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Occupational Employment and Wages in Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, May 2015

Workers in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.95 in May 2015, about 10 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, 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 15 of the 22 major groups, including life, physical, and social science; construction and extraction; and architecture and engineering.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; business and financial operations; and sales and related. Conversely, 14 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including healthcare practitioners and technical; protective service; and office and administrative support. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers		United States	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$23.23	\$20.95	* -10
Management	5.0	6.0	*	55.30	54.15	-2
Business and financial operations	5.1	6.7	*	35.48	33.05	* -7
Computer and mathematical	2.9	3.2	*	41.43	34.89	* -16
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.9	*	39.89	30.38	* -24
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7	*	34.24	23.88	* -30
Community and social service	1.4	0.7	*	22.19	21.67	-2
Legal	0.8	0.5	*	49.74	45.21	-9
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.6	*	25.48	23.70	-7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9	*	27.39	21.72	* -21
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	4.6	*	37.40	34.51	* -8
Healthcare support	2.9	2.0	*	14.19	12.66	* -11
Protective service	2.4	1.3	*	21.45	18.49	* -14
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.8	*	10.98	9.68	* -12
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.9	*	13.02	11.72	* -10
Personal care and service	3.1	2.9		12.33	10.26	* -17
Sales and related	10.5	11.7	*	18.90	17.77	-6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	*	United States	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	*	
Office and administrative support.....	15.8	14.7	*	17.47	15.17	*	-13
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.5		12.67	13.82	*	9
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	3.3	*	22.88	16.50	*	-28
Installation, maintenance, and repair.....	3.9	3.5	*	22.11	19.06	*	-14
Production.....	6.6	9.0	*	17.41	14.08	*	-19
Transportation and material moving.....	6.9	9.5		16.90	16.70		-1

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers 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 – production – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Fayetteville had 20,060 jobs in production, accounting for 9.0 percent of area employment, significantly higher than the 6.6-percent national share. However, the local average hourly wage for this occupational group, \$14.08 per hour, was nearly 20 percent below the national average of \$17.41.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers (3,220), team assemblers (1,600), and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (1,050). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, as well as metal and plastic multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, with mean hourly wages of \$24.22 and \$20.49, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were bakers (\$10.49) and slaughterers and meat packers (\$10.91). (Detailed occupational data for the production group are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of all detailed occupations see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_22220.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 Fayetteville metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers were employed at 12.8 times the national rate in Fayetteville, and slaughterers and meat packers, at 6.1 times the U.S. average. Both location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Fayetteville, indicating that this 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 Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.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.

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. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

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 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 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 Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,215 establishments with a response rate of 81 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 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.

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 **Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Benton, Madison, and Washington Counties in Arkansas and McDonald County in Missouri.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. 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, Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	20,060	1.4	\$14.08	\$29,290
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,240	1.3	24.22	50,380
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	240	0.7	15.92	33,110
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	180	1.4	17.59	36,600
Team assemblers	1,600	0.9	12.32	25,620
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	250	0.7	11.64	24,200
Bakers	310	1.1	10.49	21,820
Butchers and meat cutters	120	0.5	11.20	23,290
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	3,220	12.8	11.35	23,610
Slaughterers and meat packers	790	6.1	10.91	22,700
Food batchmakers	310	1.4	10.93	22,730
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	130	2.4	11.05	22,980
Food processing workers, all other	1,150	15.7	10.90	22,680
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	120	0.5	14.12	29,360
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	180	1.6	17.27	35,910
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	540	1.7	18.84	39,190
Grinding, lapping, polishing, & buffing machine tool setters, operators, & tenders, metal & plastic	80	0.7	12.69	26,390
Machinists	600	0.9	16.34	33,980
Molding, coremaking, & casting machine setters, operators, & tenders, metal & plastic	(5)	(5)	14.97	31,130
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	230	1.3	20.49	42,620
Tool and die makers	80	0.6	22.67	47,150
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	590	1.0	16.41	34,120
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	70	0.8	20.02	41,630
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	70	1.2	14.72	30,610
Prepress technicians and workers	(5)	(5)	14.44	30,040
Printing press operators	220	0.8	13.36	27,790
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	280	0.9	9.29	19,310
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	100	1.3	9.23	19,190
Sewing machine operators	130	0.6	12.03	25,020
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	30	1.0	11.47	23,860
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	250	1.7	14.75	30,690
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	60	0.8	12.84	26,700
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	60	0.5	12.30	25,590
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	230	1.2	18.67	38,830
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	11.85	24,660
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	40	0.7	12.69	26,400
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	70	0.3	13.40	27,870
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	460	4.5	16.15	33,590
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,050	1.3	14.29	29,730
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	50	1.3	(5)	(5)
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	150	3.4	14.65	30,470
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,030	1.7	13.40	27,880

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	160	1.1	14.85	30,890
Painters, transportation equipment	(5)	(5)	19.22	39,980
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	100	3.4	12.63	26,270
Cooling and freezing equipment operators and tenders .	200	15.2	13.29	27,630
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	13.30	27,670
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders ...	230	1.5	16.33	33,960
Helpers-production workers	850	1.2	11.21	23,310
Production workers, all other.....	820	2.1	12.31	25,600

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_22220.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.