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## **Occupational Employment and Wages for Selected Construction Trades Occupations in Selected Georgia Metropolitan Areas – May 2016**

Each of the selected 12 metropolitan areas located partially or entirely in Georgia had annual wages that were significantly below the national average for carpenters, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Eleven areas had below-average wages for electricians, and 11 had below-average wages for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that among the 12 selected metropolitan areas, none had annual wages significantly above the U.S. average for the three selected construction trades occupations. Nationwide, the average (mean) wage for carpenters was \$48,340; for electricians, \$56,650; and for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, \$56,030. (See [table A](#). For comprehensive definitions of metropolitan areas in Georgia, please see [Technical Note](#).)

**Table A. Average (mean) annual wages for selected construction trades occupations in the United States, Georgia, and selected metropolitan areas in Georgia, May 2016**

Area	Carpenters	Electricians	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
United States.....	\$48,340	\$56,650	\$56,030
Georgia.....	40,540*	46,490*	44,310*
Albany.....	30,650*	47,190*	37,110*
Athens-Clarke County.....	37,590*	43,710*	47,660*
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell.....	42,850*	47,750*	46,830*
Augusta-Richmond County.....	37,460*	45,810*	39,360*
Brunswick.....	37,240*	40,890*	48,100
Chattanooga.....	39,660*	44,550*	45,080*
Columbus.....	38,500*	42,310*	39,690*
Gainesville.....	39,040*	47,390*	46,370*
Macon.....	32,490*	43,980*	33,940*
Savannah.....	43,440*	46,720*	43,450*
Valdosta.....	38,380*	47,790*	41,650*
Warner Robins.....	34,130*	47,800	46,230*

Note: An asterisk indicates that the mean annual wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

Of the 12 selected metropolitan areas located entirely or partially in the state, the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell area had the largest numbers of carpenters; electricians; and plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, with a combined employment of 27,470 in the three selected occupations. Employment in these three occupations combined was less than 2,600 in each of the remaining selected metropolitan areas in Georgia. (See [table B](#).)

**Table B. Employment of selected construction trades occupations in the United States, Georgia, and selected metropolitan areas in Georgia, May 2016**

Area	Carpenters	Electricians	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
United States.....	676,980	607,120	411,870
Georgia.....	17,770	16,820	9,960
Albany.....	210	260	210
Athens-Clarke County.....	300	410	250
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell.....	11,450	10,320	5,700
Augusta-Richmond County.....	1,020	900	670
Brunswick.....	220	160	160
Chattanooga.....	420	1,300	750
Columbus.....	360	510	360
Gainesville.....	370	290	290
Macon.....	320	300	160
Savannah.....	660	620	410
Valdosta.....	170	270	210
Warner Robins.....	160	120	170

**Wages for carpenters in selected metropolitan areas in Georgia**

Each of the 12 selected metropolitan areas in Georgia had wages significantly below the U.S. average of \$48,340 for carpenters. The lower paying areas included Albany (\$30,650), Macon (\$32,490), and Warner Robins (\$34,130). Among the remaining areas, average wages for carpenters ranged from \$43,440 in Savannah to \$37,240 in Brunswick.

**Wages for electricians in selected metropolitan areas in Georgia**

Electricians in 11 of the 12 selected metropolitan areas had wages measurably below the national average of \$56,650, including Brunswick (\$40,890), Columbus (\$42,310), and Athens-Clarke County (\$43,710). Electricians in the Warner Robins area earned wages that were not measurably different from the U.S. average.

**Wages for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters in selected metropolitan areas in Georgia**

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, earned below the U.S. average of \$56,030 in 11 of the 12 selected metropolitan areas in Georgia. Macon (\$33,940), Albany (\$37,110), and Augusta-Richmond County (\$39,360) were among the lower-paying areas. Wages for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters in Brunswick were not measurably different from the national average.

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 Georgia State Department of Labor.

**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 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. 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.

- **Albany, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Baker, Dougherty, Lee, Terrell, and Worth Counties in Georgia.
- **Athens-Clarke County, Ga. MSA** includes Clarke, Madison, Oconee, and Oglethorpe Counties in Georgia.
- **Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. MSA** includes Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.
- **Augusta-Richmond County, Ga.-S.C. MSA** includes Aiken and Edgefield Counties in South Carolina; Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties in Georgia.
- **Brunswick, Ga. MSA** includes Brantley, Glynn, and McIntosh Counties in Georgia.
- **Chattanooga, Tenn.-Ga. MSA** includes Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties in Georgia; Hamilton, Marion, and Sequatchie Counties in Tennessee.
- **Columbus, Ga.-Ala. MSA** includes Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, and Muscogee Counties in Georgia; Russell County in Alabama.
- **Dalton, Ga. MSA** includes Murray and Whitfield Counties in Georgia.
- **Gainesville, Ga. MSA** includes Hall County in Georgia.
- **Hinesville, Ga. MSA** includes Liberty and Long Counties in Georgia.
- **Macon, Ga. MSA** includes Bibb, Crawford, Jones, Monroe, and Twiggs Counties in Georgia.
- **Rome, Ga. MSA** includes Floyd County in Georgia.

- **Savannah, Ga. MSA** includes Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties in Georgia.
- **Valdosta, Ga. MSA** includes Brooks, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties in Georgia.
- **Warner Robins, Ga. MSA** includes Houston, Peach, and Pulaski Counties in Georgia.

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