

Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2004



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Preface

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in non-farm establishments by industry and area. The OES program produces occupational employment and wage estimates by industry at the national level, as well as national, State, and metropolitan area cross-industry estimates.

The OES program is a Federal-State cooperative effort between State workforce agencies (SWAs) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). BLS provides technical assistance and the statistical procedures for the survey; the SWAs collect the data. For many years, the OES survey has been a major source of detailed occupational employment data by industry for the Nation, for States, and for metropolitan areas. This survey provides information for many data users, including individuals and organizations engaged in planning vocational education programs, higher education, and employment and training programs. OES data also are used

to prepare information for career counseling, for job placement activities performed at SWAs, and for personnel planning and market research conducted by private enterprises.

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