



For Release: Friday, June 24, 2016

16-1278-DAL

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 McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, May 2015

Workers in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$16.26 in May 2015, about 30 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 20 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical; legal; and life, physical, and social science. Local wages in the two remaining occupational groups were not statistically different from their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, McAllen employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups including personal care and service; education, training, and library; and healthcare support. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; business and financial operations; and management. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission		United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>	
Total, all occupations .....	100.0%	100.0%		\$23.23	\$16.26	*	-30
Management .....	5.0	2.5	*	55.30	43.17	*	-22
Business and financial operations .....	5.1	2.4	*	35.48	29.03	*	-18
Computer and mathematical .....	2.9	0.7	*	41.43	24.44	*	-41
Architecture and engineering .....	1.8	0.4	*	39.89	27.23	*	-32
Life, physical, and social science .....	0.8	0.4	*	34.24	22.01	*	-36
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.1	*	22.19	22.98		4
Legal.....	0.8	0.3	*	49.74	31.36	*	-37
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	10.2	*	25.48	22.69	*	-11
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	0.6	*	27.39	17.46	*	-36
Healthcare practitioners and technical .....	5.8	6.2		37.40	32.36	*	-13
Healthcare support .....	2.9	5.6	*	14.19	10.18	*	-28
Protective service .....	2.4	2.6		21.45	20.97		-2
Food preparation and serving related .....	9.1	9.1		10.98	9.86	*	-10
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.2	2.6	*	13.02	10.70	*	-18
Personal care and service.....	3.1	10.0	*	12.33	8.72	*	-29
Sales and related .....	10.5	11.9	*	18.90	13.54	*	-28
Office and administrative support.....	15.8	16.8	*	17.47	13.15	*	-25
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.4	*	12.67	9.74	*	-23

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
	United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	*	United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	*	
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	2.6	*	22.88	16.26	*	-29
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	3.9	3.4	*	22.11	15.43	*	-30
Production .....	6.6	3.0	*	17.41	13.75	*	-21
Transportation and material moving.....	6.9	7.2		16.90	13.24	*	-22

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 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 – education, training, and library – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. McAllen had 24,900 jobs in education, training, and library, accounting for 10.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.2-percent national share. However, the local wage for this occupational group was significantly below the U.S. average. At \$22.69 an hour, the mean wage for McAllen education, training, and library workers was about 11 percent below the \$25.48 national average.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the education, training, and library group included elementary school teachers, except special education (5,880), secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education (4,320), and middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education (3,150). Among the higher paying jobs were instructional coordinators and postsecondary English language and literature teachers, with mean annual wages of \$71,300 and \$70,610, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were substitute teachers (\$23,360 per year) and teacher assistants (\$24,370). (Detailed occupational data for the education, training, and library group are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_32580.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_32580.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 McAllen metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the education, training, and library group. For instance, middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education were employed at 2.8 times the national rate in McAllen, and secondary school teachers, except special education and career/technical education, at 2.6 times the U.S. average. Both McAllen location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, kindergarten and elementary school special education teachers had a location quotient of 1.0 in McAllen, 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 Texas Workforce Commission.

## 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](http://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](http://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 McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,087 establishments with a response rate of 59 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 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](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).

### 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 **McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Hidalgo County in Texas.

## **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, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
<b>Education, training, and library occupations</b> .....	24,900	1.7	\$22.69	\$47,200
Business teachers, postsecondary.....	60	0.4	(5)	74,610
Mathematical science teachers, postsecondary .....	100	1.0	(5)	88,960
Biological science teachers, postsecondary.....	70	0.8	(5)	87,170
Political science teachers, postsecondary.....	40	1.3	(5)	56,450
Psychology teachers, postsecondary.....	60	0.9	(5)	72,880
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary .....	90	0.3	(5)	62,010
Education teachers, postsecondary .....	90	0.8	(5)	57,280
Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary.....	90	0.5	(5)	48,690
Communications teachers, postsecondary .....	50	1.0	(5)	51,750
English language and literature teachers, postsecondary .....	280	2.1	(5)	70,610
Foreign language and literature teachers, postsecondary .....	40	0.8	(5)	43,490
History teachers, postsecondary .....	50	1.2	(5)	48,300
Vocational education teachers, postsecondary .....	380	1.8	19.94	41,460
Preschool teachers, except special education .....	600	0.9	18.09	37,620
Kindergarten teachers, except special education .....	500	1.8	(5)	54,390
Elementary school teachers, except special education ..	5,880	2.4	(5)	54,210
Middle school teachers, except special and career/ technical education.....	3,150	2.8	(5)	55,050
Secondary school teachers, except special and career/ technical education.....	4,320	2.6	(5)	55,020
Career/technical education teachers, secondary school.	330	2.4	(5)	54,850
Special education teachers, kindergarten and elementary school .....	330	1.0	(5)	53,290
Special education teachers, middle school .....	180	1.1	(5)	55,150
Special education teachers, secondary school .....	280	1.2	(5)	55,820
Adult basic and secondary education and literacy teachers and instructors .....	60	0.5	34.98	72,750
Self-enrichment education teachers.....	210	0.6	14.69	30,560
Teachers and instructors, all other, except substitute teachers.....	570	1.2	(5)	24,570
Substitute teachers.....	2,480	2.2	11.23	23,360
Librarians.....	360	1.5	28.97	60,260
Library technicians .....	90	0.5	12.97	26,990
Audio-visual and multimedia collections specialists.....	90	5.2	25.61	53,260
Instructional coordinators .....	540	2.2	34.28	71,300
Teacher assistants.....	2,940	1.4	(5)	24,370
Education, training, and library workers, all other .....	50	0.3	12.91	26,850

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_32580.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_32580.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.