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	560	1.4	15.97	33,210
Painters, transportation equipment	250	1.0	26.04	54,160
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	(5)	(5)	17.19	35,760
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	50	0.4	13.72	28,530
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders.....	260	3.4	18.25	37,960
Cooling and freezing equipment operators and tenders .	50	1.4	12.94	26,920
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	150	0.9	12.56	26,120
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders ...	710	1.7	16.16	33,600
Tire builders.....	90	0.9	17.89	37,200
Helpers--production workers	2,810	1.4	12.89	26,810
Production workers, all other.....	2,010	1.7	14.00	29,120

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31140.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.