

Notes on logging wages as used in the Billion-Ton Study update, spring 2008

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The data on logging wages have been taken from a website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=en>, which provides a search engine for accessing the BLS database. This is shown in the screen image below.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=en

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages HELP

1 Select a State or MSA or US Total

Alabama

2 Select one or more Areas Find

Alabama -- Statewide

Autauga County, Alabama

Baldwin County, Alabama

Barbour County, Alabama

Bibb County, Alabama

Blount County, Alabama

3 Select one or more Industries 11310 Logging Find

NAICS 11311 Timber tract operations

NAICS 11310 Timber tract operations

NAICS 1132 Forest nursery and gathering forest

NAICS 11321 Forest nursery and gathering fc

NAICS 113210 Forest nursery and gatherir

NAICS 1133 Logging

NAICS 11331 Logging

NAICS 113310 Logging

NAICS 114 Fishing, hunting and trapping

4 Select one or more Ownerships

Private

5 Select one or more Establishment Sizes

All establishment sizes

6 Select one or more Data Types

Total Wages (in thousands)

Average Weekly Wage

Average Annual Pay

7 Get Data

OR for Multiple Queries

Add To Your Selection ->

Your Selection: (0 series selected) NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.

Done

Procedure:

1. Select the state of interest. Alabama is shown above.
2. If desired, select one or more counties (hold down the Control key while clicking with the mouse to make multiple selections), or select the statewide average.
3. Choose the desired NAICS code. 113310 is for logging wages. There is no specific code for log transport. NAICS code 484 is for freight truck transportation, and it is further broken down into local and long-distance transportation. If you type NAICS 484 in the box adjacent to the number 3 in the window and then click the “Find” button it will locate that entry.
4. Make the desired selections in the 4, 5, and 6 boxes. I used Average Annual Pay as the indicator on the theory that incorporates downtimes that occur over the course of the year. For another purpose it might be better to use Average Weekly Wage.
5. Click the “Get Data” button. This will open a new window showing the data for a series of years, in most cases 2001-2006.
6. To get data for multiple states at one time, modify the above procedure as follows:

- (a) Make a selection as above for the first state. However, instead of clicking the “Get Data” button, click the “Add to Your Selection” button (even for the first state, which doesn’t yet have anything shown in the selection box).
- (b) Select a new state, click on the “Statewide” entry in box 2, then click the “Find” button in box 3 to re-establish the proper NAICS code. The other entries should all have stayed selected; if not, select them again. Then click the “Add to Your Selection” button.
- (c) After all of the desired series have been selected (a maximum of 200 is permitted), click the “Get Data” button. A new window will open with the data for all of the selected series. These data can then be copied state-by-state and pasted into a spreadsheet or other document.

Observations

1. **Add a factor for benefits.** The BLS data do not include benefits. For the Billion-Ton Study update we used a figure of 35% for the entire country and thus multiplied the wage data by 1.35. This could be done on a state-by-state data if you have information on benefit rates by the individual states.
2. **Using the statewide averages** is more reliable than attempting to get data on a county-by-county basis. Any county that only has a few loggers will report the data as not available due to nondisclosure requirements.
3. **Nondisclosure limitations.** Some states do not have sufficient logging capacity to be reported. For the Billion-Ton Study update we encountered this with six states. The list below shows how we handled this issue for those six states.
 - (a) Delaware—use data from Pennsylvania
 - (b) Hawaii—use data from California
 - (c) Kansas—use data from Missouri
 - (d) Nevada—use data from Utah
 - (e) North Dakota—use data from Minnesota
 - (f) Rhode Island—use data from Connecticut