

Appendix C. Availability of Historical Occupational Employment Statistics Survey Data Nationally and from State Agencies

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program currently produces occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation, States, 375 metropolitan areas, 34 metropolitan divisions, 175 nonmetropolitan areas, and industries. The current estimates are based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). National industry estimates are available at the sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5-digit levels. These estimates are available online at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/>.

Industry data

Industry data are available at the national level only through the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the years 1997 to 2001, industry data are available for 2- and 3-digit industries as defined by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Prior to 1996, the OES survey collected data from specified industries in 1 of 3 years in the survey round, depending on the industry.

Industry data for States are not available from BLS, but may be available from State workforce agencies. Contact information for the State workforce agencies is available online at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/ofolist.htm>.

Occupational classification

Data are available for SOC occupations for 1999 forward. Prior to 1999, OES used its own occupational classification system.

Wage data

Wage data are provided for all areas and industries beginning with the data for 1997.

State data

Cross-industry State data for 1998 forward are available on the OES Web site. Prior to 1983, not all States participated in the OES program in all survey years. Starting with the 1991 OES survey, certain States also collected wage data. Check with the State workforce agencies listed at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/ofolist.htm> regarding the availability of State data on occupational employment and wages.

Metropolitan area data

OES data are available for May 2006 for 375 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and 34 metropolitan divisions. These data are based on revised metropolitan area definitions designated by the Office of Management and Budget and adopted by OES in May 2005. Data for 337 metropolitan areas based on the old metropolitan area definitions are available on the OES Web site for the years 1998-2004.

Nonmetropolitan area data

OES data are available for May 2006 for 175 non-metropolitan areas. May 2006 was the first year OES released nonmetropolitan area data. The data cover nonmetropolitan areas in 49 States and Puerto Rico.