News

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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN BILLINGS, MONTANA, NOVEMBER 2003

Workers in the Billings metropolitan area[1] had an average (mean) wage of $14.52 per hour during November 2003, 17 percent below the nationwide average of $17.56, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that all 22 of the major occupational groups in the Billings area had wage rates that were either below or close to their respective national averages. (See chart 1.) Wages in four occupational groups varied from the national average by less than $1.00 and in six others, wages varied by less than $2.00. On the other hand, six major occupational groups in the Billings area recorded earnings at least $6.00 less than the national wage for that group—management; computer and mathematical; architecture and engineering; legal; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.

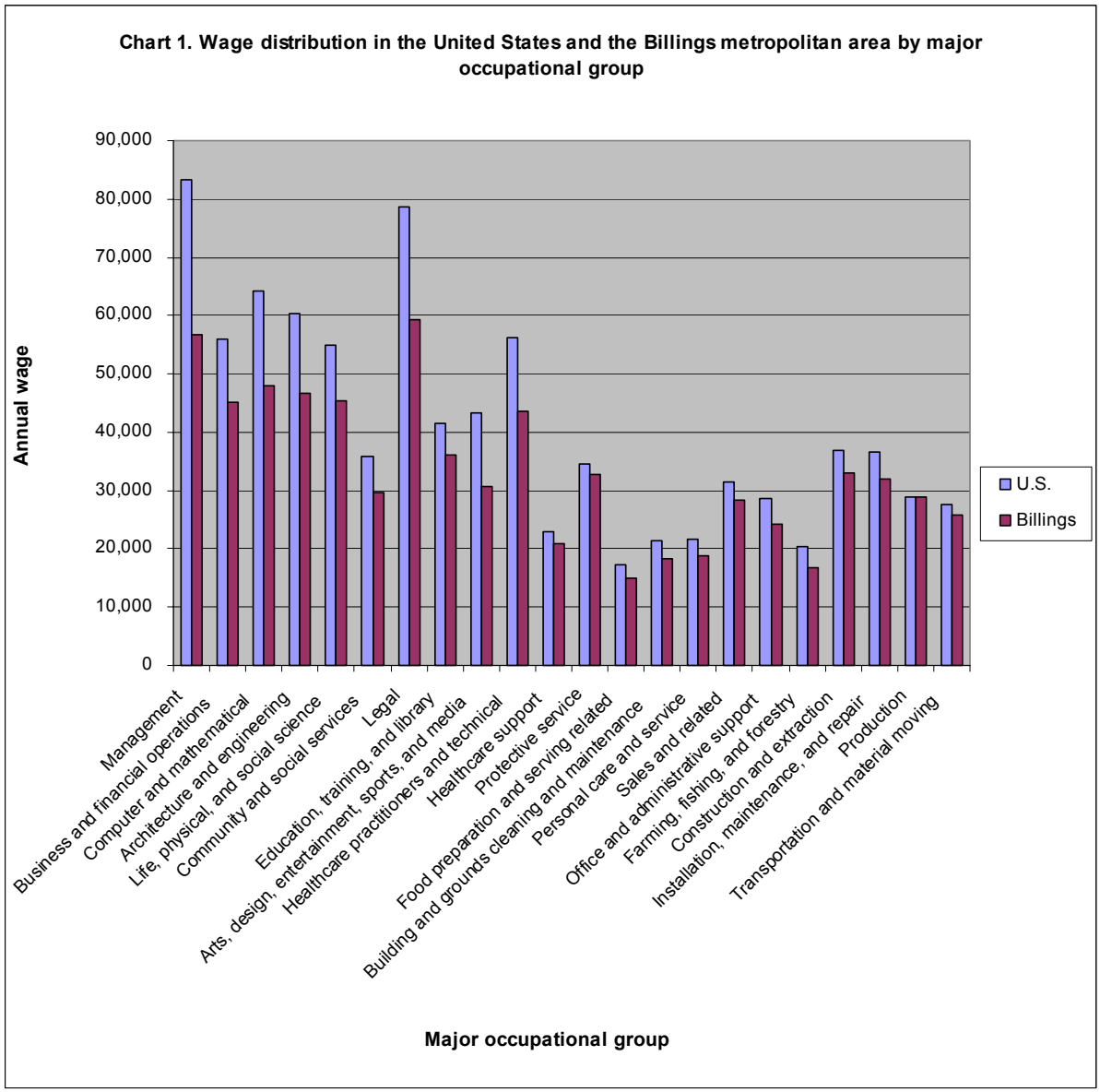
These estimates of employment and wages are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, a federal-state cooperative survey that provides employment and hourly and annual wage estimates for 22 major occupational groups and for up to 770 detailed occupations for the nation, the States, and for 334 metropolitan areas, including Billings, Montana.

Though hourly earnings for workers in legal and management occupations were considerably below the national averages for these two groups, they were still among the highest-paying occupations in the Billings area. (See table A.) Legal workers earned $28.53 an hour, about 25 percent less than the $37.78 made by their national counterparts. Within legal occupations, lawyers were among the highest paid at $37.14 an hour. Workers in legal occupations accounted for less than 1 percent of the workforce, both in the Billings area and the nation. Management workers were also among the better paid in the area averaging $27.25 per hour; this was $12.85 below, or almost one-third less than, the nationwide average. Jobs in management accounted for around 6 percent of the workforce in Billings, but just over 5 percent nationally. At the higher end of the wage scale in the management field were chief executives ($46.31 an hour) and engineering

[1] The Billings metropolitan area referenced in this release refers to the Billings, Montana Metropolitan Statistical Area and is comprised of Yellowstone County.

managers ($37.01). Property, real estate, and community association managers were among the lower paid, averaging $12.84 per hour.

The largest occupational group in Billings was office and administrative support with a total of 12,160 workers, representing approximately 18 percent of all employment in the metropolitan area, a share similar to the national average. (See chart 2.) Workers in this occupational group averaged $11.62 an hour, compared to $13.72 nationally. Postal service mail carriers and postal service clerks were among the higher paid in this group earning $21.20 and $19.69 an hour, respectively. Couriers and messengers were at the lower end of the wage scale averaging $8.06 an hour.



Sales and related occupations had a larger than average representation in Billings, as evidenced by a nearly 12 percent share of employment in the area versus 10.6 percent nationally. Workers in this occupational group averaged $13.69 an hour, compared to $15.17 for their national counterparts. Another group whose share of total employment in Billings exceeded its national representation was food preparation and serving related workers, accounting for nearly 10 percent of the workforce compared to about 8 percent nationwide. Jobs in this occupation were among the lowest paid in Billings, averaging $7.16 an hour, about 14 percent less than the $8.37 national wage.

Health-related occupations, represented by two major groupings—healthcare practitioners and technical, and health support—accounted for 9.4 percent of employment in the Billings area compared to 7.4 percent nationally. The larger of the two groups, healthcare practitioners and technical, made up more than 6 percent of the workforce in Billings and had an average wage of $20.94 an hour, almost 23 percent less than the $27.04 national average. In this occupational group, surgeons were among the highest paid earning $96.68 an hour, while veterinary technologists and technicians were at the lower end of the wage scale earning $10.03 an hour.

Production workers in the Billings metropolitan area were one of several occupational groups with earnings comparable to the national wage ($13.83 versus $13.91); however, production jobs were less of a presence in the area than nationally (4.7 versus 8.0 percent). Petroleum pump systems operators, refinery operators, and gaugers earning $25.35 were among the better paid in this occupation, and sewing machine operators, and laundry and dry-cleaning workers were among the lowest paid, averaging $7.36 and $7.87, respectively.

Chart 2. Employment distribution in the United States and the Billings metropolitan area by major occupational group

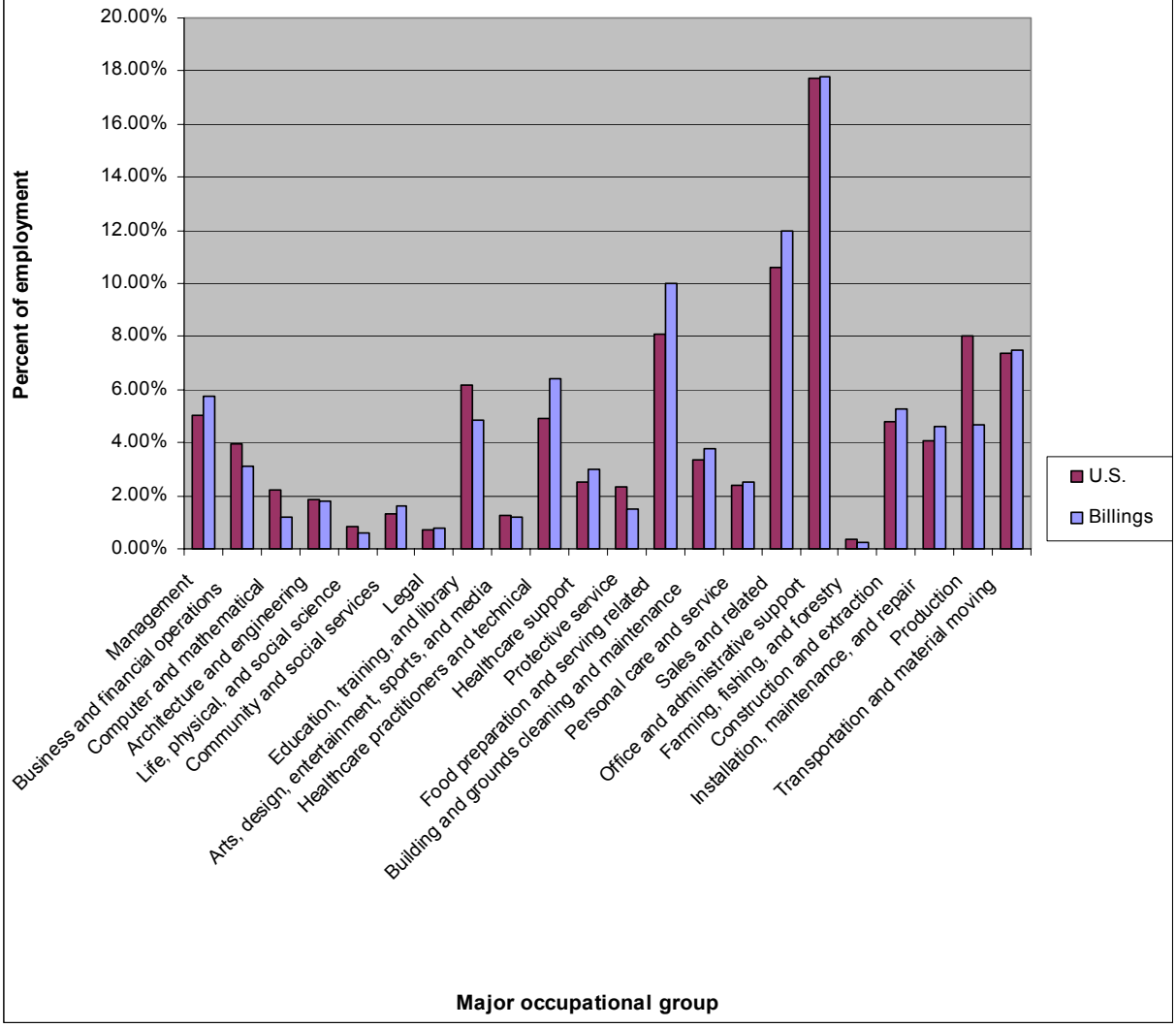


Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Billings metropolitan area, November 2003

Major occupational group	Employment as a percent of total[1]		Average (mean) hourly wage	
	United States	Billings	United States	Billings
Total	100.0	100.0	$17.56	$14.52
Management	5.1	5.7	$40.10	$27.25
Business and financial operations	4.0	3.1	$26.92	$21.74
Computer and mathematical	2.2	1.2	$30.84	$23.06
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	$29.04	$22.38
Life, physical and social science	0.9	0.6	$26.41	$21.85
Community and social services	1.3	1.6	$17.21	$14.23
Legal	0.7	0.8	$37.78	$28.53
Education, training and library	6.2	4.8	$19.90	$17.39
Arts, design, entertainment, sports and media	1.2	1.2	$20.84	$14.74
Healthcare practitioners and technical	4.9	6.4	$27.04	$20.94
Healthcare support	2.5	3.0	$11.04	$10.07
Protective service	2.3	1.5	$16.56	$15.79
Food preparation and serving related	8.1	10.0	$ 8.37	$ 7.16
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.4	3.8	$10.23	$ 8.84
Personal care and service	2.4	2.5	$10.37	$ 8.99
Sales and related	10.6	12.0	$15.17	$13.69
Office and administrative support	17.7	17.8	$13.72	$11.62
Farming, fishing and forestry	0.4	0.2	$ 9.76	$ 8.05
Construction and extraction	4.8	5.3	$17.79	$15.84
Installation, maintenance and repair	4.1	4.6	$17.58	$15.33
Production	8.0	4.7	$13.91	$13.83
Transportation and material moving	7.3	7.5	$13.28	$12.36

[1] Because of rounding, components may not total 100.

Technical Note

Scope of the survey

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, by industry, in the United States (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Island also are surveyed, but their data are not included in this release). In 2002, the OES survey switched from industry coding based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to that based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

In November 2002, the OES survey changed from an annual survey of 400,000 establishments to a semiannual survey of 200,000 establishments per panel. The OES survey samples and contacts establishments in May and November of each year, and over 3 years, or the equivalent of six panels, contacts approximately 1.2 million establishments. The full 3-year sample allows the production of estimates at fine levels of geographic, industry, and occupational detail. The nationwide response rate for the November 2003 panel was 79 percent for establishments, covering 73 percent of weighted employment. The sample in the Billings area included 1089 establishments with a response rate of 79 percent.

The Standard Occupational Classification system

In 1999, the OES survey began using the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) occupational classification system, the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system is the first OMB-required occupational classification system for federal agencies. The OES survey categorizes workers in 1 of about 770 detailed occupations. Together, these detailed occupations comprise 23 major occupational groups. The major groups are as follows:

Management occupations
Business and financial operations occupations
Computer and mathematical science occupations
Architecture and engineering occupations
Life, physical, and social science occupations
Community and social services occupations
Legal occupations
Education, training, and library occupations
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations
Healthcare support occupations
Protective service occupations
Food preparation and serving related occupations
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations
Personal care and service occupations
Sales and related occupations
Office and administrative support occupations
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations
Construction and extraction occupations
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations
Production occupations
Transportation and material moving occupations

Military specific occupations (not surveyed in OES)

For more information about the SOC system, please see the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Web site at http://www.bls.gov/soc.

The industry coding system

As noted earlier, in 2002, the OES survey switched from using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information about NAICS, see the BLS Web site at http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

The OES survey includes establishments in NAICS sectors 11(logging and agricultural support activities only), 21, 22, 23, 31-33, 42, 44-45, 48-49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 71, 72, 81 (except private households), state government, and local government. Data for the U.S. Postal Service and the federal government are universe counts obtained from the Postal Service and the Office of Personnel Management, respectively. An establishment is defined as an economic unit that processes goods or provides services, such as a factory, mine or store. The establishment is generally at a single physical location and is engaged primarily in one type of economic activity.

The OES survey covers all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The survey does not include the self-employed owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers.

Survey coverage

BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) collect the data. BLS produces cross-industry NAICS estimates for the nation, states, and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). NAICS estimates are produced for 3-digit, 4-digit, and selected 5-digit industry levels. BLS releases all cross-industry and national estimates, and the SWAs release industry estimates at the state and MSA levels.

State Unemployment Insurance (UI) files provide the universe from which the OES survey draws its sample. The employment benchmarks are obtained from reports submitted by employers to the UI program. Supplemental sources are used for rail transportation (NAICS 4821) and Guam because they do not report to the UI program. The OES survey sample is stratified by area, industry, and size class. Size classes are defined as follows:

Size class	Number of employees
1	1 to 4
2	5 to 9
3	10 to 19
4	20 to 49
5	50 to 99
6	100 to 249
7	250 and above

UI reporting units with 250 or more employees are sampled with virtual certainty across a 3-year period. Generally, one-sixth of the certainty units are sampled in each panel in each state.

Concepts

Occupational employment is the estimate of total wage and salary employment in an occupation across the industries in which that occupation was reported. The OES survey defines employment as the number of workers who can be classified as full-time or part-time employees, including workers on paid vacations or other types of leave; workers on unpaid short-term absences; salaried officers, executives, and staff members of incorporated firms; employees temporarily assigned to other units; and employees for whom the reporting unit is their permanent duty station regardless of whether that unit prepares their paycheck.

The OES survey form sent to an establishment contains between 50 and 225 SOC occupations selected on the basis of the sampled establishment's industry classification and size class. To reduce paperwork and respondent burden, no survey form contains every SOC occupation. Thus, data for specific occupations are collected primarily from establishments in industries that are the predominant employers of workers in those occupations. Each survey form is structured, however, to allow a respondent to provide detailed occupational information for each worker at the establishment; that is, unlisted occupations can be added to the survey form.

Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Base rate, cost-of-living allowances, guaranteed pay, hazardous-duty pay, incentive pay including commissions and production bonuses, tips, and on-call pay are included. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, non-production bonuses, employer cost for supplementary benefits, and tuition reimbursements.

The OES survey collects wage data in 12 intervals. Employers report the number of employees in an occupation for each wage range. The wage intervals used for the November 2003 survey are as follows:

Interval	Wages	
	Hourly	Annual
Range A	Under $6.75	Under $14,040
Range B	$6.75 to $8.49	$14,040 to $17,679
Range C	$8.50 to $10.74	$17,680 to $22,359
Range D	$10.75 to $13.49	$22,360 to $28,079
Range E	$13.50 to $16.99	$28,080 to $35,359
Range F	$17.00 to $21.49	$35,360 to $44,719
Range G	$21.50 to $27.24	$44,720 to $56,679
Range H	$27.25 to $34.49	$56,680 to $71,759
Range I	$34.50 to $43.74	$71,760 to $90,999
Range J	$43.75 to $55.49	$91,000 to $115,439
Range K	$55.50 to $69.99	$115,440 to $145,599
Range L	$70.00 and over	$145,600 and over

Mean Hourly Wage. The mean hourly wage rate for an occupation is the total wages that all workers in the occupation earn in an hour divided by the total employment of the occupation. To calculate the mean

hourly wage of each occupation, total weighted hourly wages are summed across all intervals and divided by the occupation's weighted survey employment. The mean wage for each interval is based on occupational wage data collected by the BLS Office of Compensation and Working Conditions for the National Compensation Survey (NCS).

The mean hourly wage value for the highest wage interval, $70.00 and over, is calculated after excluding data for pilots. Pilots comprise a large portion of the employment from the NCS that falls into the highest interval, and about one percent of the workers reported for the OES survey makes $70.00 and over. Since pilots work fewer hours than workers in other occupations, their hourly wage rates are much higher than other occupations. After excluding pilots from the calculation, the mean wage rate for the highest interval was computed separately for each panel or annual sample (November 2003, May 2003, November 2002, 2001, and 2000). Then the average of these five mean wage rates was derived and used for all of the $70.00 and over data in the November 2003 survey. The wage rates for this interval do not go through any wage updating procedures.

Percentile Wage. The p-th percentile wage range for an occupation is the wage where p percent of all workers earn that amount or less and where (100-p) percent of all workers earn that amount or more. This statistic is calculated by uniformly distributing the workers inside each wage interval, ranking the workers from lowest paid to highest paid, and calculating the product of the total employment for the occupation and the desired percentile to determine the worker that earns the p-th percentile wage rate.

Annual Wage. Many employees are paid at an hourly rate by their employers and may work more than or less than 40 hours per week. Annual wage estimates in this release are calculated by multiplying the mean hourly wage by a "year-round, full-time" figure of 2,080 hours (52 weeks by 40 hours). Thus, annual wage estimates may not represent the actual annual pay received by the employee if they work more or less than 2,080 hours per year. Alternatively, some workers are paid based on an annual amount, but they generally do not work the usual 2,080 hours per year. Since the OES survey does not collect the actual number of hours worked, hourly rates cannot be calculated with a reasonable degree of confidence from annual rates. For this reason, the annual salary is directly calculated from reported survey data, and only annual wages are estimated for these occupations. Occupations that typically have a work year of less than 2,080 hours include musical and entertainment occupations, pilots and flight attendants, and teachers.

Hourly versus annual wage reporting. For each occupation, respondents are asked to report the number of employees paid within specific wage intervals. The intervals are defined both as hourly rates and the corresponding annual rates, where the annual rate for an occupation is calculated by multiplying the hourly wage rate by a typical work year of 2,080 hours. The responding establishment can reference either the hourly or the annual rate, but they are instructed to report the hourly rate for part-time workers.

Estimation methodology

Beginning in the November 2002, the OES survey samples approximately 200,000 establishments semiannually in November and May of each year, for a combined sample of 1.2 million different establishments over six semiannual panels. Until 2002, the survey sampled approximately 400,000 establishments in the fourth quarter of each year, for a 3-year combined sample size of 1.2 million. While estimates can be made from a single year or 2 years of data, the OES survey has been designed to produce estimates at a desired level of precision using the full 3 years, or 6 panels, of data. The 3-year sample allows the production of estimates at fine levels of geographic, industrial, and occupational detail.

Producing estimates using the 3 years of sample data provides significant sampling error reductions (particularly for small geographic areas and occupations); however, it also has some quality limitations in that it requires the adjustment of earlier year's data to the current reference period, a procedure referred to as "wage updating."

Wage updating. As noted above, combining multiple years of data has both statistical advantages and limitations. Significant reductions in sampling error can be achieved by taking advantage of 3 years of data, which covers over 70 percent of the employment in the United States. This feature is particularly important in improving the reliability of estimates for small domains in the population (that is, wage and employment estimates for detailed occupations in small areas). Combining multiple years of data also has been necessary to obtain full coverage of establishments with 250 or more workers that are sampled with certainty.

Starting with the 1997 estimates, the OES program has used the BLS Employment Cost Index (ECI) to adjust survey data from prior years or panels before combining them with the current panel's data. The wage updating procedure assumes that each occupation's wage rate, as measured in the earlier year or panel, moves according to the average movement of the broader occupational division that encompasses it and that there are no major geographic, industrial, or detailed occupational differences.

November 2003 OES survey estimates. The November 2003 OES survey estimates are based on data collected from establishments in the November 2003, May 2003, and the November 2002, 2001, and 2000. The November 2003 estimates used the wage-updating methodology introduced in 1997. In addition, a "nearest neighbor" hot deck imputation procedure was used to impute occupational employment totals for establishments that reported no employment data. For establishments that reported (or imputed) occupational employment totals but did not report an employment distribution across the wage intervals, a variation of mean imputation was used to impute the distribution. During estimates processing, OES employment data were benchmarked to the average employment for May and November 2003 from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Reliability of the estimates. Estimates calculated from a sample survey are subject to two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error occurs when estimates are calculated from a subset (i.e., sample) of the population instead of the full population. When a sample of the population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimate of the characteristic of interest may differ from the population value of that characteristic. Differences between the sample estimate and the population value will vary depending on the sample selected. This variability can be estimated by calculating the standard error (SE) of the sample estimate. If we were to repeat the sampling and estimation process countless times using the same survey design, approximately 90 percent of the intervals created by adding and subtracting 1.645 SEs from the sample estimate would include the population value. These intervals are called 90-percent confidence intervals. The OES survey, however, usually uses the relative standard error (RSE) of a sample estimate instead of its SE to measure sampling error. RSE is defined as the SE of a sample estimate divided by the sample estimate itself. This statistic provides the user with a measure of the relative precision of the sample estimate. RSEs are calculated for both occupational employment and mean wage rate estimates. Occupational employment RSEs are calculated using a subsample, random group replication technique called the Jackknife. Mean wage rate RSEs are calculated using a variance components model that accounts for both the observed and unobserved components of the wage data. The variances of the unobserved components are estimated using wage data from

the BLS National Compensation Survey. In general, estimates based on many establishments have lower RSEs than estimates based on few establishments. If the distributional assumptions of the models are violated, the resulting confidence intervals may not reflect the prescribed level of confidence.

Nonsampling error occurs for a variety of reasons, none of which are directly connected to sampling. Examples of nonsampling error include: nonresponse, data incorrectly reported by the respondent, mistakes made in entering collected data into the database, and mistakes made in editing and processing the collected data.

Additional information

The November 2003 OES national data by occupation, comparable to data in table 1, are available on the Internet (http://www.bls.gov/oes). Users also may access each occupation's definition and percentile wages. The November 2003 cross-industry data for states and metropolitan areas are available on the BLS Web site. Industry staffing patterns at the 3-, 4-, and selected 5-digit NAICS levels are available from the Internet. These data will include industry-specific occupational employment and wage data.

For additional information, contact the Kansas City Information and Analysis Office at 816-426-2481 or by e-mailing BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov. Survey results are also available from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry at 406-444-2430.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
All Occupations	68,480	$11.73	$14.52	$30,200
Management occupations	3,920	24.43	27.25	56,680
Chief executives	130	44.08	46.31	96,320
General and operations managers	2,060	23.18	26.97	56,100
Advertising and promotions managers	30	18.26	21.73	45,190
Marketing managers	60	27.35	28.30	58,860
Sales managers	120	25.44	29.39	61,120
Public relations managers	50	16.95	20.48	42,590
Administrative services managers	70	19.85	20.93	43,530
Computer and information systems managers	70	29.65	31.31	65,120
Financial managers	180	28.71	29.72	61,820
Human resources managers	70	27.46	27.63	57,480
Industrial production managers	50	27.57	31.73	66,000
Purchasing managers	30	26.76	27.19	56,550
Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	70	27.26	28.97	60,270
Construction managers	80	22.03	22.19	46,160
Engineering managers	50	37.95	37.01	76,980
Food service managers	100	15.33	17.99	37,410
Funeral directors	30	19.26	19.14	39,800
Lodging managers	(5)	14.06	13.71	28,510
Medical and health services managers	150	35.06	35.24	73,290
Property, real estate, and community association managers	(5)	7.47	12.84	26,700
Social and community service managers	50	16.47	20.28	42,190
Business and financial operations occupations	2,120	18.86	21.74	45,210
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	130	15.43	16.12	33,520
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	80	20.34	21.40	44,500
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	100	26.09	24.32	50,580
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	120	19.68	22.16	46,100
Cost estimators	110	18.80	19.20	39,940
Employment, recruitment, and placement specialists	80	14.50	16.71	34,750
Training and development specialists	50	17.63	19.23	40,000
Management analysts	110	18.94	20.59	42,830
Accountants and auditors	510	17.95	22.31	46,410
Credit analysts	60	14.99	18.65	38,800
Financial examiners	30	31.47	30.62	63,700
Loan officers	240	18.92	22.12	46,010
Computer and mathematical occupations	820	22.09	23.06	47,960
Computer programmers	130	22.97	21.96	45,690
Computer support specialists	200	14.69	14.96	31,110
Computer systems analysts	210	36.57	33.13	68,910
Network and computer systems administrators	60	20.19	21.03	43,740
Operations research analysts	60	25.12	23.89	49,700
Architecture and engineering occupations	1,220	20.64	22.38	46,550
Architects, except landscape and naval	80	22.12	23.12	48,090
Surveyors	80	17.29	18.05	37,540

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
Civil engineers	200	26.43	27.19	56,550
Electrical engineers	70	27.13	26.89	55,940
Mechanical engineers	110	27.72	30.24	62,890
Architectural and civil drafters	110	14.71	15.20	31,610
Mechanical drafters	60	13.34	14.64	30,450
Civil engineering technicians	130	15.91	15.51	32,250
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	70	17.52	19.66	40,900
Surveying and mapping technicians	60	12.22	15.16	31,540
Life, physical, and social science occupations	430	19.42	21.85	45,450
Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers	40	17.71	24.09	50,120
Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists	60	18.74	20.18	41,970
Chemical technicians	60	10.99	11.29	23,490
Community and social services occupations	1,100	12.65	14.23	29,600
Educational, vocational, and school counselors	130	20.51	19.58	40,730
Mental health counselors	80	10.54	12.32	25,620
Rehabilitation counselors	30	15.98	16.06	33,400
Child, family, and school social workers	160	13.54	15.71	32,680
Medical and public health social workers	40	19.57	19.41	40,370
Social and human service assistants	330	9.71	11.79	24,520
Clergy	100	14.31	16.76	34,870
Directors, religious activities and education	(5)	6.55	7.11	14,780
Legal occupations	530	23.00	28.53	59,340
Lawyers	270	27.58	37.14	77,260
Paralegals and legal assistants	90	16.82	20.20	42,020
Title examiners, abstractors, and searchers	60	13.13	15.68	32,620
Education, training, and library occupations	3,310	16.72	17.39	36,170
Vocational education teachers, postsecondary	80	17.89	18.35	38,160
Preschool teachers, except special education	(5)	7.75	7.61	15,830
Self-enrichment education teachers	60	10.74	12.54	26,080
Librarians	110	19.52	19.51	40,580
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	820	11.94	14.74	30,660
Floral designers	40	8.60	9.29	19,320
Graphic designers	110	13.70	17.14	35,660
Coaches and scouts	40	(3)	(3)	19,280
Music directors and composers	(5)	(3)	(3)	18,750
Announcers	(5)	10.76	12.26	25,490
News analysts, reporters and correspondents	60	14.11	15.68	32,620
Public relations specialists	70	18.12	18.59	38,680
Writers and authors	40	11.29	13.81	28,720
Broadcast technicians	50	9.96	10.06	20,930
Photographers	40	10.94	11.42	23,750
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	4,370	18.27	20.94	43,560
Dentists	60	67.06	69.76	145,110
Dietitians and nutritionists	(5)	19.95	19.94	41,480
Pharmacists	130	35.43	34.78	72,340
Surgeons	(5)	(4)	96.68	201,090

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
Physician assistants	30	31.06	31.72	65,990
Registered nurses	1,940	19.49	20.08	41,770
Occupational therapists	50	25.05	27.18	56,520
Physical therapists	(5)	27.19	26.36	54,830
Respiratory therapists	90	18.46	17.95	37,330
Speech-language pathologists	40	24.63	23.79	49,480
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	(5)	20.20	20.01	41,620
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	50	13.72	13.78	28,660
Dental hygienists	120	25.41	25.02	52,050
Diagnostic medical sonographers	(5)	25.86	26.21	54,520
Radiologic technologists and technicians	140	14.62	16.15	33,580
Pharmacy technicians	160	11.64	11.74	24,410
Surgical technologists	(5)	15.40	16.56	34,440
Veterinary technologists and technicians	60	10.05	10.03	20,850
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	460	13.52	13.74	28,580
Medical records and health information technicians	30	10.25	11.71	24,360
Opticians, dispensing	(5)	9.94	10.67	22,190
Occupational health and safety specialists and technicians	(5)	19.01	17.70	36,810
Healthcare support occupations	2,070	9.63	10.07	20,940
Home health aides	250	8.27	8.42	17,510
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	1,150	9.05	9.26	19,260
Dental assistants	160	12.40	12.24	25,450
Medical assistants	190	11.06	11.36	23,630
Medical transcriptionists	140	13.08	13.35	27,760
Protective service occupations	1,030	15.13	15.79	32,850
Detectives and criminal investigators	80	20.53	23.06	47,960
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	220	19.37	19.51	40,570
Security guards	260	9.00	9.57	19,910
Food preparation and serving related occupations	6,830	6.75	7.16	14,890
Chefs and head cooks	90	9.81	10.28	21,390
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	360	8.82	9.72	20,210
Cooks, fast food	1,000	6.46	6.48	13,470
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	140	9.02	8.81	18,330
Cooks, restaurant	630	8.05	8.31	17,280
Cooks, short order	80	6.83	6.96	14,480
Food preparation workers	320	6.93	7.43	15,450
Bartenders	510	7.31	7.34	15,260
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	860	6.46	6.91	14,380
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	420	6.57	6.67	13,870
Waiters and waitresses	1,050	6.33	6.51	13,550
Food servers, nonrestaurant	150	6.70	6.63	13,800
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	230	6.21	6.09	12,680
Dishwashers	470	6.40	6.47	13,450

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	520	7.48	7.32	15,230
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	2,590	7.99	8.84	18,390
First-line supervisors/managers of housekeeping and janitorial workers	80	11.82	12.12	25,210
First-line supervisors/managers of landscaping, lawn Service, and groundskeeping workers	30	14.18	14.93	31,050
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	1,380	8.30	9.32	19,390
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	540	7.52	7.59	15,790
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	520	7.19	7.92	16,470
Personal care and service occupations	1,710	8.35	8.99	18,700
First-line supervisors/managers of personal service workers	60	11.49	12.16	25,300
Amusement and recreation attendants	140	7.03	7.73	16,080
Funeral attendants	30	8.16	8.16	16,980
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	210	8.66	9.17	19,060
Child care workers	610	7.96	8.28	17,230
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	(5)	7.13	9.20	19,130
Recreation workers	130	10.08	10.60	22,060
Sales and related occupations	8,210	9.90	13.69	28,480
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	550	12.05	14.20	29,540
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	130	17.86	19.42	40,390
Cashiers	1,630	7.38	7.84	16,310
Counter and rental clerks	250	8.22	9.36	19,470
Parts salespersons	220	10.85	12.10	25,180
Retail salespersons	3,160	8.50	10.75	22,370
Advertising sales agents	140	17.07	19.72	41,030
Insurance sales agents	220	12.62	20.39	42,420
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales Agents	160	34.87	44.85	93,290
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products	(5)	21.89	30.80	64,060
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	1,080	16.45	18.52	38,520
Real estate sales agents	(5)	40.01	35.16	73,140
Telemarketers	(5)	9.32	9.89	20,580
Office and administrative support occupations	12,160	10.62	11.62	24,160
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	640	13.99	15.28	31,780
Switchboard operators, including answering service	140	8.94	9.21	19,160
Bill and account collectors	190	11.54	11.87	24,680
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	240	10.70	11.20	23,290
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	900	11.06	11.90	24,760
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	70	12.41	12.63	26,270
Customer service representatives	860	9.16	10.12	21,050
File clerks	140	9.12	9.55	19,870
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	230	8.01	8.21	17,070

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
Loan interviewers and clerks	620	11.36	12.30	25,590
Order clerks	140	11.02	11.53	23,990
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	60	13.11	13.61	28,310
Receptionists and information clerks	720	9.24	9.33	19,400
Reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel Clerks	100	8.86	10.75	22,360
Cargo and freight agents	80	16.83	17.28	35,940
Couriers and messengers	80	7.25	8.06	16,760
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	120	14.74	14.95	31,100
Postal service clerks	40	19.57	19.69	40,950
Postal service mail carriers	150	21.80	21.20	44,090
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing Machine operators	190	18.77	17.94	37,320
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	100	16.94	17.93	37,290
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	350	9.69	10.23	21,280
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,040	9.65	10.59	22,030
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	750	13.18	14.54	30,250
Legal secretaries	70	15.62	14.69	30,550
Medical secretaries	140	12.43	12.29	25,570
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	1,490	10.13	10.27	21,360
Computer operators	90	12.36	12.74	26,490
Data entry keyers	150	10.29	10.44	21,710
Word processors and typists	30	12.49	12.99	27,020
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	40	9.95	10.57	21,980
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	70	8.12	8.49	17,650
Office clerks, general	1,230	9.13	9.95	20,690
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	160	6.47	8.05	16,730
Farmworkers, farm and ranch animals	110	6.12	7.40	15,390
Construction and extraction occupations	3,610	15.30	15.84	32,950
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	240	19.89	20.94	43,550
Brickmasons and blockmasons	40	15.23	15.60	32,450
Carpenters	620	15.12	16.39	34,090
Cement masons and concrete finishers	(5)	15.13	15.47	32,180
Construction laborers	730	11.78	13.53	28,150
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	180	18.50	17.88	37,190
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	(5)	19.31	19.62	40,820
Glaziers	40	13.85	14.18	29,500
Painters, construction and maintenance	150	15.71	15.83	32,930
Pipelayers	(5)	13.48	14.07	29,260
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	150	24.00	22.47	46,740
Roofers	80	15.21	14.28	29,700
Sheet metal workers	(5)	13.34	14.53	30,220
Helpers--carpenters	270	10.82	10.86	22,590
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	40	13.09	13.00	27,050
Helpers--extraction workers	70	11.48	14.11	29,340

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,140	14.43	15.33	31,880
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	180	20.53	21.82	45,390
Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	(5)	16.57	17.40	36,190
Telecommunications equipment installers and repairers, except line installers	130	23.60	20.37	42,370
Aircraft mechanics and service technicians	90	14.57	14.85	30,890
Automotive body and related repairers	130	18.00	17.45	36,300
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	520	13.67	13.71	28,510
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists	160	16.20	16.32	33,940
Farm equipment mechanics	50	11.98	12.96	26,950
Tire repairers and changers	(5)	8.46	9.29	19,310
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	240	13.96	16.39	34,090
Home appliance repairers	80	9.30	12.30	25,580
Industrial machinery mechanics	80	15.72	17.54	36,490
Maintenance and repair workers, general	560	13.13	13.29	27,630
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	(5)	16.75	17.05	35,460
Helpers--installation, maintenance, and repair workers	100	8.89	10.32	21,470
Production occupations	3,190	11.30	13.83	28,770
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	230	15.61	18.78	39,060
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	120	11.79	12.51	26,020
Team assemblers	330	9.97	10.19	21,200
Bakers	110	7.58	7.79	16,200
Butchers and meat cutters	60	11.26	12.36	25,710
Food batchmakers	(5)	7.69	8.19	17,040
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool Setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	16.02	15.72	32,690
Machinists	150	14.64	14.62	30,410
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	130	13.05	14.19	29,520
Printing machine operators	60	14.88	14.11	29,350
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	170	7.96	7.87	16,380
Sewing machine operators	50	7.34	7.36	15,320
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	90	10.18	10.09	21,000
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	(5)	7.67	7.73	16,070
Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators	30	15.55	14.93	31,040
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	410	25.19	25.35	52,730
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	50	13.00	14.94	31,070
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	(5)	10.84	10.90	22,670
Photographic process workers	40	8.65	8.86	18,420
Photographic processing machine operators	60	10.21	10.70	22,250
Helpers--production workers	120	8.08	8.94	18,600
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,140	11.24	12.36	25,710

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Billings, MT, Metropolitan Statistical Area, November 2003--Continued

Occupation Title	Employment (1)	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annual (2)
First-line supervisors/managers of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	100	14.63	16.07	33,430
First-line supervisors/managers of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	100	18.19	20.18	41,980
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	240	13.03	14.58	30,330
Bus drivers, school	130	12.28	12.43	25,860
Driver/sales workers	290	8.89	10.97	22,820
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	1,170	15.06	15.05	31,300
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	630	10.38	12.35	25,690
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	110	6.23	6.38	13,260
Parking lot attendants	40	6.76	7.67	15,950
Service station attendants	100	7.99	8.51	17,710
Crane and tower operators	50	17.04	17.65	36,700
Industrial truck and tractor operators	180	11.39	11.52	23,960
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	330	7.64	7.88	16,380
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	1,030	8.81	10.02	20,850
Packers and packagers, hand	150	6.50	6.97	14,500

(1) 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.
(2) 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.
(3) Hourly wage rates for occupations where workers typically work fewer than 2,080 hours per year are not available.
(4) This median wage is equal to or greater than $70.00 per hour or $145,600 per year.
(5) Estimates not released.