



For Release: Tuesday, June 28, 2016

16-1124-SAN

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Occupational Employment and Wages in Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale — May 2015

Workers in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.45 in May 2015, about 3 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 13 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; life, physical, and social science; and education, training, and library. One group had significantly higher wages than their respective national averages: healthcare support.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; sales and related; and computer and mathematical. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; education, training, and library; and transportation and material moving. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Phoenix	United States	Phoenix	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$23.23	\$22.45*	-3
Management	5.0	5.3*	55.30	51.56*	-7
Business and Financial Operations.....	5.1	5.6*	35.48	32.03*	-10
Computer and Mathematical	2.9	3.9*	41.43	39.13*	-6
Architecture and Engineering	1.8	2.0*	39.89	38.27*	-4
Life, Physical, and Social Science.....	0.8	0.5*	34.24	30.18*	-12
Community and Social Services.....	1.4	1.6*	22.19	20.70*	-7
Legal.....	0.8	0.8	49.74	47.67	-4
Education, Training, and Library.....	6.2	5.1*	25.48	21.70*	-15
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1.3	1.3	27.39	23.11*	-16
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical.....	5.8	5.3*	37.40	37.19	-1
Healthcare Support	2.9	2.6*	14.19	15.20*	7
Protective Service	2.4	2.7*	21.45	20.93	-2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	9.1	9.3	10.98	10.92	-1
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	3.2	2.8*	13.02	12.09*	-7
Personal Care and Service	3.1	3.2	12.33	12.41	1
Sales and Related	10.5	11.6*	18.90	18.20*	-4
Office and Administrative Support.....	15.8	17.8*	17.47	17.37	-1
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	0.3	0.2*	12.67	11.06*	-13
Construction and Extraction	4.0	4.1	22.88	20.81*	-9
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.....	3.9	3.8	22.11	21.49*	-3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Phoenix	United States	Phoenix	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Production	6.6	4.4*	17.41	17.15	-1
Transportation and Material Moving	6.9	6.2*	16.90	17.31	2

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Phoenix 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—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale had 333,760 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.37, compared to the national wage of \$17.47.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included customer service representatives (66,010), general office clerks (36,280), and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (28,620). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service clerks and executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, with mean hourly wages of \$26.10 and \$25.20, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$11.01) and clerical library assistants (\$11.98). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes_38060.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 Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks were employed at 2.3 times the national rate in Phoenix, and loan interviewers and clerks, at 2.3 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, stock clerks and order fillers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Phoenix, 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 Arizona Department of Administration.

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 Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Statistical Area included 7,314 establishments with a response rate of 71 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 **Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, Ariz. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/west. 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/2015/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: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	333,760	1.1	\$17.37	\$36,130
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	27,960	1.4	25.07	52,140
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	910	0.7	13.05	27,150
Telephone Operators.....	(5)	(5)	14.50	30,150
Bill and Account Collectors.....	7,220	1.7	17.30	35,980
Billing and Posting Clerks.....	8,050	1.2	16.68	34,690
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks.....	16,310	0.8	18.26	37,970
Gaming Cage Workers.....	100	0.4	(5)	(5)
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks.....	1,440	0.6	19.52	40,590
Procurement Clerks.....	1,680	1.7	18.75	39,000
Tellers.....	4,270	0.6	12.99	27,020
Financial Clerks, All Other.....	1,450	3.1	19.06	39,650
Brokerage Clerks.....	1,600	2.1	24.35	50,640
Correspondence Clerks.....	130	1.3	20.72	43,090
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks.....	2,870	1.6	16.62	34,570
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks.....	1,090	1.9	20.08	41,760
Customer Service Representatives.....	66,010	1.9	15.80	32,870
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs.....	960	0.5	18.02	37,480
File Clerks.....	2,220	1.2	16.45	34,220
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks.....	2,820	0.9	11.01	22,900
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan.....	1,260	0.5	15.10	31,400
Library Assistants, Clerical.....	790	0.6	11.98	24,930
Loan Interviewers and Clerks.....	6,720	2.3	20.29	42,190
New Accounts Clerks.....	920	1.4	18.87	39,260
Order Clerks.....	3,170	1.3	17.92	37,280
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping.....	1,880	1.0	17.48	36,370
Receptionists and Information Clerks.....	11,420	0.9	13.39	27,860
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks.....	4,320	2.3	17.31	36,010
Information and Record Clerks, All Other.....	5,550	2.3	17.64	36,690
Cargo and Freight Agents.....	630	0.6	19.95	41,500
Couriers and Messengers.....	460	0.5	13.59	28,260
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers.....	1,010	0.8	22.72	47,260
Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance.....	3,420	1.3	17.55	36,500
Meter Readers, Utilities.....	290	0.6	24.43	50,820
Postal Service Clerks.....	570	0.5	26.10	54,290
Postal Service Mail Carriers.....	3,600	0.8	24.88	51,750
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators.....	1,350	0.9	23.89	49,690
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks.....	5,370	1.3	21.99	45,750
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks.....	7,430	0.8	15.95	33,180
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers.....	26,420	1.0	12.57	26,140
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping.....	660	0.7	15.37	31,960
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants.....	6,310	0.7	25.20	52,420
Legal Secretaries.....	2,580	0.9	21.69	45,110
Medical Secretaries.....	11,050	1.5	15.64	32,520
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive.....	28,620	0.9	17.04	35,440
Computer Operators.....	300	0.4	21.63	44,990
Data Entry Keyers.....	3,780	1.4	14.17	29,480
Word Processors and Typists.....	230	0.3	16.01	33,290
Desktop Publishers.....	90	0.5	21.71	45,150
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks.....	5,220	1.5	17.81	37,030

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service	1,740	1.3	12.17	25,320
Office Clerks, General	36,280	0.9	16.85	35,040
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer.....	1,030	1.2	15.36	31,950
Proofreaders and Copy Markers	170	1.1	19.22	39,970
Statistical Assistants	130	0.7	17.99	37,420
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other.....	1,910	0.6	18.26	37,980

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_38060.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.