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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN SCRANTON—WILKES-BARRE – MAY 2011

Workers in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.14 in May 2011, roughly 17 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 18 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; business and financial operations; and healthcare practitioners and technical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Scranton—Wilkes-Barre	United States	Scranton—Wilkes-Barre	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.74	\$18.14 *	-17
Management	4.8	3.0 *	51.64	41.22 *	-20
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.1 *	33.05	25.81 *	-22
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.4 *	37.85	30.38 *	-20
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.2 *	37.08	32.80 *	-12
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4 *	32.44	24.78 *	-24
Community and social service	1.5	2.3 *	21.07	16.99 *	-19
Legal	0.8	0.6 *	47.30	32.47 *	-31
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.9 *	24.46	24.74	1
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.0 *	25.89	18.33 *	-29
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.7 *	34.97	29.32 *	-16
Healthcare support	3.1	3.7 *	13.16	12.87	-2
Protective service	2.5	2.3 *	20.54	17.99 *	-12
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.0 *	10.30	9.78 *	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.0 *	12.29	11.73 *	-5
Personal care and service	2.8	2.9	11.84	11.24 *	-5
Sales and related	10.6	11.1	18.04	15.32 *	-15
Office and administrative support	16.7	17.4 *	16.40	14.79 *	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.0 *	11.68	15.34 *	31
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.9	21.46	20.93	-2
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.1	20.86	18.91 *	-9
Production	6.5	8.7 *	16.45	15.84 *	-4
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.4 *	15.96	15.11 *	-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 Scranton—Wilkes-Barre is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Scranton employment was more highly concentrated in six occupational groups including transportation and material moving, production, and healthcare practitioners and technical. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included management, business and financial operations, and food preparation and serving related.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Scranton had 21,830 jobs in production, accounting for 8.7 percent of local area employment, significantly above the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.84, measurably below the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 4,080, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by packaging and filling machine operators and tenders (1,750) and production worker helpers (1,560). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with a mean hourly wage of \$24.88, and machinists, with a wage of \$18.96. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry cleaning workers (\$9.49) and bakers (\$11.59). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_42540.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 Scranton, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, packaging and filling machine operators and tenders and printing press operators were employed at about two-and-a-half times the national rate in Scranton, and team assemblers, at over twice the U.S. rate. In contrast, first-line supervisors of production and operating workers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Scranton, 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 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 Scranton—Wilkes-Barre 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 are also 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 Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,579 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.

The May 2011 OES estimates are 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 **Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties in Pennsylvania.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at 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, Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ¹	Employment ²		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Production occupations	21,830	1.3	\$15.84	\$32,950
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,250	1.1	24.88	51,750
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	270	0.7	13.17	27,400
Engine and other machine assemblers	(5)	(5)	19.80	41,190
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	140	0.9	18.86	39,230
Team assemblers	4,080	2.2	15.85	32,970
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	170	0.3	12.26	25,510
Bakers	570	1.9	11.59	24,110
Butchers and meat cutters	510	2.0	15.71	32,670
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	80	0.3	12.48	25,950
Slaughterers and meat packers	100	0.7	10.87	22,610
Food batchmakers	350	1.8	10.78	22,420
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	130	2.2	12.03	25,020
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	500	2.0	14.23	29,610
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	22.01	45,770
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	450	3.1	17.36	36,100
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	15.83	32,920
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	140	2.0	16.46	34,230
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	510	1.4	15.76	32,790
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	80	1.8	14.10	29,330
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	16.63	34,590
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	19.08	39,690
Machinists	460	0.6	18.96	39,440
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	280	1.2	14.80	30,790
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	50	0.3	16.38	34,070
Tool and die makers	130	1.0	20.33	42,290
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	430	0.7	16.25	33,790
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	30	0.4	14.02	29,150
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	140	2.3	18.56	38,600
Prepress technicians and workers	150	1.8	16.92	35,190
Printing press operators	860	2.5	16.29	33,880
Print binding and finishing workers	210	2.0	16.01	33,310
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	490	1.2	9.49	19,730
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	60	0.6	9.56	19,880
Sewing machine operators	250	0.9	11.65	24,220
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	11.07	23,020
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	70	1.7	12.15	25,270
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	12.14	25,250
Upholsterers	60	1.0	12.91	26,850
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	80	0.5	15.50	32,230

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Scranton—Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011—continued

Occupation ¹	Employment ²		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	(5)	(5)	\$11.24	\$23,370
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	70	0.6	15.78	32,830
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	80	1.2	20.14	41,880
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	250	1.2	20.46	42,570
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	190	1.9	14.73	30,640
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	90	1.5	15.43	32,100
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	200	0.9	17.78	36,990
Cutters and trimmers, hand	(5)	(5)	12.76	26,530
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	13.89	28,890
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	110	0.8	15.34	31,900
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	930	1.1	16.43	34,170
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	40	1.0	30.05	62,500
Dental laboratory technicians	90	1.2	18.64	38,780
Medical appliance technicians	(5)	(5)	17.35	36,100
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(5)	(5)	13.53	28,140
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,750	2.5	14.46	30,080
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	180	1.2	17.62	36,640
Painters, transportation equipment	(5)	(5)	18.89	39,300
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	40	1.0	14.86	30,900
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	(5)	(5)	10.29	21,410
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	15.54	32,310
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	70	2.1	17.50	36,410
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	100	1.7	11.94	24,830
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	19.06	39,650
Helpers--production workers	1,560	1.9	12.08	25,130
Production workers, all other*	340	0.7	10.86	22,580

* This occupation has the same title, but not necessarily the same content, as the 2010 SOC occupation.

¹ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_42540.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 Estimates not available.