

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN
SPRINGFIELD, MO. – MAY 2010**

Workers in the Springfield, Mo., Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$17.02 in May 2010, roughly 20 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, no wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in the 22 major occupational groups. Twenty-one groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including management, healthcare practitioners and technical, and office and administrative support.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was significantly higher in 3 of the 22 occupational groups: sales and related, food preparation and serving related, and installation, maintenance, and repair. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including management, protective service, 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 Springfield, Mo., Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Springfield	United States	Springfield
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$17.02 *
Management	4.7	3.7 *	50.69	38.81 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.9 *	32.54	23.79 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	1.8 *	37.13	22.98 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.8 *	36.32	28.97 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.3 *	31.92	26.55 *
Community and social service	1.5	1.4	20.76	17.18 *
Legal	0.8	0.6 *	46.60	36.94 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	6.1 *	24.25	20.12 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.5	25.14	17.83 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	7.7	34.27	28.83 *
Healthcare support	3.1	3.7	12.94	11.59 *
Protective service	2.5	1.5 *	20.43	17.10 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.5 *	10.21	9.24 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.0	12.16	11.01 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.7	11.82	9.83 *
Sales and related	10.6	12.1 *	17.69	14.76 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	17.8	16.09	13.28 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.70	12.29
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.5 *	21.09	18.62 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3 *	20.58	18.03 *
Production	6.5	6.5	16.24	14.30 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.6	15.70	14.36 *

* 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.

One occupational group—sales and related—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Springfield had 22,040 sales and related jobs, accounting for 12.1 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 10.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$14.76, measurably below the national wage of \$17.69.

With employment of 6,690, retail salespersons was the largest occupation within the sales and related group, followed by cashiers (5,000). Among the higher paying jobs were securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents and wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives for technical and scientific products, with mean hourly wages of \$35.13 and \$32.52, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were cashiers (\$9.03) and telemarketers (\$9.84). (Detailed occupational data for sales and related are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_44180.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 Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the sales and related group. For instance, telemarketers were employed at 4.9 times the national rate in Springfield, and door-to-door sales workers, news and street vendors, and related workers, at 8.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, cashiers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Springfield and retail sales persons, 1.1, indicating that for these particular occupations, 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 Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, Occupational Employment Unit. 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 Springfield 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. 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 Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,151 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 **Springfield, Mo. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, and Webster Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro7/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Mountain-Plains Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (816) 285-7000. 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, Springfield, Mo., Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [1]	Location quotient [2]	Hourly	Annual
Sales and Related Occupations	22,040	1.1	\$14.76	\$30,700
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,850	1.1	19.04	39,610
First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers	300	0.9	26.45	55,010
Cashiers	5,000	1.0	9.03	18,790
Counter and Rental Clerks	530	0.9	12.47	25,930
Parts Salespersons	390	1.3	15.93	33,140
Retail Salespersons	6,690	1.1	11.99	24,930
Advertising Sales Agents	220	1.1	19.96	41,510
Insurance Sales Agents	650	1.4	25.18	52,360
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	160	0.4	35.13	73,070
Travel Agents	90	0.9	13.59	28,260
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	760	1.0	19.65	40,870
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	390	0.7	32.52	67,640
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	2,350	1.2	24.48	50,910
Demonstrators and Product Promoters	150	1.4	9.58	19,930
Real Estate Sales Agents	200	0.9	18.23	37,910
Sales Engineers	60	0.6	40.30	83,820
Telemarketers	2,020	4.9	9.84	20,460
Door-to-Door Sales Workers, News and Street Vendors, and Related Workers	90	8.4	13.73	28,560
Sales and Related Workers, All Other*	110	0.5	16.15	33,590

[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.

* Occupational titles followed by an asterisk (*) have similar titles, but not necessarily the same content as 2010 SOC occupations.