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+ "px"); } $(this).parent().css("height",$(this).height()); $(this).parent().css("marginBottom","15px"); }); /
*remove padding from previous paragraph thats before a cms image. */ $(".cms-image").each(function()
{ if($(this).parent().prev().prop("tagName") == "P"){ $(this).parent().prev().css("margin-bottom","5px"); }
if($(this).parent().next().prop("tagName") == "P"){ $(this).parent().next().css("margin-top","5px"); } }); /
*these empty ps are so problematic. get rid of them. [.replace(/[\s\r\n\t]/gi,"")] */ $("p").each(function(){ if($
(this).text().replace(/[ ]/gi,"").replace(/ /gi,"").replace(/
/gi,"") == ""){ $(this).remove(); } }); /*tables will outright disappear if it is wide and right before the
pdfpagebreak.*/ if($("pdfpagebreak").prev().prev().hasClass("wide")){ $
("pdfpagebreak").prev().prev().removeClass("wide").addClass("nopagebreak"); $
(".nopagebreak").prev().addClass("nopagebreakbefore"); } /*in the case there is no content except the news
release tables after the forced
in the template remove this tag.*/ if($("pdfpagebreak").next().attr("class") == "nr-tables"){ $
("pdfpagebreak").remove(); } /*pagebreaks actually take space so we'll remove it and apply it to the
previous element.*/ $("pdfpagebreak").prev().addClass("pdfpagebreak"); $("pdfpagebreak").remove(); $
(".nr-tables").nextAll(".pdf-table-wrapper").each(function(index){ if(index != numberOfTablesAfterNR -
1){ $(this).addClass("pageBreakTable"); } }); var prevHasWide = false; $(".nr-tables").nextAll(".pdf-table-
wrapper").each(function(index){ if((numberOfTablesAfterNR - 1) == index){ $(this).next().remove(); $
(this).remove(); }else{ if($(this).hasClass("wide")){ prevHasWide = true; }else{ prevHasWide =
false; } } }); /*prevent wide pages from creating a new page after it.*/ $(".pdf-table-
wrapper.wide").each(function(){ $(this).next(".runningFooterDiv").appendTo($(this)); }); /*get rid of lines
that appear in the middle of table because of a weird image beforehand*/ $(".pdf-table-
wrapper").each(function(){ /* 20190705 - removed due to this causing extra spaces on tables that
transitioned into a new page. http://dewscmsp.psb.bls.gov:9992/Rhythmyx/assembler/render?
sys_revision=1&sys_context=0&sys_folderid=44860&sys_siteid=305&sys_contentid=49352&sys_itemfilter=preview
http://dewscmsp.psb.bls.gov:9992/Rhythmyx/assembler/render?
sys_revision=1&sys_context=0&sys_folderid=51638&sys_siteid=305&sys_contentid=59259&sys_itemfilter=preview
$(this).css("height",$(this).height()+"px"); */ $(this).before('
'); }); }

NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 **19-1131-ATL**

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Occupational Employment and Wages in Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton — May 2018

Workers in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $19.52 in May 2018, about 22 percent below the nationwide average of $24.98, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, 20 of the 22 major occupational groups had average wages in the local area that were significantly lower than their respective national averages, including legal; computer and mathematical; and

life, physical, and social science. 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, 16 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations; office and administrative support; and computer and mathematical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2018

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Hickory	United States	Hickory	Percent difference (1)
- Continued					
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	$24.98	$19.52*	-22
Management	5.3	3.1*	58.44	52.85*	-10
Business and financial operations	5.3	2.4*	36.98	31.37*	-15
Computer and mathematical	3.0	0.8*	44.01	30.83*	-30
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.1*	42.01	33.83*	-19
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.3*	36.62	26.00*	-29
Community and social service	1.5	1.3*	23.69	21.45*	-9
Legal	0.8	0.2*	52.25	26.06*	-50
Education, training, and library	6.1	5.1*	27.22	20.35*	-25
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.6*	28.74	22.16*	-23
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.0	6.0	39.42	37.06	-6
Healthcare support	2.8	4.3*	15.57	13.06*	-16
Protective service	2.4	2.2*	23.36	17.42*	-25
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	8.2*	12.30	10.23*	-17
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.1	2.0*	14.43	12.15*	-16
Personal care and service	3.8	2.3*	13.51	11.96*	-11
Sales and related	10.0	10.0	20.09	17.98*	-11
Office and administrative support	15.1	12.9*	18.75	16.53*	-12
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(2)*	14.49	16.54*	14
Construction and extraction	4.1	2.3*	24.62	18.73*	-24
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.6*	23.54	20.73*	-12
Production	6.3	21.2*	18.84	17.01*	-10
Transportation and material moving	7.1	9.1*	18.41	16.38*	-11

Footnotes:
(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
(2) Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent
* The mean hourly wage or percent share of employment 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. Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton had 32,740 jobs in production, accounting for 21.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.3-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $17.01, significantly below the national wage of $18.84.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers (4,180); upholsterers (3,700); and sewing machine operators (2,340). Among the higher-paying jobs in this group were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, and tool and die makers, with mean hourly wages of $26.68 and $22.91, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers ($11.06) and meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers ($11.23). (Detailed data for production occupations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25860.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 Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, upholsterers were employed at 105.6 times the national rate in Hickory, and hand cutters and trimmers, at 86.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers had a location quotient of 1.2 in Hickory, 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.

Area Changes to the May 2018 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

OES continues to publish data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas that cover the full geography of the United States. However, the level of detail available has decreased.

OES no longer publishes data for metropolitan divisions. Data for the 11 large metropolitan areas that contain divisions are now available at the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or New England City and Town Area (NECTA) level only.

In addition, some smaller nonmetropolitan areas have been combined to form larger nonmetropolitan areas. The May 2018 OES estimates contain data for 134 nonmetropolitan areas, compared with 167 nonmetropolitan areas in the May 2017 estimates.

More information on these area changes is available at www.bls.gov/oes/areas_2018.htm.

Implementing the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System

The OES program plans to begin implementing the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system with the May 2019 estimates, to be released by early April of 2020. Because each set of OES estimates is produced by combining three years of survey data, estimates for May 2019 and May 2020 will be based on a combination of survey data collected under the 2010 SOC and data collected under the 2018 SOC, and will use a hybrid of the two classification systems. The May 2021 OES estimates,

to be released by early April of 2022, will be the first set of estimates based fully on the 2018 SOC. For more information, please see www.bls.gov/oes/soc_2018.htm.

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 580 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-digit, most 4-digit, 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.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies collect most of the data. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 180,000 to 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 2018 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2018, November 2017, May 2017, November 2016, May 2016, and November 2015. The unweighted sample employment of 83 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 71 percent based on establishments and 68 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The sample in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,661 establishments with a response rate of 84 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.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.

The May 2018 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2017 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 2017 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 **Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties.

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, Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2018

Occupation (1)	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level (2)	Location quotient (3)	Hourly	Annual (4)
- Continued				
Production occupations	32,740	3.4	$17.01	$35,370
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,910	2.9	26.68	55,500
Coil winders, tapers, and finishers	60	4.3	15.72	32,700
Electrical, electronic, and electromechanical assemblers, except coil winders, tapers, and finishers	520	1.8	14.93	31,050
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	40	0.5	21.31	44,330
Assemblers and fabricators, all other, including team assemblers	4,180	2.9	13.73	28,570
Bakers	70	0.4	12.38	25,750
Butchers and meat cutters	80	0.6	16.85	35,060
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	460	2.8	11.23	23,360
Slaughterers and meat packers	60	0.7	12.66	26,340
Food batchmakers	220	1.3	19.89	41,360
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	130	0.9	15.69	32,630
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	60	2.5	19.11	39,750
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,360	16.9	20.40	42,420
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	30	1.2	20.32	42,270
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	360	1.8	12.60	26,200
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	1.7	16.73	34,810
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	60	1.9	21.14	43,980
Machinists	530	1.3	18.98	39,470
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	540	3.1	14.79	30,770
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	300	2.1	16.27	33,830
Tool and die makers	110	1.4	22.91	47,650
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	490	1.2	17.28	35,940
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	2.1	19.45	40,460
Prepress technicians and workers	40	1.1	19.15	39,830
Printing press operators	240	1.3	17.70	36,830
Print binding and finishing workers	30	0.7	13.51	28,090
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	400	1.8	11.06	23,010
Sewing machine operators	2,340	16.1	17.03	35,420
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	480	48.6	14.17	29,470
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	370	26.0	16.56	34,440
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	470	21.0	14.70	30,570
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	810	24.1	12.63	26,270
Extruding and forming machine setters, operators, and tenders, synthetic and glass fibers	(5)	(5)	15.97	33,220
Fabric and apparel patternmakers	110	20.3	21.02	43,730
Upholsterers	3,700	105.6	20.82	43,310
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers, all other	290	17.7	13.39	27,850
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	610	5.6	13.26	27,590
Furniture finishers	590	31.9	14.83	30,840
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	300	5.5	15.52	32,280
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	1,080	12.8	16.33	33,970

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2018

Occupation (1)	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level (2)	Location quotient (3)	Hourly	Annual (4)
- Continued				
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	130	1.0	18.72	38,940
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	80	1.0	16.38	34,070
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	60	1.7	15.94	33,160
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	150	4.8	13.89	28,880
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	340	2.5	14.63	30,430
Cutters and trimmers, hand	980	86.6	18.53	38,540
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	590	9.1	17.23	35,850
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	15.37	31,960
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	30	1.7	15.92	33,100
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,650	2.8	16.24	33,780
Dental laboratory technicians	80	2.1	20.32	42,260
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	910	2.2	13.71	28,530
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	420	4.5	15.52	32,280
Painters, transportation equipment	(5)	(5)	22.31	46,400
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	60	4.6	14.45	30,050
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	330	19.1	12.11	25,180
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	30	1.7	14.71	30,600
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	360	3.4	18.20	37,860
Tire builders	40	1.6	11.34	23,580
Helpers--production workers	1,150	3.1	15.47	32,190
Production workers, all other	200	0.8	16.74	34,810

Footnotes:
(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25860.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.