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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas  
 Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest  
 Media contact: (972) 850-4800

## Occupational Employment and Wages in Albuquerque, May 2014

Workers in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.92 in May 2014, about 8 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.71, 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 lower than their respective national averages in 17 of the 22 major occupational groups, including legal; sales and related workers; and construction and extraction. Wage levels in the five remaining groups were not statistically different from their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering; personal care and service; and construction and extraction. Conversely, employment shares were significantly below their national representation in six groups, including production; transportation and material moving; and installation, maintenance, and repair. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Albuquerque		United States	Albuquerque	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations .....	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.71	\$20.92	* -8
Management .....	5.0	5.0		54.08	46.67	* -14
Business and financial operations.....	5.1	5.1		34.81	30.73	* -12
Computer and mathematical .....	2.8	2.5	*	40.37	35.86	* -11
Architecture and engineering .....	1.8	3.5	*	39.19	40.28	3
Life, physical, and social science .....	0.8	1.1	*	33.69	32.93	-2
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.7	*	21.79	18.71	* -14
Legal.....	0.8	0.9	*	48.61	35.16	* -28
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	6.2		25.10	22.61	-10
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	1.2	*	26.82	22.61	* -16
Healthcare practitioners and technical .....	5.8	6.5		36.54	34.87	* -5
Healthcare support .....	2.9	3.3		13.86	13.54	-2
Protective service .....	2.4	2.5		21.14	18.03	* -15
Food preparation and serving related .....	9.1	9.8	*	10.57	9.83	* -7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.2	3.3		12.68	10.86	* -14
Personal care and service.....	3.1	4.3	*	12.01	10.80	* -10
Sales and related .....	10.5	10.4		18.59	15.25	* -18
Office and administrative support.....	16.0	16.0		17.08	15.99	* -6
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.1	*	12.09	10.75	* -11
Construction and extraction.....	3.9	5.0	*	22.40	18.74	* -16

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Albuquerque		United States	Albuquerque		Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	3.9	3.5	*	21.74	20.48	*	-6
Production .....	6.6	3.0	*	17.06	16.56		-3
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	5.3	*	16.57	15.81	*	-5

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Albuquerque is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

Note: \* 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—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Albuquerque had 12,820 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 3.5 percent of local area employment, nearly double the 1.8-percent national share. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was \$40.28 compared to the national average of \$39.19.

With employment of 1,060, industrial engineers was among the largest occupations within the architecture and engineering group, as were electrical and electronics engineering technicians (900) and electrical engineers (850). Among the higher paying jobs were electrical engineers and mechanical engineers, with mean hourly wages of \$51.12 and \$49.64, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were civil engineering technicians (\$21.97) and architectural and civil drafters (\$22.70). (Detailed occupational data for architecture and engineering are presented in [table 1](#): for a complete listing of all detailed occupations go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_10740.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10740.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 Albuquerque metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, electro-mechanical technicians were employed at 5.5 times the national rate in Albuquerque, one of the higher location quotients among all metropolitan areas for this particular occupation. Additionally, aerospace engineers were employed at 2.7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, mechanical engineers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Albuquerque, 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 New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.

**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. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,011 establishments with a response rate of 80 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm) and [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm), respectively.

The May 2014 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).

### 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 **Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties in New Mexico.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/regions/southwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest). Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm](http://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](http://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, Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
<b>Architecture and engineering occupations</b>	12,820	1.9	\$40.28	\$83,780
Architects, except landscape and naval .....	250	1.0	31.82	66,180
Cartographers and photogrammetrists.....	70	2.1	25.92	53,910
Surveyors .....	100	0.9	29.24	60,820
Aerospace engineers .....	510	2.7	48.98	101,870
Biomedical engineers .....	120	2.2	46.56	96,840
Civil engineers.....	590	0.8	40.06	83,310
Computer hardware engineers.....	310	1.5	48.87	101,650
Electrical engineers.....	850	1.8	51.12	106,330
Electronics engineers, except computer .....	740	2.0	50.82	105,710
Environmental engineers.....	190	1.3	44.06	91,650
Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors .....	110	1.6	38.22	79,500
Industrial engineers .....	1,060	1.6	44.55	92,660
Materials engineers .....	240	3.4	55.20	114,820
Mechanical engineers .....	840	1.1	49.64	103,240
Engineers, all other .....	1,600	4.7	(5)	(5)
Architectural and civil drafters .....	310	1.3	22.70	47,220
Electrical and electronics drafters .....	180	2.2	26.04	54,170
Mechanical drafters .....	190	1.1	29.08	60,480
Drafters, all other.....	(5)	(5)	19.44	40,430
Aerospace engineering and operations technicians .....	100	3.2	29.64	61,650
Civil engineering technicians.....	200	1.0	21.97	45,700
Electrical and electronics engineering technicians.....	900	2.4	31.10	64,690
Electro-mechanical technicians.....	220	5.5	35.30	73,430
Environmental engineering technicians.....	110	2.2	20.91	43,480
Mechanical engineering technicians .....	80	0.6	32.11	66,790
Surveying and mapping technicians.....	130	0.9	19.06	39,650

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Albuquerque MSA, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_10740.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10740.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.