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Atlanta, Ga.

**For release: Tuesday, August 28, 2012**

12-1626-ATL

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## **OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MACON, MAY 2011**

Workers in the Macon Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.22 in May 2011, about 16 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 20 of the 22 major occupational groups including construction and extraction, protective service, and sales and related.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 4 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support, and healthcare practitioners and technical. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, business and financial operations, and transportation and material moving. (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. Macon had 18,220 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 19.9 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 16.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$14.45, measurably below the national wage of \$16.40.

With employment of 2,210, general office clerks was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by customer service representatives (1,840) and stock clerks and order fillers (1,460). 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 \$23.14 and \$19.35, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were stock clerks and order fillers (\$10.36) and general office clerks (\$11.20). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_31420.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31420.htm).)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Macon	United States	Macon	Percent difference (1)
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$18.22 *	-16
Management	4.8	4.2 *	51.64	45.10 *	-13
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.7 *	33.05	27.48 *	-17
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.3 *	37.85	29.66 *	-22
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.9 *	37.08	34.12 *	-8
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.2 *	32.44	26.56 *	-18
Community and social service	1.5	1.8	21.07	17.52 *	-17
Legal	0.8	0.8	47.30	32.57 *	-31
Education, training, and library	6.6	6.9	24.46	20.49 *	-16
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.6 *	25.89	17.24 *	-33
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	9.0 *	34.97	30.89 *	-12
Healthcare support	3.1	3.0	13.16	12.10 *	-8
Protective service	2.5	3.2 *	20.54	15.22 *	-26
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.1 *	10.30	8.96 *	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	12.29	10.03 *	-18
Personal care and service	2.8	2.2 *	11.84	9.42 *	-20
Sales and related	10.6	12.7 *	18.04	14.14 *	-22
Office and administrative support	16.7	19.9 *	16.40	14.45 *	-12
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.3	11.68	13.77 *	18
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.5 *	21.46	15.80 *	-26
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	20.86	18.99 *	-9
Production	6.5	4.5 *	16.45	16.97	3
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.7 *	15.96	13.40 *	-16

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Macon is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

\* 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.

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 Macon Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, insurance claims and policy processing clerks were employed at 7.7 times the national rate in Macon, and dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance, at 4.0 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks had a location quotient of 1.0 in Macon, 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 Georgia Department of Labor. 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 Macon 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 Macon Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,261 establishments with a response rate of 86 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41).

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.

### **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 **Macon, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bibb, Crawford, Jones, Monroe, and Twiggs Counties.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Macon Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Office and administrative support occupations	18,220	1.2	\$14.45	\$30,060
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	1,260	1.3	23.14	48,140
Switchboard operators, including answering service	140	1.5	11.51	23,940
Bill and account collectors	780	2.8	14.35	29,850
Billing and posting clerks	610	1.8	14.17	29,470
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,200	1.0	15.16	31,540
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	100	0.8	13.97	29,070
Procurement clerks	30	0.6	16.64	34,620
Tellers	380	1.0	11.74	24,420
Court, municipal, and license clerks	(5)	(5)	14.66	30,480
Customer service representatives	1,840	1.2	14.83	30,850
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	(5)	(5)	18.06	37,570
File clerks	210	1.8	11.00	22,890
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	260	1.6	8.53	17,750
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	200	1.4	14.22	29,580
Library assistants, clerical	50	0.7	11.85	24,640
Loan interviewers and clerks	50	0.4	15.33	31,880
Order clerks	40	0.3	15.21	31,630
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	80	0.8	16.88	35,110
Receptionists and information clerks	780	1.1	11.39	23,690
Information and record clerks, all other	90	0.7	15.87	33,020
Couriers and messengers	70	1.2	11.10	23,080
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	150	2.2	13.85	28,810
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	520	4.0	12.07	25,100
Meter readers, utilities	40	1.4	16.58	34,480
Postal service clerks	40	0.9	25.80	53,670
Postal service mail carriers	230	1.0	24.12	50,160
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	210	2.1	24.31	50,560
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	260	1.3	17.98	37,400
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	470	1.0	13.69	28,470
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,460	1.2	10.36	21,540
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	40	0.8	12.25	25,480
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	560	0.8	19.35	40,250
Legal secretaries	150	0.9	17.87	37,160
Medical secretaries	650	1.8	14.52	30,210
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	1,110	0.8	14.00	29,120
Computer operators	50	0.9	16.45	34,210
Data entry keyers	150	1.0	12.18	25,340
Word processors and typists	50	0.8	11.82	24,590
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	1,200	7.7	15.16	31,520
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	40	0.5	12.33	25,640
Office clerks, general	2,210	1.1	11.20	23,300
Office and administrative support workers, all other	70	0.4	14.18	29,500

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Macon, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_31420.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31420.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.