



For Release: Thursday, July 17, 2014

14-1332-DAL

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Occupational Employment and Wages in Baton Rouge, May 2013

Workers in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.99 in May 2013, about 10 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 2 of the 22 major occupational groups, including production, while nineteen groups had significantly lower wages including computer and mathematical; business and financial operations; and healthcare support.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 4 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and architecture and engineering. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including computer and mathematical; business and financial operations; and education, training, and library. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Baton Rouge		United States	Baton Rouge		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.33	\$19.99	*	-10
Management	4.9	4.6	*	53.15	47.26	*	-11
Business and financial operations	5.0	3.9	*	34.14	26.65	*	-22
Computer and mathematical	2.8	1.5	*	39.43	30.22	*	-23
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.6	*	38.51	39.68		3
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.8	*	33.37	28.21	*	-15
Community and social service	1.4	1.2	*	21.50	19.96	*	-7
Legal	0.8	0.7		47.89	39.92	*	-17
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.2	*	24.76	23.19	*	-6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2		26.72	22.07	*	-17
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.9		35.93	30.04	*	-16
Healthcare support	3.0	3.2		13.61	11.01	*	-19
Protective service	2.5	3.2	*	20.92	17.62	*	-16
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.2	*	10.38	9.43	*	-9
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.8	*	12.51	10.28	*	-18
Personal care and service	3.0	2.7		11.88	9.98	*	-16
Sales and related	10.6	10.6		18.37	15.33	*	-17
Office and administrative support	16.2	15.7	*	16.78	15.05	*	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	11.70	16.82	*	44
Construction and extraction	3.8	8.2	*	21.94	18.68	*	-15

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Baton Rouge		United States	Baton Rouge		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.2	*	21.35	20.68	*	-3
Production	6.6	6.1		16.79	23.68	*	41
Transportation and material moving	6.8	6.4		16.28	15.46	*	-5

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Baton Rouge 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—construction and extraction—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Baton Rouge had 30,230 jobs in construction and extraction, accounting for 8.2 percent of local area employment, more than double the 3.8-percent national share. However, the average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.68, 15 percent below the national wage of \$21.94.

With employment of 4,720, construction laborers was among the largest occupations within the construction and extraction group, as were carpenters (3,610) and electricians (3,120). Among the higher paying jobs were first line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers with mean hourly wages of \$28.41 per hour and electricians at \$22.30 per hour. At the lower end of the wage scale were construction laborers (\$13.21) and carpenters’ helpers (\$13.39). (Detailed occupational data for construction and extraction are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of all occupations, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12940.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 Baton Rouge metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters helpers were employed at 9.0 times the national rate in Baton Rouge, and mechanical insulation workers, at 17.4 times the U.S. average. Baton Rouge’s location quotient for mechanical insulation workers was the second highest among all metropolitan areas in the country; only Odessa, Texas, had a higher quotient. On the other hand, cement masons and concrete finishers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Baton Rouge, 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 Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

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. 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 Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,239 establishments with a response rate of 72 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 **Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** include Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes in Louisiana.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/home.htm. 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: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Construction and extraction occupations	30,230	2.2	\$18.68	\$38,850
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	2,450	1.9	28.41	59,090
Boilermakers	380	8.6	19.85	41,290
Brickmasons and blockmasons	150	0.9	20.64	42,940
Stonemasons	60	2.1	25.81	53,680
Carpenters	3,610	2.3	18.72	38,940
Tile and marble setters	(5)	(5)	17.34	36,070
Cement masons and concrete finishers	440	1.1	17.71	36,830
Construction laborers	4,720	2.1	13.21	27,480
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators	(5)	(5)	13.91	28,940
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	2,400	2.6	17.52	36,450
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	(5)	(5)	16.54	34,400
Electricians	3,120	2.1	22.30	46,380
Insulation workers, floor, ceiling, and wall	(5)	(5)	15.20	31,620
Insulation workers, mechanical	1,330	17.4	20.42	42,470
Painters, construction and maintenance	1,020	1.9	17.59	36,590
Pipelayers	120	1.1	14.49	30,150
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	2,850	2.9	21.82	45,390
Plasterers and stucco masons	(5)	(5)	13.79	28,680
Reinforcing iron and rebar workers	50	1.1	23.48	48,840
Roofers	210	0.8	17.44	36,280
Sheet metal workers	310	0.9	19.67	40,920
Structural iron and steel workers	1,020	6.4	19.49	40,530
Helpers-brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters	170	2.5	14.61	30,390
Helpers-carpenters	770	7.4	13.39	27,850
Helpers-electricians	610	3.5	13.50	28,090
Helpers-pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	1,170	9.0	14.75	30,670
Helpers, construction trades, all other	(5)	(5)	12.10	25,170
Construction and building inspectors	170	0.7	23.25	48,360
Hazardous materials removal workers	110	1.0	16.12	33,520
Highway maintenance workers	(5)	(5)	13.52	28,120
Construction and related workers, all other	200	2.4	16.19	33,680
Derrick operators, oil and gas	30	0.6	24.13	50,200
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	40	0.6	33.17	68,990

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Baton Rouge MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12940.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) Estimates not released.