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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN SAN ANTONIO-NEW BRAUNFELS MAY 2011

Workers in the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.52 in May 2011, roughly 10 percent below 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, no wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 22 major occupational groups. Sixteen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal, management, and construction and extraction.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, San Antonio employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including food preparation and serving related, office and administrative support, and personal care and service. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, transportation and material moving, and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group – office and administrative support – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. San Antonio had 149,670 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.7 percent of local area employment, significantly above the national share of 16.7 percent. However, at \$15.43 per hour, the local average hourly wage for this occupational group was about six percent below the national average of \$16.40.

With employment of 22,560, customer service representatives was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by general office clerks (20,030) and secretaries and administrative assistants, excluding legal, medical, and executive (13,190). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers and executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, with mean hourly wages of \$25.38 and \$21.70, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were stock clerks and order fillers (\$11.62) and hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.10). (Detailed occupational data for the office and administrative support group are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41700.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 San Antonio-New Braunfels metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in a number of the detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, medical secretaries were employed at nearly twice the national rate in San Antonio, and credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks at nearly four times the U.S. average. On the other hand, tellers had a location quotient of 1.0 in San Antonio, 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 San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	San Antonio-New Braunfels	United States	San Antonio-New Braunfels	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$19.52 *	-10
Management	4.8	4.1 *	51.64	45.91 *	-11
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.0	33.05	31.21 *	-6
Computer and mathematical	2.7	2.6	37.85	35.68 *	-6
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5 *	37.08	35.63	-4
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	32.44	32.10	-1
Community and social service	1.5	1.2 *	21.07	20.95	-1
Legal	0.8	0.6 *	47.30	35.75 *	-24
Education, training, and library	6.6	6.9 *	24.46	24.28	-1
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.0 *	25.89	20.85 *	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.4	34.97	33.76	-3
Healthcare support	3.1	3.4 *	13.16	12.08 *	-8
Protective service	2.5	2.5	20.54	18.84 *	-8
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	10.4 *	10.30	9.60 *	-7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.5	12.29	10.57 *	-14
Personal care and service	2.8	3.5 *	11.84	9.79 *	-17
Sales and related	10.6	10.6	18.04	16.32 *	-10
Office and administrative support	16.7	17.7 *	16.40	15.43 *	-6
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	11.13	-5
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.0	21.46	16.45 *	-23
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3 *	20.86	17.94 *	-14
Production	6.5	4.5 *	16.45	14.12 *	-14
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.5 *	15.96	13.66 *	-14

* 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 Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown 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 San Antonio-New Braunfels 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 San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,775 establishments with a response rate of 69 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 **San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texas, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson 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, San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ¹	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ²	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Office and administrative support occupations	149,670	1.1	\$15.43	\$32,090
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	10,320	1.2	25.38	52,780
Switchboard operators, including answering service	1,250	1.4	11.64	24,210
Telephone operators	170	1.7	(5)	(5)
Bill and account collectors	2,740	1.1	15.82	32,910
Billing and posting clerks	3,840	1.2	14.89	30,970
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	9,290	0.9	16.88	35,100
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	1,120	1.0	16.34	33,980
Procurement clerks	600	1.3	18.49	38,470
Tellers	3,690	1.0	12.03	25,030
Brokerage clerks	140	0.4	18.33	38,130
Correspondence clerks	60	1.1	16.22	33,740
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks	1,270	3.8	13.98	29,090
Customer service representatives	22,560	1.6	14.19	29,520
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	240	0.3	17.12	35,600
File clerks	1,490	1.4	12.43	25,850
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	1,660	1.1	9.10	18,940
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	1,810	1.4	13.79	28,680
Library assistants, clerical	560	0.8	11.91	24,770
Loan interviewers and clerks	1,840	1.5	20.15	41,920
New accounts clerks	690	1.7	15.00	31,190
Order clerks	810	0.6	12.63	26,270
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	1,230	1.3	17.43	36,260
Receptionists and information clerks	5,370	0.8	11.79	24,520
Reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks	510	0.6	15.51	32,260
Information and record clerks, all other	1,790	1.4	17.31	36,010
Cargo and freight agents	570	1.1	19.78	41,140
Couriers and messengers	520	1.0	12.36	25,710
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	550	0.9	15.51	32,250
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	1,060	0.9	16.34	34,000
Meter readers, utilities	250	0.9	13.75	28,600
Postal service clerks	260	0.6	25.64	53,330
Postal service mail carriers	1,600	0.8	24.92	51,830
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	740	0.8	23.51	48,910
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	2,110	1.2	16.21	33,720
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	3,520	0.8	13.92	28,950
Stock clerks and order fillers	10,870	0.9	11.62	24,180
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	240	0.5	11.93	24,810
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	6,370	1.0	21.70	45,140
Legal secretaries	1,040	0.7	17.15	35,670
Medical secretaries	5,480	1.7	13.55	28,190
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	13,190	1.0	15.20	31,620
Computer operators	360	0.7	18.07	37,580
Data entry keyers	1,490	1.1	12.81	26,640
Word processors and typists	300	0.5	16.33	33,970
Desktop publishers	80	0.6	17.71	36,830
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	1,170	0.8	15.50	32,230
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	510	0.7	12.01	24,970
Office clerks, general	20,030	1.1	13.07	27,190
Office machine operators, except computer	(5)	(5)	15.09	31,380
Proofreaders and copy markers	50	0.7	12.01	24,970
Office and administrative support workers, all other*	450	0.3	17.31	36,000

¹ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the San Antonio MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41700.htm.

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

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.

⁵ Estimates not available.

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