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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN OCALA, MAY 2010

Workers in the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$17.14 in May 2010, roughly 20 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. 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, business and financial operations, and sales and related.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support, sales and related, and healthcare support. Conversely, seven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including management, computer and mathematical, and production. (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. Ocala had 17,360 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 19.4 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 16.9-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$13.40, measurably below the national wage of \$16.09.

With employment of 2,260, general office clerks was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by stock clerks and order fillers (2,170) and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (2,140). 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 \$22.63 and \$19.80, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.29) and stock clerks and order fillers (\$10.18). (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_36100.htm)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Ocala	United States	Ocala
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$17.14 *
Management	4.7	2.2 *	50.69	43.66 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.7 *	32.54	27.31 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	0.8 *	37.13	25.90 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.1 *	36.32	25.64 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	(1)	31.92	27.62
Community and social service	1.5	1.4	20.76	19.02 *
Legal	0.8	0.7	46.60	34.21 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	(1)	24.25	(1)
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	0.6 *	25.14	19.46 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	7.2 *	34.27	33.18
Healthcare support	3.1	4.2 *	12.94	11.98 *
Protective service	2.5	3.3 *	20.43	16.26 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.2	10.21	9.55 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.7	12.16	10.60 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.9	11.82	11.04 *
Sales and related	10.6	12.8 *	17.69	15.32 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	19.4 *	16.09	13.40 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.6 *	11.70	11.57
Construction and extraction	4.0	4.9 *	21.09	15.64 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.0	20.58	16.58 *
Production	6.5	5.0 *	16.24	14.32 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.8 *	15.70	14.11 *

* 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) Estimate not released

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 Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, file clerks were employed at 2.6 times the national rate in Ocala, and stock clerks and order fillers, at 1.7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks had a location quotient of 1.0 in Ocala, 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 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. 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 non-military 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 Ocala 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 Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,304 establishments with a response rate of 81 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to 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.

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 **Ocala, Fla. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Marion County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Southeast Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (404) 893-4222. 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, Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽¹⁾	Location quotient ⁽²⁾	Hourly	Annual
Office and administrative support occupations	17,360	1.1	\$13.40	\$27,860
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	1,070	1.1	19.80	41,190
Switchboard operators, including answering service	40	0.4	9.43	19,620
Bill and account collectors	260	0.9	12.96	26,960
Billing and posting clerks	280	0.8	14.61	30,400
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,170	1.0	14.94	31,070
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	60	0.5	14.60	30,370
Procurement clerks	40	0.9	14.12	29,380
Tellers	540	1.4	12.05	25,060
Court, municipal, and license clerks	90	1.0	17.11	35,580
Customer service representatives	1,520	1.0	14.12	29,370
File clerks	330	2.6	11.98	24,930
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	250	1.6	9.29	19,320
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	160	1.1	12.42	25,840
Loan interviewers and clerks	120	1.0	16.50	34,310
New accounts clerks	(3)	(3)	13.27	27,600
Order clerks	240	1.6	12.02	25,000
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	80	0.8	16.83	35,010
Receptionists and information clerks	1,120	1.6	11.35	23,600
Information and record clerks, all other	120	0.9	14.65	30,470
Couriers and messengers	50	0.8	11.04	22,950
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	110	1.6	16.10	33,480
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	120	0.9	15.10	31,420
Meter readers, utilities	40	1.5	13.95	29,010
Postal service clerks	70	1.4	25.42	52,880
Postal service mail carriers	360	1.6	22.63	47,070
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	100	0.5	18.16	37,770
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	510	1.0	10.99	22,850
Stock clerks and order fillers	2,170	1.7	10.18	21,170
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	40	0.9	12.68	26,370
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	580	0.7	18.29	38,040
Legal secretaries	70	0.4	15.73	32,720
Medical secretaries	240	0.7	13.05	27,140
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	2,140	1.7	12.93	26,890
Data entry keyers	190	1.2	12.63	26,260
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	190	1.2	15.15	31,510
Office clerks, general	2,260	1.2	11.45	23,820
Office and administrative support workers, all other	170	1.0	9.16	19,050

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) Estimate not released.