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Occupational Employment and Wages in Oklahoma City, May 2013

Workers in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.47 in May 2013, 8 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 lower than their respective national averages in 18 of the 22 major occupational groups, including management and legal occupations. Local wages were not statistically different from the national averages in four groups.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; construction and extraction; and management. Conversely, seven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, personal care and service, 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 Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Oklahoma City		United States	Oklahoma City		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.33	\$20.47	*	-8
Management	4.9	5.7	*	53.15	44.75	*	-16
Business and financial operations	5.0	5.0		34.14	29.35	*	-14
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.3	*	39.43	31.63	*	-20
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.2	*	38.51	39.66		3
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.9		33.37	30.28		-9
Community and social service	1.4	1.3		21.50	18.36	*	-15
Legal	0.8	1.2	*	47.89	35.75	*	-25
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.9		24.76	21.83	*	-12
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.0	*	26.72	20.08	*	-25
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.4		35.93	31.97	*	-11
Healthcare support	3.0	2.9		13.61	12.31	*	-10
Protective service	2.5	2.0	*	20.92	17.78	*	-15
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	9.5	*	10.38	9.41	*	-9
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.8	*	12.51	11.30	*	-10
Personal care and service	3.0	2.3	*	11.88	10.75	*	-10
Sales and related	10.6	10.3		18.37	17.19	*	-6
Office and administrative support	16.2	17.1	*	16.78	15.81	*	-6
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	11.70	17.03		46
Construction and extraction	3.8	4.7	*	21.94	19.45	*	-11

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Oklahoma City		United States	Oklahoma City		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	*	21.35	20.22	*	-5
Production	6.6	5.4	*	16.79	15.86	*	-6
Transportation and material moving	6.8	6.5		16.28	15.93		-2

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Oklahoma City 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. Oklahoma City had 28,240 jobs in construction and extraction, accounting for 4.7 percent of area employment, significantly higher than the 3.8-percent national share. However, the local wage for this occupational group was significantly below the U.S. average. At \$19.45 an hour, the mean wage for Oklahoma City construction and extraction workers was 11 percent below the \$21.94 national average.

With employment of 3,530, construction laborers was one of the largest occupation within the construction and extraction group, as were first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers (2,900) and carpenters (2,430). Among the higher paying jobs was first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers with a mean hourly wage of \$29.64. Other high paying jobs included oil and gas rotary drill operators and sheet metal workers at \$27.87 and \$25.06 per hour, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were construction laborers (\$14.26) and electricians’ helpers (\$14.84). (Detailed occupational data for construction and extraction workers are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of all detailed occupations, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_36420.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 Oklahoma City metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, oil and gas rotary drill operators were employed at 6.0 times the national rate in Oklahoma City, and oil and gas derrick operators, at 6.2 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, construction laborers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Oklahoma City, meaning the local employment share in this particular occupation matched 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 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Oklahoma City 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 Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,016 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 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 **Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, and Oklahoma Counties in Oklahoma.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/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, Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Construction and extraction occupations	28,240	1.2	\$19.45	\$40,460
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	2,900	1.4	29.64	61,650
Brickmasons and blockmasons.....	300	1.1	19.45	40,460
Carpenters.....	2,430	0.9	17.26	35,900
Tile and marble setters.....	(5)	(5)	14.33	29,810
Cement masons and concrete finishers.....	1,090	1.7	15.36	31,940
Construction laborers	3,530	1.0	14.26	29,650
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators.....	690	2.7	15.26	31,750
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	1,350	0.9	18.91	39,340
Drywall and ceiling tile installers.....	240	0.7	17.39	36,170
Electricians	2,240	0.9	20.82	43,300
Insulation workers, floor, ceiling, and wall	350	3.2	13.39	27,860
Painters, construction and maintenance	1,200	1.4	18.18	37,800
Pipelayers.....	370	2.0	16.04	33,350
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters.....	1,510	1.0	19.53	40,610
Reinforcing iron and rebar workers	100	1.3	15.10	31,400
Roofers.....	530	1.2	16.27	33,840
Sheet metal workers.....	2,090	3.5	25.06	52,130
Structural iron and steel workers.....	(5)	(5)	14.00	29,130
Helpers-brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters	(5)	(5)	12.29	25,570
Helpers-carpenters.....	(5)	(5)	10.95	22,770
Helpers-electricians.....	570	2.0	14.84	30,870
Helpers-pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters.....	600	2.8	12.44	25,880
Helpers-roofers.....	(5)	(5)	13.45	27,970
Construction and building inspectors	190	0.5	24.32	50,580
Hazardous materials removal workers.....	100	0.6	15.09	31,390
Highway maintenance workers	430	0.7	15.60	32,450
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	160	1.5	15.98	33,240
Derrick operators, oil and gas	630	6.2	22.06	45,880
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas.....	740	6.0	27.87	57,960
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	1,120	4.2	22.24	46,260
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	(5)	(5)	26.44	55,000
Explosives workers, ordnance handling experts, and blasters.....	(5)	(5)	23.75	49,400
Roustabouts, oil and gas.....	1,190	3.9	17.97	37,370
Helpers-extraction workers.....	160	1.6	16.07	33,430

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Oklahoma City MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_36420.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.