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Contact information: (972) 850-4800 • BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro6

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN OKLAHOMA CITY, MAY 2011

Workers in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.42 in May 2011, about 11 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman 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 computer and mathematical, legal, and management.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Oklahoma City	United States	Oklahoma City	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$19.42 *	-11
Management	4.8	5.6 *	51.64	41.67 *	-19
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.5 *	33.05	28.04 *	-15
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.8 *	37.85	29.41 *	-22
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.2 *	37.08	38.95	5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.8	32.44	32.03	-1
Community and social service	1.5	1.2 *	21.07	18.11 *	-14
Legal	0.8	0.9 *	47.30	36.89 *	-22
Education, training, and library	6.6	6.1	24.46	21.37 *	-13
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.1 *	25.89	19.29 *	-25
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.5	34.97	30.66 *	-12
Healthcare support	3.1	2.9	13.16	12.06 *	-8
Protective service	2.5	2.0 *	20.54	17.57 *	-14
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.1 *	10.30	9.34 *	-9
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.8 *	12.29	10.51 *	-14
Personal care and service	2.8	2.2 *	11.84	10.01 *	-15
Sales and related	10.6	10.6	18.04	15.88 *	-12
Office and administrative support	16.7	17.8 *	16.40	14.91 *	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.89 *	10
Construction and extraction	3.9	5.6 *	21.46	18.55 *	-14
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3 *	20.86	19.36 *	-7
Production	6.5	5.6 *	16.45	15.21 *	-8
Transportation and material moving	6.7	6.3	15.96	15.59	-2

* 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 Oklahoma City is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction, office and administrative support, and management. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, computer and mathematical, and personal care and service. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—construction and extraction—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Oklahoma City had 31,830 jobs in construction and extraction, accounting for 5.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 3.9-percent share nationally. However, the average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.55, measurably below the national wage of \$21.46.

With employment of 3,100, first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers was the largest occupation within the construction and extraction group, followed by construction laborers (3,030) and carpenters (3,010). First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers was among the higher paying jobs with a mean hourly wage of \$28.47. Other high paying jobs included oil and gas rotary drill operators and sheet metal workers, at \$23.89 and \$23.38 per hour, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were electricians' helpers (\$12.32) and construction laborers (\$13.27). (Detailed occupational data for construction and extraction workers are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of all detailed occupations, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_36420.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 Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, oil and gas rotary drill operators were employed at 14.3 times the national rate in Oklahoma City, and oil and gas roustabouts, at 7.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, construction laborers had a location quotient of 0.9 in Oklahoma City, 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 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. 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 Oklahoma City 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 Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,956 establishments with a response rate of 78 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to 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.

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 **Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, and Oklahoma Counties in Oklahoma.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro6. If you have additional questions, contact the Southwest Information Office at (972) 850-4800. 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, Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ¹	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ²	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Construction and extraction occupations	31,830	1.5	\$18.55	\$38,580
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	3,100	1.5	28.47	59,230
Brickmasons and blockmasons	360	1.3	17.19	35,750
Stonemasons	120	2.3	17.76	36,940
Carpenters	3,010	1.2	16.65	34,630
Carpet installers	110	1.0	12.36	25,710
Floor layers, except carpet, wood, and hard tiles	[5]	[5]	14.47	30,100
Tile and marble setters	150	1.2	13.62	28,330
Cement masons and concrete finishers	1,060	1.8	15.08	31,370
Construction laborers	3,030	0.9	13.27	27,600
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators	730	3.0	14.27	29,690
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	970	0.7	17.59	36,590
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	230	0.7	15.17	31,560
Electricians	2,820	1.2	18.96	39,430
Glaziers	[5]	[5]	16.04	33,360
Insulation workers, floor, ceiling, and wall	[5]	[5]	17.85	37,130
Insulation workers, mechanical	[5]	[5]	16.36	34,030
Painters, construction and maintenance	1,310	1.6	18.30	38,070
Pipelayers	390	2.0	15.36	31,950
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	1,940	1.3	19.77	41,120
Plasterers and stucco masons	[5]	[5]	19.99	41,570
Reinforcing iron and rebar workers	70	1.1	15.85	32,970
Roofers	580	1.4	15.67	32,590
Sheet metal workers	2,220	3.9	23.38	48,630
Structural iron and steel workers	[5]	[5]	14.48	30,110
Brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters' helpers	180	1.5	12.07	25,100
Carpenters' helpers	[5]	[5]	12.24	25,450
Electricians' helpers	610	2.1	12.32	25,620
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters' helpers	180	0.8	13.68	28,460
Helpers, construction trades, all other	90	1.1	11.73	24,390
Construction and building inspectors	180	0.5	24.66	51,300
Fence erectors	[5]	[5]	11.44	23,800
Hazardous materials removal workers	250	1.6	15.78	32,820
Highway maintenance workers	720	1.1	16.01	33,300
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	50	0.4	14.95	31,090
Construction and related workers, all other*	[5]	[5]	11.47	23,870
Derrick operators, oil and gas	[5]	[5]	20.77	43,190
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	1,370	14.3	23.89	49,700
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	780	3.8	18.57	38,620
Roustabouts, oil and gas	1,730	7.6	16.63	34,590
Extraction workers' helpers	560	5.3	15.83	32,930

¹ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Oklahoma City MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_36420.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.

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