

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
Kansas City, Mo.

For release: Thursday, August 23, 2012

12-1749-KAN

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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN
ST. LOUIS, MAY 2011**

Workers in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.26 in May 2011, about 2 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, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 3 of the 22 major occupational groups. Thirteen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; healthcare practitioners and technical; and legal.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical, food preparation and serving related, and computer and mathematical. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; production; 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 St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	St. Louis	United States	St. Louis	Percent difference ^[1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$21.26 *	-2
Management	4.8	4.9	51.64	47.85 *	-7
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.1 *	33.05	31.78 *	-4
Computer and mathematical	2.7	3.5 *	37.85	35.88 *	-5
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7 *	37.08	35.80	-3
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	32.44	29.09 *	-10
Community and social service	1.5	1.3 *	21.07	19.91 *	-6
Legal	0.8	0.7 *	47.30	42.43 *	-10
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.8 *	24.46	22.97 *	-6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.3	25.89	21.73 *	-16
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.8 *	34.97	31.11 *	-11
Healthcare support	3.1	3.1	13.16	12.41 *	-6
Protective service	2.5	2.3 *	20.54	18.92 *	-8
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.6 *	10.30	9.81 *	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	12.29	11.99	-2
Personal care and service	2.8	3.0	11.84	10.90 *	-8
Sales and related	10.6	10.5	18.04	17.77	-1
Office and administrative support	16.7	16.3	16.40	16.25	-1
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.98 *	11
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.2 *	21.46	26.90 *	25
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.7	20.86	21.07	1
Production	6.5	6.0 *	16.45	17.71 *	8
Transportation and material moving	6.7	6.3 *	15.96	15.89	0

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

One occupational group—healthcare practitioners and technical—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. St. Louis had 86,620 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical, accounting for 6.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.9-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$31.11, measurably below the national wage of \$34.97.

With employment of 36,190, registered nurses was the largest occupation within the healthcare practitioners and technical group, followed by licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (7,890) and pharmacy technicians (4,040). Among the higher paying jobs were general internists and family and general practitioners, with mean hourly wages of \$105.16 and \$93.44, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were psychiatric technicians (\$11.87) and dispensing opticians (\$13.59). (Detailed occupational data for healthcare practitioners and technical are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41180.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 St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, psychiatric technicians were employed at 2.3 times the national rate in St. Louis. On the other hand, pharmacists had a location quotient of 1.0 in St. Louis, 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 Missouri Department of Economic Development. 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 St. Louis 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 St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 8,206 establishments with a response rate of 74 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 **St. Louis, Mo. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Louis city, Warren, and Washington Counties of Missouri and Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties of Illinois.

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, St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ^[1]	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[2]	Location quotient ^[3]	Hourly	Annual ^[4]
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	86,620	1.2	\$31.11	\$64,700
Chiropractors	310	1.1	42.38	88,150
Dentists, general	890	1.0	72.20	150,170
Orthodontists	[5]	[5]	[6]	[6]
Dietitians and nutritionists	460	0.8	23.39	48,650
Optometrists	350	1.3	48.51	100,890
Pharmacists	2,730	1.0	51.40	106,910
Anesthesiologists	380	1.1	117.17	243,720
Family and general practitioners	1,150	1.1	93.44	194,360
Internists, general	500	1.1	105.16	218,730
Obstetricians and gynecologists	170	0.8	77.90	162,030
Pediatricians, general	230	0.8	85.65	178,160
Psychiatrists	160	0.7	68.12	141,690
Surgeons	290	0.7	[6]	[6]
Physicians and surgeons, all other	3,310	1.1	71.14	147,980
Physician assistants	500	0.6	32.83	68,290
Podiatrists	100	1.1	63.76	132,620
Registered nurses*	36,190	1.3	29.02	60,370
Occupational therapists	1,230	1.2	32.52	67,630
Physical therapists	1,950	1.1	33.86	70,420
Radiation therapists	150	0.8	34.67	72,110
Recreational therapists	190	1.0	19.74	41,060
Respiratory therapists	1,250	1.1	24.58	51,130
Speech-language pathologists	1,340	1.2	35.48	73,800
Therapists, all other*	[5]	[5]	25.93	53,920
Veterinarians	550	1.0	33.94	70,600
Audiologists	260	2.1	27.01	56,190
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners, all other	100	0.3	27.95	58,130
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	1,700	1.0	26.87	55,900
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	1,490	1.0	16.58	34,480
Dental hygienists	1,630	0.9	34.07	70,870
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	420	0.8	19.91	41,410
Diagnostic medical sonographers	560	1.0	29.80	61,990
Nuclear medicine technologists	200	0.9	31.86	66,270
Radiologic technologists and technicians*	2,430	1.1	23.93	49,770
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	3,100	1.4	17.25	35,870
Dietetic technicians	240	1.1	24.62	51,220
Pharmacy technicians	4,040	1.2	13.89	28,890
Psychiatric technicians	1,560	2.3	11.87	24,690
Respiratory therapy technicians	230	1.7	22.87	47,560
Surgical technologists	770	0.8	19.87	41,320
Veterinary technologists and technicians	650	0.8	14.44	30,040
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	7,890	1.1	19.19	39,910
Medical records and health information technicians	1,670	0.9	16.82	34,980
Opticians, dispensing	590	1.0	13.59	28,260
Orthotists and prosthetists	60	0.9	33.69	70,070
Health technologists and technicians, all other*	1,000	1.0	18.88	39,280
Occupational health and safety specialists	450	0.8	32.63	67,880
Occupational health and safety technicians	80	0.7	24.29	50,530
Athletic trainers	190	1.1	[5]	38,600
Healthcare practitioners and technical workers, all other*	710	1.3	21.90	45,560

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in St. Louis, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41180.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.

[6] This wage is equal to or greater than \$80.00 per hour or \$166,400 per year.

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