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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MONTGOMERY, MAY 2011

Workers in the Montgomery Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.76 in May 2011, about 14 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 18 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; education, training, and library; and sales and related.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 3 of the 22 occupational groups: production, office and administrative support, and protective service. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including food preparation and serving related; management; and education, training, and library. (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. Montgomery had 29,040 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 18.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 16.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$14.62, measurably below the national wage of \$16.40.

With employment of 4,750, secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by general office clerks (3,700) and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks (2,100). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service mail carriers and first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers, with mean hourly wages of \$24.13 and \$23.89, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were general office clerks (\$10.84) and tellers (\$11.59). (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_33860.htm.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Montgomery	United States	Montgomery	Percent difference (1)
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$18.76 *	-14
Management	4.8	3.8 *	51.64	47.49 *	-8
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.7	33.05	28.84 *	-13
Computer and mathematical	2.7	2.8	37.85	32.02 *	-15
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7	37.08	31.17 *	-16
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7 *	32.44	26.28 *	-19
Community and social service	1.5	1.2 *	21.07	20.92	-1
Legal	0.8	0.9	47.30	38.06 *	-20
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.8 *	24.46	19.29 *	-21
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.5	25.89	17.45 *	-33
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.7	34.97	30.75 *	-12
Healthcare support	3.1	2.5 *	13.16	11.00 *	-16
Protective service	2.5	3.5 *	20.54	18.30 *	-11
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	7.5 *	10.30	9.42 *	-9
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1	12.29	10.22 *	-17
Personal care and service	2.8	2.2 *	11.84	11.32	-4
Sales and related	10.6	10.5	18.04	14.68 *	-19
Office and administrative support	16.7	18.5 *	16.40	14.62 *	-11
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2 *	11.68	13.99	20
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.3 *	21.46	15.90 *	-26
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	20.86	19.26 *	-8
Production	6.5	9.5 *	16.45	16.03	-3
Transportation and material moving	6.7	6.2 *	15.96	15.15 *	-5

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

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 Montgomery Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, loan interviewers and clerks were employed at 2.5 times the national rate in Montgomery, and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive, at 2.0 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks had a location quotient of 1.0 in Montgomery, 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 Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. 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 Montgomery 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 Montgomery Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,772 establishments with a response rate of 82 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.

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 **Montgomery, Ala. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Autauga, Elmore, Lowndes, and Montgomery Counties.

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

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and administrative support occupations	29,040	1.1	\$14.62	\$30,400
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	1,910	1.2	23.89	49,690
Switchboard operators, including answering service	180	1.1	11.03	22,940
Bill and account collectors	710	1.5	13.42	27,920
Billing and posting clerks	550	0.9	14.01	29,130
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	2,100	1.0	15.71	32,670
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	190	0.9	16.52	34,360
Procurement clerks	90	1.0	18.98	39,470
Tellers	1,080	1.6	11.59	24,100
Brokerage clerks	60	0.8	19.80	41,170
Court, municipal, and license clerks	160	1.1	14.01	29,140
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks	40	0.7	15.83	32,930
Customer service representatives	2,590	1.0	13.49	28,070
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	290	2.0	19.26	40,060
File clerks	170	0.8	10.40	21,630
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	460	1.7	8.80	18,310
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	430	1.8	16.98	35,330
Library assistants, clerical	70	0.6	9.18	19,090
Loan interviewers and clerks	570	2.5	14.66	30,490
New accounts clerks	(5)	(5)	15.86	32,980
Order clerks	230	0.9	11.83	24,610
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	280	1.6	18.26	37,990
Receptionists and information clerks	1,300	1.1	11.02	22,910
Information and record clerks, all other	200	0.9	18.87	39,240
Couriers and messengers	(5)	(5)	9.97	20,740
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	250	2.1	14.43	30,010
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	100	0.5	17.07	35,510
Meter readers, utilities	50	1.1	14.51	30,180
Postal service clerks	80	1.0	25.33	52,690
Postal service mail carriers	400	1.0	24.13	50,190
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	250	1.5	22.85	47,530
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	180	0.6	20.18	41,970
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	670	0.8	14.17	29,470
Stock clerks and order fillers	2,180	1.0	11.07	23,030
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	(5)	(5)	10.26	21,340
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	600	0.5	23.10	48,050
Legal secretaries	300	1.1	15.69	32,630
Medical secretaries	340	0.6	12.98	26,990
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	4,750	2.0	15.31	31,840
Computer operators	190	2.1	12.16	25,290
Data entry keyers	210	0.8	13.52	28,120
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	150	0.5	15.34	31,910
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	140	1.0	11.68	24,290
Office clerks, general	3,700	1.1	10.84	22,550
Office machine operators, except computer	50	0.6	12.57	26,150
Office and administrative support workers, all other	160	0.5	16.57	34,460

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Montgomery, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33860.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.