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Occupational Employment and Wages in Tucson — May 2015

Workers in the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.63 in May 2015, about 11 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 15 of the 22 major occupational groups, including management; legal; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media. 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; personal care and service; and food preparation and serving related. Conversely, four groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; transportation and material moving; and business and financial operations. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Tucson	United States	Tucson	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$23.23	\$20.63*	-11
Management	5.0	4.9	55.30	43.40*	-22
Business and Financial Operations.....	5.1	4.3*	35.48	29.35*	-17
Computer and Mathematical	2.9	3.0	41.43	36.02*	-13
Architecture and Engineering.....	1.8	1.9	39.89	37.20*	-7
Life, Physical, and Social Science.....	0.8	1.2*	34.24	28.80*	-16
Community and Social Services.....	1.4	2.2*	22.19	18.46*	-17
Legal.....	0.8	0.7	49.74	39.56*	-20
Education, Training, and Library.....	6.2	6.3	25.48	22.43	-12
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1.3	1.4	27.39	20.90*	-24
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical.....	5.8	6.5*	37.40	34.93*	-7
Healthcare Support	2.9	2.8	14.19	14.68*	3
Protective Service	2.4	3.3*	21.45	21.69	1
Food Preparation and Serving Related.....	9.1	10.1*	10.98	10.83	-1
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance..	3.2	3.3	13.02	11.69*	-10
Personal Care and Service	3.1	4.7*	12.33	11.57*	-6
Sales and Related	10.5	10.1	18.90	15.58*	-18
Office and Administrative Support.....	15.8	17.5*	17.47	16.34*	-6
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	0.3	0.1*	12.67	12.56	-1
Construction and Extraction	4.0	3.7	22.88	19.30*	-16
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.....	3.9	4.2*	22.11	21.56	-2
Production	6.6	3.3*	17.41	17.22	-1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Tucson	United States	Tucson	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Transportation and Material Moving	6.9	4.6*	16.90	14.49*	-14

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Tucson 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. Tucson had 62,180 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.34, significantly below the national wage of \$17.47.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included customer service representatives (10,820), general office clerks (7,930), and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (6,240). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service mail carriers and executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, with mean hourly wages of \$25.44 and \$25.34, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.82) and clerical library assistants(\$10.72). (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_46060.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 Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, procurement clerks were employed at 2.4 times the national rate in Tucson, and reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks, at 2.3 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance had a location quotient of 1.0 in Tucson, 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 Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,742 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 **Tucson, Ariz. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Pima County.

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, Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	62,180	1.1	\$16.34	\$33,990
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	4,890	1.3	23.29	48,450
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	220	0.9	11.88	24,700
Bill and Account Collectors	1,480	1.8	13.38	27,830
Billing and Posting Clerks	1,850	1.5	15.80	32,860
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	2,450	0.6	17.28	35,940
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks	380	0.9	16.49	34,290
Procurement Clerks	440	2.4	16.62	34,580
Tellers	1,140	0.9	13.50	28,080
Brokerage Clerks	70	0.5	24.04	50,010
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks	430	1.3	15.59	32,430
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks	40	0.3	16.38	34,070
Customer Service Representatives	10,820	1.6	13.54	28,170
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	210	0.6	18.35	38,170
File Clerks	340	0.9	14.29	29,720
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	870	1.4	9.82	20,430
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	230	0.5	11.28	23,460
Library Assistants, Clerical	270	1.1	10.72	22,290
Loan Interviewers and Clerks	670	1.2	19.67	40,900
New Accounts Clerks	140	1.1	20.60	42,850
Order Clerks	130	0.3	16.87	35,090
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping	310	0.9	16.46	34,240
Receptionists and Information Clerks	2,340	0.9	12.69	26,390
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	820	2.3	15.84	32,940
Information and Record Clerks, All Other	1,110	2.4	15.69	32,640
Couriers and Messengers	100	0.6	10.82	22,510
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	290	1.2	18.57	38,620
Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance	500	1.0	17.27	35,920
Meter Readers, Utilities	40	0.5	⁽⁵⁾	⁽⁵⁾
Postal Service Clerks	140	0.7	25.27	52,560
Postal Service Mail Carriers	800	1.0	25.44	52,910
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators	190	0.7	23.87	49,650
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	1,180	1.5	23.59	49,070
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	1,260	0.7	14.82	30,830
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	5,270	1.1	12.19	25,350
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping	100	0.6	13.50	28,080
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	1,020	0.6	25.34	52,710
Legal Secretaries	670	1.3	17.36	36,110
Medical Secretaries	1,940	1.4	16.40	34,110
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	6,240	1.1	15.75	32,770
Computer Operators	50	0.4	20.27	42,160
Data Entry Keyers	330	0.6	12.97	26,980
Word Processors and Typists	50	0.3	14.08	29,280
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	610	0.9	17.50	36,390
Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service	130	0.5	12.74	26,490
Office Clerks, General	7,930	1.0	16.20	33,690
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	150	0.9	14.64	30,450
Statistical Assistants	60	1.8	22.36	46,510
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	280	0.5	16.07	33,420

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Tucson, AZ, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_46060.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.