

# Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2003

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# Preface

This bulletin provides occupational employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. It includes national, State, and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) estimates across all industries, as well as by industry. The tables present cross-industry national estimates for Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) detailed occupations, as well as selected industry-specific national estimates and cross-industry State and MSA estimates for selected detailed occupations. National estimates for all three- and four-digit NAICS industries and selected five-digit NAICS industries are available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/oes/](http://www.bls.gov/oes/). Cross-industry estimates for all States and metropolitan areas also are available on the Web site.

For many years, the OES survey has been a major source of detailed occupational employment data by industry for the Nation, for States, and for metropolitan areas. In November 2002, the OES survey changed from an annual survey of 400,000 establishments to a semiannual survey of 200,000 establishments. The OES survey samples and contacts establishments in May and November of each year and, over 3 years, contacts approximately 1.2 million establishments. The full 3-year sample allows the production of estimates at fine levels of geographic, industrial, and occupational detail.

The estimates are based on data collected during the 1999-2003 surveys and are adjusted to full universe counts for the reference period. The reference period for wage data is May 2003. The reference period for employment is the

average of May 2003 and November 2002 employment, based on information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Covered Employment and Wages program. The employment reference period was changed to the 2-month average in order to capture seasonal fluctuations in occupational employment.

This survey is part of the Federal-State cooperative program of occupational employment statistics, which provides information for many data users, including individuals and organizations engaged in planning vocational education programs, higher education, and employment and training programs. OES data also are used to prepare information for career counseling, for job placement activities performed at State Workforce Agencies, and for personnel planning and market research conducted by private enterprises.

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