

Introduction

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey provides estimates of occupational employment and wages for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments by industry and area. Information in this bulletin reflects two recent changes in the data produced from the OES survey. For the first time, data in this bulletin are provided for industries defined according to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The survey reference period also has been changed, in order to reduce the seasonal effects of collecting data in one quarter. The OES survey used to have a fourth-quarter reference period, but the data are now collected twice a year for the reference months of May and November.

The tables in this bulletin present national, State, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and industry employment and wage data for detailed occupations. The occupational data are identified based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Under the SOC system, workers are classified in 1 of more than 760 occupations. For each detailed occupation, table 1 shows cross-industry national estimates of employment, hourly mean wage, annual mean wage, and percentile wages. The profiles that follow table 1 show occupational composition by industry sector.

Table 2 shows the 10 largest occupations in each four-digit NAICS industry. Table 3 presents a sample of the data available from the OES survey, including national industry-specific and State and MSA cross-industry employment and wage data for the five largest occupations in each SOC major group. The industry data are national industry-specific data for both the five industries with the greatest employment and the five industries with the highest wages for a given occupation. This differs from the national estimates in table 1, which are based on data from all industries. In addition, table 3 presents State and MSA employment and wage estimates for the five areas with the highest employment concentration in the occupation and the five areas in which workers in the given occupation earn the highest wages. The

employment concentration is the percentage of the total State or MSA employment found in the occupation. This measure provides more information than does total employment, which usually parallels population—the largest States and MSAs usually have the largest numbers of workers, regardless of the occupation.

The OES program is a Federal-State cooperative effort between the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). BLS provides technical assistance and the statistical procedures for the survey; the SWAs collect the data.

In 2003, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands participated in the survey. Data for the territories are not included in the national estimates. Industry-specific occupational employment and wage estimates for each participating State and territory are available from the SWAs listed on the inside back cover of this bulletin.

Occupational employment estimates are based on survey results adjusted to reflect total industry employment. Mean wage is the estimated total wages for an occupation divided by the occupation's weighted survey employment. Occupations or industries with fewer than 50 workers, or with an employment relative error greater than 50 percent, are not shown. Wage estimates with a relative error greater than 30 percent are not shown. Appendix B provides more complete definitions of terms and statistical concepts.

National, State, and MSA data across surveyed industries are available on the OES Web site at www.bls.gov/oes/. National occupational employment data for all occupations at the three- and four-digit NAICS and selected five-digit NAICS levels also are available on the Web site. Additional information about the structure of the OES classification system is provided in appendix A of this bulletin. Definitions for all occupations are available on the Standard Occupational Classification Web site at www.bls.gov/soc/.