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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN  
BRIDGEPORT-STAMFORD-NORWALK, MAY 2011**

Workers in the Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$28.76 in May 2011, 32 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 20 of the 22 major occupational groups, including personal care and service, business and financial operations, and sales and related. No group had an hourly wage significantly lower than its respective national average.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 10 of the 22 occupational groups, including management, business and financial operations, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving, food preparation and serving related, and construction and extraction. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Bridgeport	United States	Bridgeport	Percent difference <sup>[1]</sup>	
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$28.76	*	32
Management	4.8	8.1	51.64	64.55	*	25
Business and financial operations	4.8	6.5	33.05	45.92	*	39
Computer and mathematical	2.7	3.1	37.85	42.88	*	13
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5	37.08	37.70		2
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7	32.44	41.02	*	26
Community and social service	1.5	1.7	21.07	24.51	*	16
Legal	0.8	0.8	47.30	57.70	*	22
Education, training, and library	6.6	7.3	24.46	26.48	*	8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.7	25.89	28.40	*	10
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.0	34.97	40.43	*	16
Healthcare support	3.1	2.8	13.16	15.79	*	20
Protective service	2.5	2.4	20.54	22.15		8
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	7.1	10.30	11.91	*	16
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	4.1	12.29	15.11	*	23
Personal care and service	2.8	3.2	11.84	14.97	*	26
Sales and related	10.6	11.4	18.04	29.56	*	64
Office and administrative support	16.7	17.4	16.40	20.34	*	24
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	[2]	11.68	15.69	*	34
Construction and extraction	3.9	2.3	21.46	25.50	*	19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.3	20.86	26.02	*	25
Production	6.5	5.2	16.45	19.94	*	21
Transportation and material moving	6.7	4.5	15.96	16.83	*	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 Bridgeport is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

[2] Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent.

One occupational group—business and financial operations—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk had 26,820 jobs in business and financial operations, accounting for 6.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$45.92, measurably above the national wage of \$33.05.

With employment of 5,910, accountants and auditors was the largest occupation within the business and financial operations group, followed by financial analysts (2,910) and management analysts (2,310). Among the higher paying jobs were financial analysts and credit analysts, with mean hourly wages of \$61.36 and \$57.07, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators (\$32.33) and purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products (\$32.38). (Detailed occupational data for business and financial operations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_71950.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_71950.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 Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the business and financial operations group. For instance, financial analysts were employed at 4.0 times the national rate in Bridgeport, and credit analysts, at 3.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, compliance officers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Bridgeport, 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 Connecticut Department of Labor. 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 Bridgeport 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 Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,768 establishments with a response rate of 70 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 **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, Conn. New England City and Town Area (NECTA)** includes Ansonia city, Bridgeport city, Darien town, Derby city, Easton town, Fairfield town, Greenwich town, Milford city, Monroe town, New Canaan town, Newtown town, Norwalk city, Oxford town, Redding town, Ridgefield town, Seymour town, Shelton city, Southbury town, Stamford city, Stratford town, Trumbull town, Weston town, Westport town, Wilton town, and Woodbridge town.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the New England Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (617) 565-2327. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072; TDD message referral phone number: 1 (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>[1]</sup>	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[2]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[3]</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>[4]</sup>
Business and financial operations occupations	26,820	1.4	\$45.92	\$95,510
Agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes	[5]	[5]	52.38	108,950
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	400	1.2	[5]	[5]
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	1,080	1.2	32.38	67,350
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	620	0.7	32.33	67,240
Compliance officers	640	1.0	44.10	91,730
Cost estimators	410	0.7	32.97	68,580
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists, all other	1,680	1.2	35.29	73,390
Logisticians	300	0.8	38.79	80,690
Management analysts	2,310	1.3	53.19	110,640
Meeting, convention, and event planners	240	1.2	28.47	59,210
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	300	1.0	33.92	70,560
Training and development specialists	730	1.1	35.37	73,580
Market research analysts and marketing specialists	1,700	1.7	41.00	85,290
Business operations specialists, all other	1,700	0.6	43.44	90,360
Accountants and auditors	5,910	1.7	37.10	77,170
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	140	0.7	28.86	60,030
Budget analysts	150	0.8	37.43	77,860
Credit analysts	650	3.4	57.07	118,710
Financial analysts	2,910	4.0	61.36	127,630
Personal financial advisors	[5]	[5]	69.61	144,790
Insurance underwriters	290	1.0	43.81	91,130
Financial examiners	120	1.3	47.18	98,130
Credit counselors	[5]	[5]	36.95	76,850
Loan officers	630	0.7	37.22	77,420
Tax examiners and collectors, and revenue agents	170	0.8	38.71	80,520
Tax preparers	90	0.5	19.53	40,630
Financial specialists, all other	480	1.0	42.83	89,100

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_71950.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_71950.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.