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Occupational Employment and Wages in Boise City-Nampa, May 2013

Workers in the Boise City-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.74 in May 2013, about 12 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, no wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 22 major occupational groups. Twenty groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including management; computer and mathematical; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.

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

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Boise City	United States	Boise City	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.33	\$19.74*	-12
Management	4.9	5.7*	53.15	39.73*	-25
Business and financial operations	5.0	4.4*	34.14	29.75*	-13
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.8	39.43	32.29*	-18
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.7*	38.51	37.11	-4
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	1.1*	33.37	26.63*	-20
Community and social services	1.4	1.9*	21.50	18.94*	-12
Legal	0.8	0.8*	47.89	41.86*	-13
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.8*	24.76	17.88*	-28
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.3	26.72	19.64*	-26
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.8	6.0	35.93	33.81*	-6
Healthcare support	3.0	2.8	13.61	12.76*	-6
Protective service	2.5	2.1*	20.92	19.06*	-9
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.5*	10.38	9.56*	-8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.0	12.51	11.66*	-7
Personal care and service	3.0	3.2	11.88	10.28*	-13
Sales and related	10.6	10.5	18.37	16.86*	-8
Office and administrative support	16.2	17.1	16.78	15.26*	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.7*	11.70	11.72	0
Construction and extraction	3.8	4.1	21.94	17.74*	-19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.7	21.35	19.49*	-9
Production	6.6	5.4*	16.79	14.78*	-12

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Boise City	United States	Boise City	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	6.4	16.28	14.98*	-8

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Boise 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—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Boise City-Nampa had 7,300 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 2.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$37.11, compared to the national wage of \$38.51.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the architecture and engineering group included electrical engineers (890), electrical and electronics engineering technicians (710), and mechanical engineers (670). Among the higher paying jobs were chemical engineers and electrical engineers, with mean hourly wages of \$50.95 and \$44.82, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were architectural and civil drafters (\$20.93) and industrial engineering technicians (\$20.94). (Detailed occupational data for architecture and engineering are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2013/may/oes_14260.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 Boise City-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, electrical engineers were employed at 2.6 times the national rate in Boise City, and electrical and electronics engineering technicians, at 2.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, civil engineers had a location quotient of 1.2 in Boise City, 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 Idaho Department of Labor.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Boise 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 Boise City-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,704 establishments with a response rate of 79 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 Boise City-Nampa, Idaho Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem, and Owyhee Counties.

Additional information

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

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Architecture and Engineering Occupations.....	7,300	1.5	\$37.11	\$77,190
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval.....	120	0.7	30.06	62,520
Landscape Architects.....	80	2.3	23.38	48,640
Cartographers and Photogrammetrists.....	110	4.9	26.61	55,360
Surveyors.....	130	1.6	35.29	73,400
Chemical Engineers.....	40	0.5	50.95	105,970
Civil Engineers.....	620	1.2	35.88	74,630
Electrical Engineers.....	890	2.6	44.82	93,230
Environmental Engineers.....	130	1.2	39.60	82,360
Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors.....	40	0.9	35.71	74,270
Industrial Engineers.....	(5)	(5)	41.09	85,470
Materials Engineers.....	40	0.8	39.77	82,730
Mechanical Engineers.....	670	1.3	37.80	78,620
Engineers, All Other.....	240	1.0	38.10	79,250
Architectural and Civil Drafters.....	240	1.3	20.93	43,530
Electrical and Electronics Drafters.....	90	1.5	37.52	78,040
Mechanical Drafters.....	190	1.5	23.61	49,110
Civil Engineering Technicians.....	210	1.5	23.49	48,860
Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians.....	710	2.5	25.03	52,060
Industrial Engineering Technicians.....	30	0.2	20.94	43,550
Mechanical Engineering Technicians.....	90	0.9	25.14	52,290
Surveying and Mapping Technicians.....	100	1.1	21.92	45,600

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Boise City-Nampa, ID, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_14260.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) Estimate not released.