

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
Dallas, Texas

For release: Wednesday, April 18, 2012

12-700-DAL

Contact information: (972) 850-4800 • BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro6

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN DALLAS-FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON, MAY 2011

Workers in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.19 in May 2011, roughly 2 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including sales and related and architecture and engineering. Six other groups had wages that were measurably lower than their respective national averages; included in this grouping were construction and extraction, as well as production.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Dallas area employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups including office and administrative support, computer and mathematical, and sales and related. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included healthcare practitioners and technical, healthcare support, and community and social service. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group – business and financial operations – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Dallas had 154,790 jobs in business and financial operations, accounting for 5.3 percent of local area employment, significantly above the national share of 4.8 percent. The average hourly wage for this occupational group was \$33.97, about 3 percent above the national average of \$33.05.

With employment of 26,400, accountants and auditors was the largest occupation within the business and financial operations group. Among the higher paying jobs were management analysts and financial analysts, with mean hourly wages of \$44.12 and \$40.06, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were meeting, convention, and event planners (\$22.62) and credit counselors (\$18.36). (Detailed occupational data for the business and financial operations group are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19100.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the detailed occupations within the business and financial operations group. For instance, credit analysts were employed at 1.6 times the national rate in Dallas, and credit counselors and auto damage insurance appraisers, at twice the U.S. average. On the other hand, cost estimators had a location quotient of 1.0 in Dallas, meaning the local employment share in this particular occupation matched the national average.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	United States	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$22.19 *	2
Management	4.8	5.1 *	51.64	52.94 *	3
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.3 *	33.05	33.97 *	3
Computer and mathematical	2.7	3.7 *	37.85	39.17 *	3
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.2 *	37.08	38.84 *	5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	32.44	33.79	4
Community and social service	1.5	0.8 *	21.07	22.84 *	8
Legal	0.8	0.7 *	47.30	47.99	1
Education, training, and library	6.6	6.1 *	24.46	24.44	0
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2 *	25.89	23.58 *	-9
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.0 *	34.97	34.66	-1
Healthcare support	3.1	2.3 *	13.16	13.17	0
Protective service	2.5	2.2 *	20.54	19.88	-3
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.2 *	10.30	9.71 *	-6
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.6 *	12.29	11.15 *	-9
Personal care and service	2.8	2.4 *	11.84	11.49	-3
Sales and related	10.6	11.5 *	18.04	19.92 *	10
Office and administrative support	16.7	18.6 *	16.40	16.82 *	3
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.22	5
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.1 *	21.46	17.66 *	-18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.9	20.86	20.08 *	-4
Production	6.5	6.2 *	16.45	15.10 *	-8
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.1 *	15.96	16.44	3

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

¹ A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and nearly 800 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas.

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

NOTE: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the May 2011 survey was 77.3 percent based on establishments and 73.3 percent based on employment. May 2011 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2011, November 2010, May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, and November 2008. The sample in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area included 13,695 establishments with a response rate of 64 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2011 OES estimates are based in part on data collected using the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Nearly all the occupations in this release are 2010 SOC occupations; however, some are not. The May 2012 OES data will reflect the full set of detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC. For a list of all occupations, including 2010 SOC occupations, and how data collected on two structures were combined, see the OES Frequently Asked Questions online at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro6. If you have additional questions, contact the Southwest Information Office at 972-850-4800. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ¹	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ²	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Business and financial operations occupations	154,790	1.1	\$33.97	70,660
Agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes	130	0.5	35.94	74,760
Buyers and purchasing agents, farm products	120	0.5	32.91	68,460
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	3,320	1.4	29.27	60,880
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	7,230	1.2	29.56	61,490
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	8,170	1.4	28.47	59,210
Insurance appraisers, auto damage	490	2.0	26.96	56,070
Compliance officers	5,130	1.1	31.12	64,730
Cost estimators	4,040	1.0	30.74	63,930
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists, all other*	10,140	1.0	30.24	62,900
Logisticians	3,480	1.4	36.38	75,670
Management analysts	11,440	0.9	44.12	91,770
Meeting, convention, and event planners*	1,660	1.2	22.62	47,060
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	2,840	1.3	31.10	64,700
Training and development specialists	5,570	1.2	30.58	63,600
Market research analysts and marketing specialists*	7,220	1.0	32.17	66,900
Business operations specialists, all other*	22,170	1.0	36.90	76,750
Accountants and auditors	26,400	1.1	35.31	73,450
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	1,900	1.4	33.52	69,720
Budget analysts	1,250	1.0	33.10	68,840
Credit analysts	2,130	1.6	36.28	75,460
Financial analysts	7,060	1.4	40.06	83,320
Personal financial advisors	4,220	1.2	39.30	81,750
Insurance underwriters	2,570	1.2	32.26	67,100
Financial examiners	810	1.3	44.72	93,020
Credit counselors	1,290	2.0	18.36	38,180
Loan officers	8,690	1.4	30.48	63,400
Tax examiners and collectors, and revenue agents	710	0.5	34.40	71,560
Tax preparers	950	0.7	19.00	39,520
Financial specialists, all other	3,650	1.1	30.55	63,550

¹ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19100.htm.

² Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately.

³ The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

⁴ Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

* Occupation titles followed by an asterisk (*) have similar titles, but not necessarily the same content as 2010 SOC occupations.