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Occupational Employment and Wages in Mount Vernon-Anacortes — May 2019

Workers in the Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $25.60 in May 2019, similar to the nationwide average of $25.72, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 12 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction, production, and protective service. Eight groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; and business and financial operations.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Mount Vernon area employment was more highly concentrated in 4 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction and production. Conversely, seven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2019

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Mount Vernon	United States	Mount Vernon	Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	$25.72	$25.60	0
Management	5.5	4.3*	58.88	54.11*	-8
Business and financial operations...........................	5.6	3.6*	37.56	32.43*	-14
Computer and mathematical	3.1	1.5*	45.08	41.67*	-8
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	42.69	40.13*	-6
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	1.0	37.28	33.70*	-10
Community and social service.................................	1.5	1.6	24.27	26.55*	9
Legal..	0.8	0.3*	52.71	31.94*	-39
Educational instruction and library	6.1	6.6	27.75	27.44	-1
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.......	1.4	0.9*	29.79	22.70*	-24
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.7	40.21	43.10	7
Healthcare support	4.4	4.0	14.91	17.11*	15
Protective service	2.4	1.6*	23.98	27.80*	16
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	11.3	12.82	16.05*	25
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance ...	3.0	3.3	15.03	17.21*	15
Personal care and service.......................................	2.2	2.0	15.03	17.64*	17
Sales and related	9.8	10.2	20.70	18.98*	-8
Office and administrative support...........................	13.3	12.2*	19.73	20.42*	3
Farming, fishing, and forestry.................................	0.3	0.7*	15.07	20.50*	36
Construction and extraction.....................................	4.2	7.2*	25.28	33.73*	33
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3*	24.10	26.28*	9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2019 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Mount Vernon	United States	Mount Vernon	Percent difference [1]
Production	6.2	7.6*	19.30	23.24*	20
Transportation and material moving........................	8.5	8.4	18.23	20.61*	13

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The mean hourly wage or percent share of employment is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—construction and extraction—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Mount Vernon had 3,600 jobs in construction and extraction, accounting for 7.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.2-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $33.73, significantly above the national wage of $25.28.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the construction and extraction group included electricians (810), carpenters (550), and construction laborers (550). Among the higher-paying jobs in this group were first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers and electricians, with mean hourly wages of $50.31 and $40.77, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were construction and maintenance painters ($19.76) and highway maintenance workers ($25.29). (Detailed data for the construction and extraction occupations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_34580.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 Mount Vernon area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, construction and building inspectors were employed at 4.7 times the national rate in Mount Vernon, and electricians, at 3.5 times the U.S. average.

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 Washington Employment Security Department.

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 sample 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 Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area included 886 establishments with a response rate of 78 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 **Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Skagit County.

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 construction and extraction occupations, Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2019

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Construction and extraction occupations	3,600	1.7	$33.73	$70,150
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	400	1.9	50.31	104,640
Carpenters..	550	2.2	26.70	55,530
Construction laborers	550	1.6	27.15	56,480
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	220	1.6	34.91	72,620
Drywall and ceiling tile installers......................................	40	1.2	25.87	53,800
Tapers...	(5)	(5)	25.80	53,670
Electricians	810	3.5	40.77	84,810
Painters, construction and maintenance	120	1.5	19.76	41,090
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters...........................	100	0.7	32.98	68,590
Roofers..	90	2.0	27.74	57,710
Structural iron and steel workers.....................................	70	2.8	35.76	74,370
Construction and building inspectors	180	4.7	35.06	72,930
Highway maintenance workers	60	1.1	25.29	52,610
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	40	4.3	30.67	63,800

Footnotes:
(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_34580.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.