NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BLS

Occupational Employment and Wages in Shreveport–Bossier City – May 2019

Workers in the Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $19.79 in May 2019, 23 percent below the nationwide average of $25.72, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 19 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical, legal, and management.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Shreveport area employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups including healthcare practitioners and technical, sales and related, and healthcare support. Ten groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and production. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2019

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Shreveport	United States	Shreveport	Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	$25.72	$19.79*	-23
Management	5.5	4.2*	58.88	43.92*	-25
Business and financial operations...........................	5.6	3.1*	37.56	29.24*	-22
Computer and mathematical	3.1	1.0*	45.08	30.06*	-33
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.8*	42.69	35.42*	-17
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.5*	37.28	32.08*	-14
Community and social service.................................	1.5	1.2*	24.27	23.89	-2
Legal...	0.8	0.4*	52.71	37.55*	-29
Educational instruction and library	6.1	6.6*	27.75	21.30*	-23
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.......	1.4	0.6*	29.79	21.38*	-28
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	8.5*	40.21	32.67*	-19
Healthcare support	4.4	5.7*	14.91	12.02*	-19
Protective service	2.4	3.0*	23.98	19.85*	-17
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	10.0*	12.82	10.24*	-20
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance ...	3.0	3.6*	15.03	11.35*	-24
Personal care and service....................................	2.2	2.2	15.03	12.99*	-14
Sales and related	9.8	12.2*	20.70	15.63*	-24
Office and administrative support...........................	13.3	13.5	19.73	16.76*	-15
Farming, fishing, and forestry...............................	0.3	0.1*	15.07	19.10*	27
Construction and extraction....................................	4.2	4.2	25.28	20.51*	-19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.0*	24.10	21.92*	-9
Production	6.2	5.0*	19.30	21.01*	9
Transportation and material moving........................	8.5	8.5	18.23	15.50*	-15

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

One occupational group–healthcare practitioners and technical–was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Shreveport had 14,940 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, accounting for 8.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.9-percent national share. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was $32.67, significantly lower than the national average of $40.21.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group included registered nurses (5,350), licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (2,090), and pharmacy technicians (760). Among the higher-paying jobs in this group were family medicine physicians and nurse anesthetists, with mean hourly wages of $114.20 and $89.40, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were veterinary technologists and technicians ($12.59) and psychiatric technicians ($12.76). (Detailed data for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_43340.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 Shreveport area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the detailed occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses were employed at 2.5 times the national rate in the Shreveport area, and respiratory therapists, at 2.0 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, physical therapists had a location quotient of 0.9 in the greater Shreveport area, 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 Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Changes to the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Data

With the May 2019 estimates, the OES program has begun implementing the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Each set of OES estimates is calculated from six panels of survey data collected over three years. Because the May 2019 estimates are based on a combination of survey data collected using the 2010 SOC and survey data collected using the 2018 SOC, these estimates use a hybrid of the two classification systems that contains some combinations of occupations that are not found in either the 2010 or 2018 SOC. These combinations may include occupations from more than one 2018 SOC minor group or broad occupation. Therefore, OES will not publish data for some 2018 SOC minor groups and broad occupations in the May 2019 estimates. The May 2021 estimates, to be published in Spring 2022, will be the first OES estimates based entirely on survey data collected using the 2018 SOC.

In addition, the OES program has replaced some 2018 SOC detailed occupations with SOC broad occupations or OES-specific aggregations. These include home health aides and personal care aides, for which OES will publish only the 2018 SOC broad occupation 31-1120 Home Health and Personal Care Aides.

For more information on the occupational classification system used in the May 2019 OES estimates, please see www.bls.gov/oes/soc_2018.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#qf10.

The May 2019 OES estimates use the metropolitan area definitions delineated in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin 17-01, which add a new Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for Twin Falls, Idaho. For more information on the area definitions used in the May 2019 estimates, please see www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 580 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-digit, most 4-digit, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies collect most of the data. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.1 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 180,000 to 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2019 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2019, November 2018, May 2018, November 2017, May 2017, and November 2016. The unweighted sampled employment of 83 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57 percent of total national employment. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 71 percent based on establishments and 68

percent based on weighted sampled employment. The sample in the Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,926 establishments with a response rate of 68 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.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.

The May 2019 OES estimates are the first set of OES estimates to be based in part on survey data collected using the 2018 SOC. These estimates use a hybrid of the 2010 and 2018 SOC systems. More information on the hybrid classification system is available at www.bls.gov/oes/soc_2018.htm.

The May 2019 OES estimates are based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More information about the 2017 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 **Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bossier, Caddo, De Soto, and Webster Parishes.

For more information

Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed information about the OES program is available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_doc.htm.

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 for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2019

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations...........	14,940	1.5	$32.67	$67,950
Dentists, general	70	0.5	55.24	114,890
Dietitians and nutritionists	80	1.0	29.28	60,900
Optometrists...	30	0.7	81.80	170,150
Pharmacists...	480	1.3	61.18	127,260
Physician assistants	120	0.9	47.12	98,000
Occupational therapists......................................	190	1.2	43.58	90,650
Physical therapists	250	0.9	44.33	92,200
Recreational therapists......................................	60	2.8	18.29	38,050
Respiratory therapists	320	2.0	26.42	54,960
Speech-language pathologists	90	0.5	44.98	93,550
Veterinarians	70	0.8	38.34	79,750
Registered nurses	5,350	1.5	32.19	66,950
Nurse anesthetists...	90	1.7	89.40	185,950
Nurse practitioners	250	1.1	55.34	115,100
Family medicine physicians.................................	(5)	(5)	114.20	237,540
Physicians, all other; and ophthalmologists, except pediatric...	630	1.4	93.79	195,090
Surgeons, except ophthalmologists	(5)	(5)	109.78	228,350
Dental hygienists...	210	0.8	28.29	58,850
Acupuncturists and healthcare diagnosing or treating practitioners, all other......................................	30	0.7	34.65	72,070
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians...........	650	1.7	22.70	47,210
Diagnostic medical sonographers	80	0.9	30.99	64,470
Radiologic technologists and technicians.....................	390	1.6	23.25	48,360
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	520	1.7	18.79	39,080
Dietetic technicians	70	2.0	(5)	(5)
Pharmacy technicians	760	1.5	17.52	36,440
Psychiatric technicians	140	1.5	12.76	26,550
Surgical technologists	(5)	(5)	19.20	39,930
Veterinary technologists and technicians	110	0.9	12.59	26,190
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	2,090	2.5	19.61	40,790
Opticians, dispensing	100	1.2	15.80	32,860
Medical dosimetrists, medical records specialists, and health technologists and technicians, all other................	610	1.6	18.79	39,080
Health information technologists, medical registrars, surgical assistants, and healthcare practitioners and technical workers, all other..............................	260	4.1	21.53	44,790

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Shreveport-Bossier City, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_43340.htm

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations may not sum to the totals due to rounding, and because the totals may include occupations that are 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) Estimate not released.