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## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH-GLENDALE, MAY 2011

Workers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$24.84 in May 2011, about 14 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 18 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; legal; and management. Only one group had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages: production.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; office and administrative support; and management. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including construction and extraction; healthcare practitioners and technical; and installation, maintenance, and repair. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Los Angeles	United States	Los Angeles	Percent difference <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$24.84 *	14
Management	4.8	5.6 *	51.64	59.17 *	15
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.3 *	33.05	35.56 *	8
Computer and mathematical	2.7	2.5 *	37.85	40.07 *	6
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	37.08	43.49 *	17
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.8	32.44	35.01 *	8
Community and social service	1.5	1.6	21.07	25.02 *	19
Legal	0.8	1.0 *	47.30	61.85 *	31
Education, training, and library	6.6	6.3	24.46	28.42 *	16
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	3.5 *	25.89	41.62 *	61
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	4.9 *	34.97	39.90 *	14
Healthcare support	3.1	2.7 *	13.16	14.23 *	8
Protective service	2.5	2.9 *	20.54	25.02 *	22
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.4 *	10.30	10.40	1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.5 *	12.29	12.97 *	6
Personal care and service	2.8	2.3 *	11.84	13.01 *	10
Sales and related	10.6	10.2 *	18.04	19.20 *	6
Office and administrative support	16.7	18.5 *	16.40	18.06 *	10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.42	6
Construction and extraction	3.9	2.3 *	21.46	25.20 *	17
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.0 *	20.86	22.88 *	10
Production	6.5	6.6	16.45	15.25 *	-7
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.1 *	15.96	16.02	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.

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

One occupational group—arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale had 134,810 jobs in arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media, accounting for 3.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.3-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$41.62, measurably above the national wage of \$25.89.

With employment of 18,850, producers and directors was the largest occupation within the arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media group, followed by graphic designers (9,500) and public relations specialists (7,480). Among the higher paying jobs were producers and directors, and musicians and singers, with mean hourly wages of \$67.20 and \$58.63, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were dancers (\$11.82) and floral designers (\$14.30). (Detailed occupational data for arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_31084.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31084.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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media group. For instance, fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators were employed at 8.4 times the national rate in Los Angeles, and film and video editors, at 7.7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, coaches and scouts had a location quotient of 1.0 in Los Angeles, 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 California Employment Development Department. 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 Los Angeles Metropolitan Division 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division included 12,929 establishments with a response rate of 72 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 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](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 **Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif. Metropolitan Division** includes Los Angeles County.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro9/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro9/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the San Francisco Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (415) 625-2270. 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, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>[1]</sup>	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[2]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[3]</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>[4]</sup>
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	134,810	2.6	\$41.62	\$86,580
Art directors	2,920	3.2	57.11	118,800
Craft artists	300	2.1	29.46	61,270
Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators	2,960	8.4	32.40	67,390
Multimedia artists and animators	5,060	6.0	43.20	89,860
Artists and related workers, all other	240	1.1	30.30	63,020
Commercial and industrial designers	1,230	1.4	28.38	59,030
Fashion designers	2,760	5.8	36.47	75,860
Floral designers	570	0.4	14.30	29,740
Graphic designers	9,500	1.7	28.67	59,630
Interior designers	1,790	1.5	29.79	61,970
Merchandise displayers and window trimmers	1,640	0.8	15.30	31,830
Set and exhibit designers	1,210	4.8	31.31	65,120
Designers, all other	750	3.1	25.58	53,210
Producers and directors	18,850	7.6	67.20	139,770
Athletes and sports competitors	*[5]	*[5]	*[5]	142,710
Coaches and scouts	5,690	1.0	*[5]	44,140
Umpires, referees, and other sports officials	290	0.6	*[5]	26,090
Dancers	1,190	3.6	11.82	*[6]
Choreographers	*[5]	*[5]	30.26	62,930
Music directors and composers	550	0.7	31.59	65,700
Musicians and singers	2,800	2.2	58.63	*[6]
Entertainers and performers, sports and related workers, all other	*[5]	*[5]	24.30	*[6]
Radio and television announcers	710	0.8	36.27	75,440
Public address system and other announcers	340	1.5	34.22	71,180
Reporters and correspondents	1,430	1.1	24.98	51,960
Public relations specialists	7,480	1.2	34.18	71,090
Editors	4,300	1.5	30.35	63,130
Technical writers	1,110	0.8	42.49	88,380
Writers and authors	3,720	3.1	55.30	115,030
Interpreters and translators	1,740	1.2	26.79	55,720
Media and communication workers, all other	6,340	9.0	33.02	68,690
Audio and video equipment technicians	3,560	2.4	26.21	54,510
Broadcast technicians	3,540	3.9	23.17	48,200
Radio operators	*[5]	*[5]	29.51	61,380
Sound engineering technicians	2,260	5.1	39.85	82,890
Photographers	1,350	0.8	25.38	52,780
Camera operators, television, video, and motion picture	1,680	3.5	38.47	80,010
Film and video editors	4,780	7.7	49.41	102,770
Media and communication equipment workers, all other	2,780	6.4	38.35	79,770

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_31084.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31084.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] Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year-round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries depending on how they are typically paid.