

Introduction

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey provides estimates of occupational employment and wages for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments by industry and area. This is the second bulletin in which data are provided for industries defined according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Also, in 2002 the employment reference period was changed to the 2-month average in order to capture seasonal fluctuations in occupational employment. The OES survey used to have a fourth-quarter reference period, but the data are now collected twice a year for the reference months of May and November.

The tables in this bulletin present national, State, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and industry employment and wage data for detailed occupations. The occupational data are identified based on the Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC). Under the SOC, workers are classified into 22 major occupational groups and 801 detailed occupations. For each major occupational group and detailed occupation, table 1 shows cross-industry national estimates of employment, hourly mean wage, annual mean wage, and percentile wages.

Table 2 shows the 10 largest occupations in each 4-digit NAICS industry. Table 3 presents a sample of the data available from the OES survey, including national industry-specific and State and MSA cross-industry employment and wage data for the five largest occupations in each SOC major group. The industry data are national industry-specific data for both the five industries with the greatest employment and the five industries with the highest wages for a given occupation. These differ from the national estimates in table 1, which are based on data from all industries. In addition, table 3 presents State and MSA employment and wage estimates for the five areas with the highest employment con-

centration in the occupation and the five areas in which workers in the given occupation earn the highest wages.

In 2004, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands participated in the survey. Data for the territories are not included in the national estimates. Industry-specific occupational employment and wage estimates for each participating State and territory are available from the State workforce agencies (SWAs) listed on the inside back cover of this bulletin.

The estimates are based on data collected during the 2001-2004 surveys and are adjusted to reflect total industry employment for the reference period. The reference period for wage data is May 2004. The reference period for employment is the average of May 2004 and November 2003 employment, based on information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Covered Employment and Wages program.

Mean wage is the estimated total wages for an occupation divided by the occupation's weighted survey employment. Occupations or industries with fewer than 50 workers are not released. Employment estimates with a relative error greater than 50 percent are not shown. Wage estimates with a relative error greater than 30 percent are not shown. Appendix B provides more complete definitions of terms and statistical concepts.

National, State, and MSA data across surveyed industries are available on the OES Web site at www.bls.gov/oes/. National occupational employment data for all occupations by industry sector and at the three-digit, four-digit, and selected five-digit NAICS levels also are available on the Web site. Additional information about the structure of the OES classification system is provided in appendix A of this bulletin. Definitions for all occupations are available on the Standard Occupational Classification Web site at www.bls.gov/soc/.