Wage and Employment Patterns in the Mining Sector

By Dina Itkin

The mining sector plays an important role in different areas of today's U.S. labor market, as it did historically during the Nation's development. As of May 2005, the mining sector employed a total of 539,960 people nationwide. The average hourly wage for all occupations, ranging from civil engineers to food preparation workers, is $21.73, but varies by occupation. This average places the mining sector in the top third of all 20 sectors of the economy. Occupational wages within the mining sector vary by location and industry. Wages for the highest-paying occupations in mining are higher than average, while wages for the lowest-paying occupations in mining are lower than average. Wages for occupations such as mining laborers are generally higher than wages of laborers with similar skill levels who work in other industries.

Occupations in the mining sector

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey reports data for 245 occupations in the mining sector, ranging from management and legal occupations to production and transportation occupations. Among the most important occupations in the sector are mining laborers. Fifteen occupations in particular perform the labor-intensive tasks that are vital to the structure of the mining industry and account for one-quarter of mining employment. One of them, roustabouts—found mainly in the oil and gas extraction industry—is the largest occupation in the mining sector. These workers, who assemble or repair oil field equipment, number 29,170 in the mining sector and slightly more than 4,000 in all other industries. The 15 mining laborer occupations consist of 13 occupations employing extraction workers and two occupations employing transportation and material moving workers. Mining laborers must be able to perform physical labor in dangerous conditions and are usually not required to possess a high school diploma. Most skills are learned on the job and are supplemented by a requisite 40 hours of formal safety training.[1] The mining laborer occupations are listed in table 1 and include rotary drill operators, who have the highest laborer average hourly wage, $19.34; continuous mining machine operators, who rip materials from the mine face and load it onto conveyors or into shuttle cars; mining roof bolters, who install roof support bolts in underground mines; explosives workers, ordnance handling experts, and blasters, who detonate explosives to demolish structures or to displace earth; mine cutting and channeling machine operators, who cut or channel along the faces or seams of mines or quarries to facilitate the blasting of materials from the mines; all other mining machine operators; earth drillers, except those drilling for oil or gas; all other extraction workers; oil and gas derrick operators, who rig derrick equipment and operate pumps to circulate mud through drill holes; oil, gas, and mining service unit operators; helpers of extraction workers, who help extraction craft workers by performing duties of lesser skill; quarry rock splitters; oil and gas roustabouts; shuttle car operators, who operate shuttle cars in underground mines to transport materials from working faces to mine cars or a conveyor; and loading machine operators in underground mining, who load coal, ore, or rock into cars or onto conveyors. The weighted mean wage for these 15 mining laborer occupations is $16.21.

Wages for mining laborers vary by industry within the mining sector, which consists of three subsectors: oil and gas extraction (NAICS industry code 211000), mining, except oil and gas (NAICS code 212000), and support activities for mining (NAICS code 213000). Of these three subsectors, the largest is mining, except oil and gas, employing 39 percent of the mining sectors' workers. This subsector comprises the coal mining, metal ore mining, and nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying industries. The oil and gas extraction subsector has the highest mean hourly wage: $30.34. Average wages in mining, except oil and gas, and in support activities for mining are $19.29 and $19.13, respectively. Table 1 breaks down mining laborer wages by subsector.

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[1] "Mining," Career Guide to Industries (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006–07); on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs004.htm#training. (Visited on September 5, 2006.)

Table 1. **Average hourly wages in mining subsectors**

"--" indicates no employment or data not available.

Occupation	Average hourly wage					
	Mining sector	Oil and gas	Coal	Metal ore	Nonmetal	Support
Roustabouts, oil and gas	$12.83	$14.03	—	—	—	$12.63
Helpers, extraction workers	14.21	12.31	16.93	15.24	12.33	13.46
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	16.53	18.53	—	—	—	16.28
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	19.34	20.89	—	—	—	19.15
Derrick operators, oil and gas	17.17	17.82	—	—	—	17.10
Continuous mining machine operators	18.89	—	19.03	21.73	16.52	16.02
Extraction workers, all other	17.62	20.47	15.21	20.67	15.88	17.89
Mine cutting and channeling machine operators	18.31	—	19.80	20.90	16.03	15.45
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	17.64	—	17.26	21.44	16.25	17.49
Roof bolters, mining	18.85	—	18.69	23.70	22.79	18.49
Shuttle car operators	18.58	—	18.45	—	23.70	—
Rock splitters, quarry	13.59	—	16.29	—	13.50	—
Mining machine operators, all other	18.10	—	20.03	20.03	16.76	12.80
Loading machine operators in underground mining	17.44	—	17.65	—	16.88	—
Explosives workers, ordnance handling workers, and blasters	18.70	—	19.77	21.95	16.38	17.89

Comparison of wages in mining sector with wages across all industries

Although mining laborers are employed primarily by the mining industries, many other important mining occupations are found across numerous industries. Overall, more than half of all occupations in mining have average wages that exceed their national cross-industry averages. Separately examining the highest- and lowest-paid mining occupations produces interesting results.

Not surprisingly, the top-paying occupations in the industry are not labor intensive, but professional: lawyers, several types of managers, physicists, engineers, and geoscientists, among others. As an example, lawyers in mining establishments are among the highest-paid workers in mining occupations and earn more than the average in other industries. In the mining sector, they make an average of $134,630 annually (among the highest they are paid by any industry), whereas the cross-industrial average annual salary for lawyers is $110,520. The high wages paid by mining firms might result from a greater demand for lawyers, as reflected in the occupation's employment levels. Mining has one of the five highest employment concentrations of lawyers, behind the professional services, public administration, and two business industries, as shown in table 2. In comparison with other laborer-intensive industries, mining employs the greatest proportion of lawyers. Almost 0.2 percent of the mining industry is composed of lawyers, while manufacturing employs only 0.03 percent, transportation and warehousing 0.02 percent, construction 0.01 percent, and agriculture less than 0.01 percent.

Besides lawyers, many mining occupations with the highest mean wages are paid more than they receive in any other industry. Among these occupations are geoscientists, natural sciences managers, public relations managers, and other man-agers. The higher wages could represent a higher demand for these workers, as is the case with lawyers; an incentive to attract higher quality professional workers; or the sharing of relatively high mining industry profits.[2]

Measuring the absolute wage differences among the diverse set of mining occupations, however, does not take into account differences in earning levels. For a manager or engineer earning a high annual salary, a few cents or dollars deviating from the cross-industry hourly average might not seem substantial. On the other hand, for occupations earning close to the minimum wage, a difference of a few cents or $1.00 per hour might be important. Therefore, a better measure of the wage difference is the percentage difference, or premium, between the mining industry wage and the cross-industry average. The occupations with the highest percent wage premiums are hazardous materials removal workers (with an 80% wage premium); sales workers; vehicle and equipment cleaners; stock clerks and order fillers; real estate sales agents; managers of property, real estate, and community associations; and geoscientists.

At the other end of the spectrum, many of the lowest-paid mining occupations are paid lower mean wages than their national cross-industry counterparts. Among the lowest-paying mining occupations—those earning under $10 hourly, on average—are office machine workers; nursing aides; farm workers and laborers of crops or nurseries; tool grinders and filers; landscaping and groundskeeping workers; recreational

workers; and protective service workers. There is an overlap between these occupations and the occupations with the greatest negative wage premiums: office machine operators, medical assistants, nursing aides, assemblers and fabricators, and landscaping and groundskeeping workers. Notwithstanding this phenomenon, some relatively low-paying mining occupations have the highest percent wage premiums. For cleaners and stock clerks, for example, whose wages in min-

ing are otherwise low, the positive deviation from the cross-industry mean wage is valuable.

In between the high- and low-paying occupations lie the mining laborer occupations, with average wages as shown in table 1. Because mining laborers are rarely found in other industries, it is difficult to compare their wages with those of people doing the same work in other industries. Table 3 shows that, with the exception of two occupations (earth drillers; and explosives workers, ordnance handling experts,

Table 2. **Employment and mean wages of lawyers**

Industry sector*	Total employed employed in sector	Percentage employed as lawyers	Hourly mean wage of lawyers
54 - Professional, scientific, and technical services	6,928,030	5.23292%	$55.99
92 - Public administration	9,439,900	1.11419%	41.30
55 - Management of companies and enterprises	1,739,370	0.68530%	62.22
52 - Finance and insurance	5,863,340	0.35578%	55.40
21 - Mining	**539,960**	**0.19533%**	**64.73**
22 - Utilities	552,440	0.12552%	62.08
81 - Other services (except public administration)	3,811,110	0.11281%	45.75
51 - Information	3,081,510	0.10971%	65.24
53 - Real estate and rental and leasing	2,108,600	0.08102%	62.28
56- Administrative and support, and waste management and remediation services	8,102,250	0.05929%	51.50
31 - 33 Manufacturing	**14,262,510**	**0.02691%**	**65.32**
42 - Wholesale trade	5,736,020	0.02447%	65.78
48 and 49 - Transportation and warehousing	**5,131,180**	**0.02325%**	**57.21**
62 - Healthcare and social assistance	15,233,920	0.02073%	39.25
71 - Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,843,720	0.01560%	56.19
61 - Educational services	12,137,420	0.01506%	47.44
23 - Construction	**7,215,240**	**0.00969%**	**57.19**
44 and 45 - Retail trade	15,369,450	0.00182%	55.18
11 - Agricultural	**369,310**	**0.00171%**	**51.62**
72 - Accommodation and food services	10,842,570	0.00055%	61.23

  * Boldface type indicates similar industries

Table 3. **Mining laborer employment, mean wage of sector, and cross-industry mean wage**

Mining laborer occupation	Employment			Mean wage	
	Mining sector	Cross-industry	Percent in mining sector	Mining sector	Cross-industry
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	14,680	15,500	94.71	$19.34	$19.81
Continuous mining machine operators	8,490	9,000	94.33	18.89	18.67
Roof bolters, mining	4,130	4,140	99.76	18.85	18.84
Explosives workers, ordnance handling experts, and blasters	1,510	4,800	31.46	18.70	19.33
Shuttle car operators	2,920	3,100	94.19	18.58	18.28
Mine cutting and channeling machine operators	5,740	6,080	94.41	18.31	18.12
Mining machine operators, all other	2,160	2,450	88.16	18.10	18.26
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	5,090	18,800	27.07	17.64	17.20
Extraction workers, all other	6,810	9,060	75.17	17.62	17.32
Loading machine operators, underground mining	2,050	2,390	85.77	17.44	17.47
Derrick operators, oil and gas	12,960	13,270	97.66	17.17	17.16
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	18,200	19,530	93.19	16.53	16.61
Helpers—extraction workers	19,670	25,550	76.99	14.21	13.76
Rock splitters, quarry	2,370	3,600	65.83	13.59	13.56
Roustabouts, oil and gas	29,170	33,570	86.89	12.83	12.71

Table 4. **Employment and wages of mining laborers, by State**

State	Statewide employment	Mining laborer employment	Percentage of mining laborers employed	Cross-industry mean wage	Mean wage paid to mining laborers	Percent wage difference
Wyoming...	251,590	6,980	2.78	15.84	17.75	12.06
West Virginia	697,390	7,810	1.12	14.69	17.90	21.85
New Mexico..	763,430	6,290	.82	15.95	15.95	.00
Oklahoma	1,455,940	8,160	.56	15.12	15.68	3.70
Louisiana	1,877,160	10,080	.54	15.11	17.16	13.57
Alaska..	300,150	1,420	.47	20.55	23.35	13.63
Texas	9,424,510	40,060	.43	17.05	14.64	−14.13
North Dakota	328,520	1,320	.40	14.83	18.48	24.61
Montana..	414,650	1,520	.37	14.53	18.46	27.05
Kentucky...	1,754,590	6,180	.35	15.65	16.34	4.41
Utah	1,099,230	2,940	.27	16.48	17.87	8.43
Nevada	1,191,640	3,000	.25	16.71	21.04	25.91
Kansas..	1,315,640	2,660	.20	16.33	13.31	−18.49
Colorado...	2,151,520	3,910	.18	19.36	17.93	−7.39
Mississippi	1,108,540	1,980	.18	13.99	12.94	−7.51
Arkansas...	1,142,370	1,330	.12	14.31	13.81	−3.49
Pennsylvania	5,569,310	6,270	.11	17.46	15.60	−10.65
Alabama	1,872,600	1,990	.11	15.54	17.73	14.09
Virginia...	3,535,500	2,830	.08	19.11	16.02	−16.17
Idaho..	597,490	440	.07	15.89	18.84	18.57
Vermont	297,650	190	.07	16.86	18.96	12.46
Illinois...	5,767,100	3,120	.05	18.89	16.71	−11.54
Ohio..	5,340,280	2,260	.04	17.44	14.64	−16.06
California	14,723,900	5,270	.04	20.44	19.03	−6.90
Michigan	4,334,870	1,190	.03	19.25	14.89	−22.65
Tennessee	2,686,580	570	.02	15.99	14.59	−8.76
New York	8,333,460	710	.01	21.18	15.43	−27.15

and blasters), mining laborers are employed primarily by the mining sector and therefore have cross-industry wages similar to their wages in the mining industry. The two exceptions have average wages that exceed the cross-industry averages by almost $0.50 per hour. Although it is relatively easy to compare the wages of the highest- and lowest-paid occupations in mining with the wages of their counterparts in other industries, it remains difficult to do so for mining laborers because of their absence in other industries. Instead, a comparison with the wages of workers in similar laborer occupations is instructive. Also, an analysis at the national, State, and area levels indicates whether wage differences are a result of geographic location.

Because it is difficult to perform a cross-industry analysis of mining laborers, it is useful to compare mining laborer wages with wages of occupations with similar background training or education requirements or with similar physical demands. Although the nature of mining labor is unique to the mining industry in terms of the tasks performed and the work environment, many other occupations require comparable levels of training. Among these occupations are production workers (mean wage, $14.37); transportation and material moving workers (mean wage, $13.85); farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (mean wage, $10.10); personal care and service workers (mean wage, $10.67); building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers (mean wage, $10.55); and food preparation and serving workers (mean wage, $8.58). Occupations that require similar physical exertion include construction laborers (an occupation that requires more train-

ing); hazardous material removal workers; heavy truck and tractor trailer drivers; helpers of construction trades; and hand laborers and movers of freight, stock, and materials. Wages for these occupations range from $17.90 for hazardous material movers to $10.80 for hand laborers and movers of freight, stock, and materials. With an average wage of $16.21, mining laborers are near the top. Although this comparison takes into account training and physical exertion, it does not account for differences in wages due to geographic location.

Mining laborer wages at the State level

Wage disparities among mining laborer occupations may exist because the occupations are in different areas. Mining employment is found only in specific geographic locations. In 2005, the States employing the greatest number of workers in the overall privately owned mining sector were Texas (164,181), Louisiana (42,521), Oklahoma (36,060), West Virginia (24,862), California (22,077), Kentucky (20,911), Pennsylvania (18,843), New Mexico (16,860), Ohio (10,782), Nevada (10,559), Alaska (10,518), and Virginia (8,754).[3] The relative importance of mining and mining laborers is not reflected in the absolute numbers. For example, 22,000 workers in West Virginia may have a larger impact on the local economy than do 22,000 in California. The proportion of mining laborers employed in each State is a better indicator of the

[3] Data from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Table 5. **States with highest employment and mean hourly wages for mining laborers**

Mining laborer occupation	States with highest—	
	Employment	Mean cross-industry wages
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	Texas, 6,010 Louisiana, 1,990 Oklahoma, 1,300 Pennsylvania, 700	Alaska, $28.23 California, 23.69 Washington, 21.96 Utah, 21.60
Continuous mining machine operators	West Virginia, 1,750 Nevada, 1,370 Pennsylvania, 910 Virginia, 630	Illinois, 22.33 Nevada, 22.25 Wyoming, 21.59 California, 20.04
Roof bolters, mining	West Virginia, 1,200 Kentucky, 1,170 Pennsylvania, 510	Wyoming, 26.51 Colorado, 22.54 Pennsylvania, 20.11
Explosives workers, ordnance handling experts, blasters	Kentucky, 450 Indiana, 390 Oklahoma, 380 Virginia, 310	Connecticut, 24.37 Idaho, 23.96 Wyoming, 22.80 New Mexico, 22.55
Mine cutting and channeling machine operators	Virginia, 750 West Virginia, 620 Pennsylvania, 560 New Mexico, 390	Pennsylvania, 21.16 Kentucky, 19.58 West Virginia, 18.98 Indiana, 18.41
Mining machine operators, all other	California, 320 Alabama, 310 Nevada, 100 Virginia, 80	Nevada, 22.12 California, 21.17 Arkansas, 20.38 Alabama, 19.50
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	Texas, 1,430 California, 910 Illinois, 890 Pennsylvania, 730	Rhode Island, 25.99 Alaska, 24.62 California, 24.61
Extraction workers, all other	Texas, 1,790 Wyoming, 1,690 Louisiana, 1,130	Alaska, 27.42 Idaho, 22.68 California, 21.78
Derrick operators, oil and gas	Texas, 5,390 Louisiana, 1,160 Wyoming, 1,140 Oklahoma, 1,050	Alaska, 21.68 North Dakota, 20.93 Louisiana, 19.76 California, 19.61
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	Texas, 7,870 Louisiana, 2,120 Oklahoma, 1,950 Wyoming, 970	New Mexico, 22.35 Alaska, 20.80 California, 19.65 Colorado, 19.44
Helpers—extraction workers	Texas, 5,640 West Virginia, 1,900 California, 1,790 Pennsylvania, 1,690	Alaska, 25.31 West Virginia, 17.29 Illinois, 16.79 California, 16.29
Rock splitters, quarry	Pennsylvania, 410 Ohio, 300 New York, 250	New York, 16.67 Virginia, 16.16 Missouri, 14.79
Roustabouts, oil and gas	Texas, 16,820 New Mexico, 3,290 Louisiana, 3,020 Oklahoma, 2,220	Alabama, 19.38 Alaska, 18.55 California, 16.38 Wyoming, 16.01

Table 5. **States with highest employment and mean hourly wages for mining laborers—Continued**

Mining laborer occupation	States with highest—	
	Employment	Mean cross-industry wages
Loading machine operators, underground	Kentucky, 380 North Carolina, 170 Illinois, 140	California, 21.46 Indiana, 20.38
Shuttle car operators	West Virginia, 960 Kentucky, 680	Wyoming, 26.60 Colorado, 21.87

prevalence and importance of the mining industry in those geographic areas. The States employing the largest proportion of mining laborers are shown in table 4.

The average wage for mining laborers is influenced by the average wage for all workers in the State, the proportion of the workforce they constitute, and the types of mining laborers in the area. Table 4 shows the relative wages in each State. In addition, as the mining laborers' share of employment increases, their wage, relative to other workers in the State, tends to increase. One exception to this trend is Texas.

The relatively low wages in Texas may be explained by the types of mining laborers in the State. Texas has the largest proportion of relatively low paid roustabouts, a situation that tends to bring down the mining laborer group's average wage. Table 5 shows the States with the highest employment and wages for each of the detailed mining laborer occupations. Contrary to the employment proportions, employment levels are not necessarily reflected in the States with the highest wages.

The 18 States that pay high wages to certain mining laborers, as shown in table 5, are Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Alaska pays the highest mean wages for 4 of the 15 occupations, each in the oil and gas extraction industry. In accordance with the earlier example, 13 of the high-paying States employ a large percentage of mining laborers relative to the percentage employed by the remaining States. The other States with high wages for miners—California, Connecticut, Indiana, New York, and Rhode Island—have relatively high wages for all occupations.

Although State-level evaluations provide valuable information, it may be useful to look at smaller areas because labor markets vary within a given State. The State of New York, for instance, includes New York City as well as rural areas, and wage and employment patterns might be different in each. Individual statewide mean wages also are influenced by the types of workers within the State. The analysis that follows includes a comparison of mining laborer occupations with similar laborer occupations in other industries, by specific geographic area.

Comparison of mining laborers with laborers in similar occupations

In order to address variations within local labor markets and see how occupational composition affects average wages, a comparison of wages of particular occupations employed in specific geographic areas is useful. The laborer occupations selected for comparison are construction laborers; helpers of construction trades; heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; and cashiers. All of these occupations require physical exertion, except perhaps cashiers, and all require minimal training, except construction laborers. Table 6 lists the 89 metropolitan areas for which the OES program publishes employment for all six occupations. Most often, truck drivers have the highest mean wages of the six. Slightly fewer than half of the areas pay higher mean wages to mining laborers than to the other occupations. Only 6 areas pay construction laborers the highest mean wages. A logical conclusion to draw is that mining laborers are paid higher wages than other, lesser skilled occupations, in part because physical exertion demands higher wages, but also because mine workers may be compensated for their unpleasant working conditions.

Summary

Overall, mining is a relatively high wage sector. With the exception of the lowest-paid workers in the mining industry, most occupations are paid higher wages than their counterparts in other industries. The highest-paid workers, such as lawyers, managers, and engineers, are paid higher wages than people in the same occupations in other industries. Mining laborers are paid higher wages than workers in similar occupations in the same geographic area. Even States with low wages overall tend to pay higher wages to mining laborers if those States have a high concentration of such workers. The higher wages may serve as compensation for relatively adverse working conditions.

More information on jobs in the mining sector can be found at **http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_21.htm**. Detailed information about occupational employment and wage estimates at the sector, three-digit, and four-digit industry levels, as well as for States and metropolitan areas, is available on the OES website at **www.bls.gov/oes/**.

Table 6. **Mean wages of occupations similar to mining laborers, by area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Mean hourly wage					
	Mining laborers	Construction laborers	Truck drivers	Hand construction and movers of freight, stock, and material	Cashiers	Helpers of construction
Abilene, TX..	$17.60	$9.56	$15.62	$8.11	$7.08	$11.46
Albuquerque, NM..	12.36	10.19	17.53	9.34	8.30	10.29
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	16.35	13.31	17.55	11.46	7.90	8.35
Amarillo, TX	14.44	9.56	15.70	8.53	7.32	9.82
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA..................	14.70	11.85	18.12	10.67	8.18	8.69
Austin-Round Rock, TX.................................	11.85	10.17	15.08	10.97	8.35	9.69
Baltimore-Towson, MD	15.08	13.35	17.72	11.54	8.79	12.90
Baton Rouge, LA.	15.34	10.93	14.93	9.73	7.10	11.22
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX.	11.42	10.19	14.25	10.34	6.90	10.88
Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, MD Metropolitan Division	8.11	13.62	17.17	11.36	9.34	13.50
Birmingham-Hoover, AL................................	17.03	10.37	16.45	10.05	7.44	13.30
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA.............	17.41	10.78	15.80	11.54	7.42	10.04
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY..............................	22.55	16.59	16.64	11.07	7.75	14.04
Casper, WY	15.62	12.12	18.44	10.50	7.88	11.22
Charleston, WV	18.16	14.96	14.23	10.51	6.61	16.07
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	15.79	11.47	17.86	11.01	8.07	10.50
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL Metropolitan Division	17.05	22.78	20.01	10.46	8.63	17.71
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	16.39	14.96	17.67	10.63	8.32	11.21
College Station-Bryan, TX.............................	16.63	10.04	14.26	7.80	7.33	10.19
Columbia, SC	12.63	11.10	17.39	9.67	7.29	9.35
Columbus, OH...	15.05	15.78	17.92	11.14	8.34	11.15
Corpus Christi, TX	14.11	9.03	12.83	9.49	7.42	8.26
Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX Metropolitan Division	13.98	10.58	18.70	9.82	8.15	9.82
Denver-Aurora, CO.....................................	19.09	13.04	18.47	11.29	9.85	11.02
Evansville, IN-KY..	16.00	13.96	15.46	10.53	7.24	8.67
Farmington, NM..	17.39	10.42	14.80	9.07	8.41	10.32
Fort Smith, AR-OK......................................	13.89	10.82	18.22	9.39	7.18	9.82
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metropolitan Division	14.19	10.04	16.84	10.01	8.07	11.07
Gary, IN Metropolitan Division	25.01	20.63	19.34	11.65	7.79	13.43
Grand Forks, ND-MN...................................	11.42	12.23	14.17	10.23	7.41	8.86
Grand Junction, CO.....................................	17.25	11.70	15.22	10.58	9.15	16.64
Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV.....................	14.86	11.68	18.09	11.83	7.85	10.75
Harrisonburg, VA..	13.51	11.00	17.39	10.57	7.54	11.79
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	21.75	17.43	19.62	12.52	9.35	11.14
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA..................	18.62	11.35	13.10	8.85	6.86	9.70
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX....................	15.50	9.73	16.25	10.97	7.79	10.79
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	17.27	12.58	14.76	9.56	6.87	11.06
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN................................	17.29	15.88	18.86	11.37	8.11	8.52
Jackson, MS...	14.96	9.45	17.76	11.69	7.21	7.74
Jacksonville, FL..	15.76	11.16	18.20	10.95	8.05	8.74
Kansas City, MO-KS....................................	15.86	16.75	18.71	11.60	8.32	11.13
Knoxville, TN...	14.95	12.06	15.63	10.53	7.67	8.93
Lafayette, LA..	16.83	10.40	14.05	9.31	6.67	9.53
Lake Charles, LA..	15.85	10.42	14.00	9.73	6.66	12.20
Lakeland, FL..	18.12	9.66	16.22	9.29	7.59	8.83
Lexington-Fayette, KY	14.70	11.20	17.51	10.66	8.29	12.12
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division	18.58	14.97	17.08	10.66	9.61	12.00
Lubbock, TX	9.28	9.01	16.19	8.68	7.21	12.28
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	15.21	10.84	17.24	11.31	7.96	9.17
Midland, TX	13.61	9.51	13.57	8.56	8.45	9.88
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	17.54	22.04	18.97	13.69	8.94	12.73
Nashua, NH-MA NECTA1 Division	17.33	12.80	19.22	14.15	8.69	11.28
Nashville-Davidson–Murfreesboro, TN................	13.86	12.34	17.52	10.40	8.36	6.75
Nassau-Suffolk, NY Metropolitan Division...........................	17.61	20.72	21.01	11.46	8.69	9.64
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA......................	16.81	11.01	13.72	9.64	7.04	10.07
New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	17.88	21.35	19.84	11.48	8.96	17.44
Newark-Union, NJ-PA Metropolitan Division	20.58	20.49	18.82	11.21	8.56	11.36

See footnote at end of table.

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Table 6. **Mean wages of occupations similar to mining laborers, by area—Continued**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Mean hourly wage					
	Mining laborers	Construction laborers	Truck drivers	Hand construction and movers of freight, stock, and material	Cashiers	Helpers of construction
Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA Metropolitan Division	20.32	19.35	19.67	12.68	10.78	10.77
Odessa, TX..	74.10	8.81	15.28	9.90	6.94	9.47
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	17.37	12.67	17.00	10.64	8.36	10.64
Orlando-Kissimmee, FL..	15.26	10.51	15.51	9.96	8.13	14.63
Philadelphia, PA Metropolitan Division	18.10	17.40	18.42	12.38	8.36	9.93
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	15.52	13.07	18.29	10.60	9.12	10.90
Pittsburgh, PA..	16.24	16.49	16.27	11.22	7.21	13.26
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	17.12	16.74	17.39	11.59	10.07	11.20
Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA	19.74	17.24	17.99	11.13	8.73	10.58
Raleigh-Cary, NC..	13.75	11.03	15.91	10.32	8.05	11.30
Richmond, VA...	15.78	10.50	17.51	11.54	8.01	11.54
Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, CA.............	17.88	15.55	18.09	11.19	10.09	15.03
Salem, OR..	13.55	16.05	15.52	10.84	9.72	10.32
Salt Lake City, UT..	20.19	11.85	18.74	10.40	8.65	9.79
San Antonio, TX...	12.94	8.77	14.57	8.94	7.68	10.20
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA....................	20.71	16.50	18.31	10.39	9.69	12.63
San Juan-Caguas-Guaynabo, PR...........................	8.58	6.51	7.43	7.33	6.13	7.92
Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, CA Metropolitan Division	18.93	14.65	18.16	10.17	9.67	13.35
Scranton–Wilkes-Barre, PA....................................	15.44	14.05	17.09	11.23	7.46	10.00
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA Metropolitan Division	27.32	16.31	18.91	12.17	11.43	13.69
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA...................................	17.20	9.80	16.10	8.85	6.98	9.34
Springfield, MA-CT	17.60	17.33	18.29	12.09	8.92	9.84
St. Louis, MO-IL...	16.84	19.03	18.04	11.62	8.66	14.25
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL....................	15.09	11.33	15.27	9.09	7.94	8.90
Tucson, AZ	16.98	11.39	17.63	9.75	8.94	12.52
Tulsa, OK...	15.42	10.67	16.85	9.95	7.64	8.57
Tyler, TX	15.79	9.38	16.52	10.23	7.25	10.58
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA...	21.47	17.61	18.52	11.18	10.29	10.30
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	18.11	10.42	15.36	9.94	7.41	10.53
Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI Metropolitan Division	17.22	17.33	19.41	14.74	9.06	16.16
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division	17.23	13.07	17.55	11.54	9.03	15.54
Wheeling, WV-OH	17.64	17.36	16.54	8.75	7.31	11.77
Wichita, KS..	14.29	10.30	15.83	9.55	7.70	7.05

[1] NECTA = New England City and Town Area.