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Occupational Employment and Wages in College Station-Bryan, May 2013

Workers in the College Station-Bryan Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $19.89 in May 2013, about 11 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 only two of the 22 major occupational groups: education, training, and library; and farming, forestry, and fishing. Seventeen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including computer and mathematical; life, physical, and social science; and architecture and engineering.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including education, training, and library; food preparation and serving related; and life, physical, and social science. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; production; and business and financial operations. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	College Station-Bryan		United States	College Station-Bryan		Percent difference[1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		$22.33	$19.89	*	-11
Management	4.9	4.3	*	53.15	45.49	*	-14
Business and financial operations	5.0	3.1	*	34.14	31.07	*	-9
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.0	*	39.43	29.02	*	-26
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.4	*	38.51	29.59	*	-23
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	2.5	*	33.37	25.18	*	-25
Community and social service	1.4	0.8	*	21.50	20.01	*	-7
Legal	0.8	0.4	*	47.89	37.48	*	-22
Education, training, and library	6.3	11.7	*	24.76	31.47	*	27
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9	*	26.72	23.04		-14
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.0	*	35.93	31.91	*	-11
Healthcare support	3.0	1.8	*	13.61	13.23		-3
Protective service	2.5	2.2		20.92	20.06		-4
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	11.0	*	10.38	9.31	*	-10
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.6		12.51	10.65	*	-15
Personal care and service	3.0	4.3	*	11.88	9.70	*	-18
Sales and related	10.6	9.8		18.37	14.27	*	-22
Office and administrative support	16.2	16.5		16.78	14.70	*	-12

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	College Station-Bryan		United States	College Station-Bryan		Percent difference[1]
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2	*	11.70	13.62	*	16
Construction and extraction	3.8	4.6		21.94	18.00	*	-18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8		21.35	19.14	*	-10
Production	6.6	4.6	*	16.79	15.07	*	-10
Transportation and material moving	6.8	4.3	*	16.28	14.00	*	-14

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in College Station-Bryan 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 – life, physical, and social science – illustrates the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. College Station-Bryan had 2,390 jobs in life, physical, and social science, accounting for 2.5 percent of local area employment, well above the 0.9-percent national share. However, the average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $25.18, 25 percent below the national wage of $33.37.

Some of the larger occupations within the life, physical, and social science group included chemists (370) and physicists (250). Among the higher paying jobs were urban and regional planners and economists, with mean hourly wages of $41.80 and $33.03, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were biological technicians ($16.83) and chemists ($22.54). (Detailed occupational data for life, physical, and social science are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_17780.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 College Station metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the life, physical, and social science group. For instance, microbiologists were employed at 7.4 times the national rate in College Station, and physicists, at 19.8 times the U.S. average. College Station's location quotient for physicists ranked second-highest in the country among all metropolitan areas, trailing only Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, Washington.

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 Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the College Station-Bryan 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 College Station-Bryan Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,239 establishments with a response rate of 65 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 **College Station-Bryan Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Brazos, Burleson, and Robertson Counties in Texas.

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, College Station-Bryan Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation[1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level[2]	Location quotient[3]	Hourly	Annual[4]
Life, physical, and social science occupations	2,390	2.9	$25.18	$52,380
Soil and plant scientists	40	4.3	28.74	59,780
Microbiologists	110	7.36	27.72	57,660
Biological scientists, all other	40	1.7	36.63	76,190
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	80	1.1	24.43	50,810
Physicists	250	19.8	28.06	58,360
Chemists	370	5.8	22.54	46,890
Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers	120	4.7	29.78	61,930
Economists	70	5.3	33.03	68,700
Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists	60	0.9	25.72	53,490
Urban and regional planners	80	3.1	41.80	86,940
Agricultural and food science technicians	40	2.6	[5]	[5]
Biological technicians	120	2.3	16.83	35,020
Chemical technicians	50	1.0	26.89	55,940
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	40	1.6	16.09	33,480
Life, physical, and social science technicians, all other	50	1.2	17.73	36,870

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the College Station-Bryan MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_17780.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.