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Philadelphia, Pa.

**For release: Friday, June 29, 2012**

12-1329-PHI

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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN  
HARRISBURG-CARLISLE – MAY 2011**

Workers in the Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.12 in May 2011, about 3 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 9 of the 22 major occupational groups, including legal and computer and mathematical. Five other groups had wages that were measurably higher than their respective national averages, including 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 Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Harrisburg-Carlisle	United States	Harrisburg-Carlisle	Percent difference <sup>1</sup>
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.74	\$21.12 *	-3
Management	4.8	3.9 *	51.64	47.49 *	-8
Business and financial operations	4.8	6.8 *	33.05	30.05 *	-9
Computer and mathematical	2.7	3.4 *	37.85	33.07 *	-13
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7	37.08	33.55 *	-10
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7 *	32.44	30.84	-5
Community and social service	1.5	1.7 *	21.07	20.60	-2
Legal	0.8	1.0 *	47.30	40.46 *	-14
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.5 *	24.46	26.32 *	8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2 *	25.89	22.59 *	-13
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.9	34.97	32.87 *	-6
Healthcare support	3.1	2.9	13.16	13.82 *	5
Protective service	2.5	2.4	20.54	19.34	-6
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.0 *	10.30	10.40	1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.8 *	12.29	11.88	-3
Personal care and service	2.8	2.7	11.84	11.85	0
Sales and related	10.6	9.4 *	18.04	17.36	-4
Office and administrative support	16.7	18.9 *	16.40	16.70 *	2
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	16.72 *	43
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.0 *	21.46	20.80 *	-3
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8	20.86	19.90 *	-5
Production	6.5	4.9 *	16.45	16.38	0
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.3 *	15.96	16.67 *	4

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Harrisburg-Carlisle is above the national mean wage, while a negative percent difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Harrisburg employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including transportation and material moving, office and administrative support, and business and financial operations. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation including production; education, training, and library; and management.

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Harrisburg had 28,410 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 9.3 percent of local area employment, significantly above the national share of 6.7 percent. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.67, measurably above the national wage of \$15.96.

With employment of 8,560, hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers was the largest occupation within the transportation and material moving group, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (5,960). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of hand helpers, laborers, and material movers, with a mean hourly wage of \$25.28, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with a wage of \$23.34. At the lower end of the wage scale were hand packers and packagers (\$10.51) and driver/sales workers (\$12.37). (Detailed occupational data for transportation and material moving are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_25420.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25420.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 as it does nationally. In the Harrisburg area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in several of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, industrial truck and tractor operators were employed at over twice the national rate in Harrisburg, and hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, at more than one and a half times the U.S. average. In contrast, light truck or delivery services drivers had a location quotient of 1.2 in Harrisburg, indicating that this particular occupation's local employment share was closer to the national share.

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 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and about 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 Harrisburg-Carlisle 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 this release. 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 2010 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. May 2010 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, and November 2007. The sample in the Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,782 establishments with a response rate of 76 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 2010 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).

### 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 **Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties in Pennsylvania.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro3/](http://www.bls.gov/ro3/). If you have additional questions, you can contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. 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, Harrisburg-Carlisle Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Employment <sup>2</sup>		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient <sup>3</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>4</sup>
Transportation and material moving occupations	28,410	1.4	\$16.67	\$34,670
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	630	1.6	25.28	52,580
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	490	1.0	27.25	56,690
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians	70	1.5	12.34	25,670
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	400	1.0	15.45	32,140
Bus drivers, school or special client	1,460	1.3	12.45	25,890
Driver/sales workers	1,250	1.4	12.37	25,730
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	5,960	1.7	23.34	48,550
Light truck or delivery services drivers	2,210	1.2	15.34	31,920
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	400	1.0	11.07	23,010
Motor vehicle operators, all other	60	0.4	17.60	36,600
Parking lot attendants	140	0.5	10.72	22,300
Automotive and watercraft service attendants	60	0.3	13.20	27,450
Transportation inspectors	40	0.8	22.75	47,310
Transportation workers, all other	80	1.2	21.48	44,680
Conveyor operators and tenders	50	0.6	13.59	28,270
Crane and tower operators	130	1.3	22.62	47,050
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	240	2.1	26.41	54,940
Industrial truck and tractor operators	2,580	2.2	16.48	34,280
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	490	0.7	10.36	21,550
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	8,560	1.7	14.62	30,410
Machine feeders and offbearers	230	0.9	13.32	27,700
Packers and packagers, hand	2,660	1.7	10.51	21,860

<sup>1</sup> For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Harrisburg-Carlisle MSA, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_25420.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_25420.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.