

Occupational Employment and Wages, 1999



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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) occupational employment and wage estimates across all industries, as well as by industry. The tables highlight OES data for particular occupations, industries, States, and MSAs. Data are presented for Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) detailed occupations and major occupational groups. Data for additional occupations, industries, and areas are available at <http://stats.bls.gov/oeshome.htm>. The data are based on information collected during 1997, 1998, and 1999 surveys and are adjusted to full universe counts for the fourth-quarter 1999 reference period based on the Covered Employment and Wages program (except for data from New Jersey, which have a fourth-quarter 1998 reference period).

For many years, the OES survey has been a major source for detailed occupational employment data by industry for the Nation, States, and metropolitan areas. The OES survey is an annual mail survey collecting occupational employment and its distribution by wage interval for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments by industry. The survey samples approximately 400,000 establishments per year, taking 3 years to fully collect data from the sample of 1.2 million establishments.

Due to the shift to the SOC system, employment estimates are based only on the data collected in the 1999 survey. Wage estimates for detailed occupations whose descriptions changed under the SOC are based only on data collected in the 1999 survey, while wage estimates for de-

tailed occupations unaffected by implementation of the SOC are based on data collected in the 1997, 1998, and 1999 surveys. For these reasons, data from 1997 and 1998 are not strictly comparable with data from the 1999 survey. (For further details, see appendix B.)

This annual 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 employment security offices, and for personnel planning and market research conducted by private enterprises.

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Introduction

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey collects data on occupational employment and wages of wage and salary workers by industry in nonfarm establishments. The program is a Federal-State cooperative effort between the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). BLS provides technical assistance and the statistical procedures for the survey; the SESAs collect the data.

Articles presented in this bulletin were prepared using OES occupational employment and wage estimates. The articles cover topics such as cross-industry and industry-specific occupational employment and wages, occupational wage distributions, and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) major occupational group employment and wages by industry and across industries. The tables in this bulletin present national, State, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and industry employment and wage data for detailed occupations. The industry data are identified based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The occupational data are identified based on the SOC system. Under the SOC system, workers are classified in 1 of more than 760 occupations.

Cross-industry national employment and wage data for each occupation are shown in table 1. The table displays national employment, hourly mean wage, annual mean wage, and percentile wages for each detailed occupation.

Table 2 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 for 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 data in table 1, which are based on data from all industries. Occupations such as teachers, however, occur in only a few or, in some cases, only one industry. The employment ranks and wage ranks for the industry data refer to the industry's employment or wage estimate for a given occupation relative to comparable data for the same occupation in other industries. In other words, the industry with employment rank 1 has the largest number of workers in the designated occupation; that with employment rank 2 has the second-largest number of workers, and

so forth. Likewise, the industry with a wage rank of 1 is the highest paying industry for workers in the designated occupation; a wage rank of 4 represents the fourth-highest paying industry for the occupation. In addition, table 2 presents State and MSA employment and wage estimates for the five areas with the highest relative employment and the five areas in which workers in the given occupation earn the highest wages. The relative employment is the percentage of total State 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. For data involving absolute employment, please see Douglas K. Himes, “Occupational Employment and Wages by State,” elsewhere in this publication.

In 1999, 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 SESAs 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 its 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. Employment totals for all industries surveyed reflect employment levels in each industry for the survey reference months listed in appendix B. Appendix B provides more complete definitions of terms and statistical concepts.

National, State, and MSA data across surveyed industries are available on the OES website at <http://stats.bls.gov/oeshome.htm>. National occupational employment data for all occupations at the two-digit and more detailed three-digit SIC levels also are available on the website. Additional information about the structure of the OES classification system is provided in appendix A of this bulletin. Definitions for all occupations are available upon request on the Standard Occupational Classification website at http://stats.bls.gov/soc/soc_home.htm.

