

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN DENVER-AURORA-BROOMFIELD, MAY 2011

Workers in the Denver-Aurora-Broomfield Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$24.19 in May 2011, about 11 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 15 of the 22 major occupational groups, including sales and related, management, and healthcare support. Only one group had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages: construction and extraction.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 9 of the 22 occupational groups, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and sales and related. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; education, training, and library; and transportation and material moving. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Denver-Aurora-Broomfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Denver	United States	Denver	Percent difference ^[1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$24.19 *	11
Management	4.8	4.5 *	51.64	57.61 *	12
Business and financial operations	4.8	7.7 *	33.05	34.47 *	4
Computer and mathematical	2.7	4.6 *	37.85	39.30 *	4
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.4 *	37.08	39.53 *	7
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.0 *	32.44	35.34 *	9
Community and social service	1.5	1.1 *	21.07	22.05 *	5
Legal	0.8	1.2 *	47.30	50.42 *	7
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.3 *	24.46	25.76 *	5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.8 *	25.89	25.49	-2
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.0 *	34.97	37.31 *	7
Healthcare support	3.1	2.5 *	13.16	14.49 *	10
Protective service	2.5	2.4	20.54	21.01	2
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.0 *	10.30	10.50	2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.2	12.29	12.04	-2
Personal care and service	2.8	2.8	11.84	12.56 *	6
Sales and related	10.6	11.4 *	18.04	21.29 *	18
Office and administrative support	16.7	16.5	16.40	18.11 *	10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.52 *	7
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.2 *	21.46	20.61 *	-4
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8	20.86	21.96 *	5
Production	6.5	3.8 *	16.45	17.36 *	6
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.7 *	15.96	17.11 *	7

* 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 Denver is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

One occupational group—business and financial operations—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Denver-Aurora-Broomfield had 92,300 jobs in business and financial operations, accounting for 7.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$34.47, measurably above the national wage of \$33.05.

With employment of 20,260, accountants and auditors was one of the largest occupations within the business and financial operations group, as were management analysts (5,330) and training and development specialists (3,010). Among the higher paying jobs were financial examiners and financial analysts, with mean hourly wages of \$41.11 and \$39.22, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were meeting, convention, and event planners (\$26.11). (Detailed occupational data for business and financial operations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19740.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 Denver-Aurora-Broomfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the business and financial operations group. For instance, accountants and auditors were employed at 2.0 times the national rate in Denver, and training and development specialists, at 1.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, management analysts had a location quotient of 1.1 in Denver, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

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 Colorado Department of Labor & Employment. 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 Denver 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 also are 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 Denver-Aurora-Broomfield Metropolitan Statistical Area included 6,733 establishments with a response rate of 75 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2011 OES estimates mark the first set of estimates 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 **Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, Colo. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson and Park Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro7/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Mountain-Plains Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (816) 285-7000. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1 (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Denver-Aurora-Broomfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ^[1]	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[2]	Location quotient ^[3]	Hourly	Annual ^[4]
Business and financial operations occupations	92,300	1.6	\$34.47	\$71,700
Buyers and purchasing agents, farm products	40	0.4	39.95	83,100
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	860	0.9	23.81	49,520
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	3,610	1.4	32.99	68,630
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	2,690	1.1	32.10	66,760
Insurance appraisers, auto damage	130	1.3	27.08	56,330
Compliance officers	2,360	1.2	32.90	68,430
Cost estimators	2,450	1.4	30.95	64,370
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists, all other*	4,850	1.2	32.65	67,910
Logisticians	1,250	1.2	35.10	73,000
Management analysts	5,330	1.1	38.87	80,840
Meeting, convention, and event planners*	880	1.5	26.11	54,310
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	990	1.1	32.60	67,800
Training and development specialists	3,010	1.6	28.89	60,090
Market research analysts and marketing specialists*	3,440	1.2	34.98	72,750
Business operations specialists, all other*	24,400	2.7	34.08	70,880
Accountants and auditors	20,260	2.0	36.14	75,160
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	580	1.0	29.22	60,770
Budget analysts	800	1.5	36.12	75,120
Credit analysts	610	1.1	31.94	66,440
Financial analysts	2,560	1.2	39.22	81,590
Personal financial advisors	[5]	[5]	37.82	78,670
Insurance underwriters	1,000	1.2	32.07	66,700
Financial examiners	380	1.4	41.11	85,520
Credit counselors	210	0.8	25.15	52,320
Loan officers	3,870	1.5	37.10	77,160
Tax preparers	[5]	[5]	25.47	52,980
Financial specialists, all other	1,660	1.2	33.15	68,960

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_19740.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] Estimate not released.

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