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Occupational Employment and Wages in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, May 2013

Workers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$25.30 in May 2013, about 13 percent above 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, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 19 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; legal; and healthcare practitioners and technical. Only one groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages: production.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; office and administrative support; and management. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and healthcare practitioners and technical. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Los Angeles	United States	Los Angeles	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.33	\$25.30*	13
Management	4.9	5.5*	53.15	59.51*	12
Business and financial operations	5.0	5.6*	34.14	36.70*	7
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.4*	39.43	42.26*	7
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7	38.51	44.18*	15
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.9	33.37	36.62*	10
Community and social services	1.4	1.7*	21.50	24.44*	14
Legal	0.8	1.0*	47.89	60.51*	26
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.8*	24.76	27.98*	13
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	3.8*	26.72	42.11*	58
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.8	5.0*	35.93	42.69*	19
Healthcare support	3.0	2.4*	13.61	15.38*	13
Protective service	2.5	2.7*	20.92	24.16*	15
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	8.9	10.38	10.72*	3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7*	12.51	13.24*	6
Personal care and service	3.0	2.5*	11.88	13.10*	10
Sales and related	10.6	10.4	18.37	19.45*	6
Office and administrative support	16.2	17.6*	16.78	18.23*	9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	11.70	13.12	12

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Los Angeles	United States	Los Angeles	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and extraction.....	3.8	2.4*	21.94	26.22*	20
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	2.9*	21.35	23.60*	11
Production	6.6	6.5	16.79	15.49*	-8
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	7.2*	16.28	16.34	0

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Los Angeles 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—arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale had 152,460 jobs in arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media, accounting for 3.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.3-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$42.11, measurably above the national wage of \$26.72.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media group included producers and directors (20,540), graphic designers (9,530), and public relations specialists (7,500). Among the higher paying jobs were producers and directors, and art directors, with mean hourly wages of \$62.56 and \$56.16, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were floral designers (\$14.23) and dancers (\$15.35). (Detailed occupational data for arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media group. For instance, film and video editors were employed at 10.4 times the national rate in Los Angeles, and fashion designers, at 7.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, editors had a location quotient of 1.2 in Los Angeles, 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 California Employment Development Department.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Los Angeles metropolitan division 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division included 12,417 establishments with a response rate of 65 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif. Metropolitan Division includes Los Angeles County.

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, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, May 2013

Occupation	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level (2)	Location quotient (3)	Hourly	Annual(4)
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	152,460	2.9	\$42.11	\$87,600
Art Directors	2,970	3.1	56.16	116,800
Craft Artists	370	2.6	29.28	60,900
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	1,970	5.5	32.56	67,730
Multimedia Artists and Animators	6,660	7.2	44.58	92,730
Artists and Related Workers, All Other	140	0.6	27.20	56,570
Commercial and Industrial Designers	1,430	1.7	27.76	57,740
Fashion Designers	3,920	7.5	34.57	71,910
Floral Designers	560	0.4	14.23	29,600
Graphic Designers	9,530	1.6	27.45	57,100
Interior Designers	1,820	1.4	29.05	60,420
Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	1,430	0.7	16.64	34,610
Set and Exhibit Designers	1,170	4.0	29.07	60,460
Designers, All Other	1,100	5.0	24.95	51,890
Producers and Directors	20,540	7.4	62.56	130,120
Athletes and Sports Competitors	530	1.3	(5)	118,960
Coaches and Scouts	4,710	0.8	(5)	49,520
Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials	490	1.0	(5)	25,380
Dancers	870	2.5	15.35	(6)
Choreographers	300	1.6	(5)	(5)
Music Directors and Composers	370	0.5	30.69	63,830
Musicians and Singers	2,510	2.1	53.47	(6)
Entertainers and Performers, Sports and Related Workers, All Other	1,360	2.8	27.03	(6)
Radio and Television Announcers	1,220	1.3	29.21	60,750
Public Address System and Other Announcers	690	3.1	(5)	(5)
Broadcast News Analysts	340	2.3	(5)	(5)
Reporters and Correspondents	1,430	1.1	22.92	47,660
Public Relations Specialists	7,500	1.2	35.19	73,190
Editors	3,650	1.2	33.76	70,220
Technical Writers	1,350	1.0	37.74	78,490
Writers and Authors	4,660	3.6	56.07	116,620
Interpreters and Translators	2,120	1.4	29.60	61,570
Media and Communication Workers, All Other	9,960	12.8	28.47	59,220
Audio and Video Equipment Technicians	4,740	2.8	25.92	53,910
Broadcast Technicians	2,850	3.4	21.52	44,760
Sound Engineering Technicians	2,650	6.6	35.64	74,130
Photographers	2,170	1.3	30.18	62,780
Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Motion Picture	2,310	4.6	34.53	71,830
Film and Video Editors	6,840	10.4	47.20	98,170
Media and Communication Equipment Workers, All Other	4,450	9.2	32.03	66,610

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31084.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.

(6) Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year-round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries depending on how they are typically paid.