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## **OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN PENSACOLA-FERRY PASS-BRENT, MAY 2011**

Workers in the Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$17.94 in May 2011, about 17 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 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 20 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction, business and financial operations, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including sales and related, food preparation and serving related, and office and administrative support. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production, transportation and material moving, and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—sales and related—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent had 19,600 jobs in sales and related, accounting for 12.9 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 10.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.91, measurably below the national wage of \$18.04.

With employment of 6,100, retail salespersons was the largest occupation within the sales and related group, followed by cashiers (4,750) and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers (2,050). Among the higher paying jobs were wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives, except technical and scientific products; and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers, with mean hourly wages of \$24.93 and \$19.62, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were cashiers (\$8.92) and retail salespersons (\$11.84). (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\\_37860.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_37860.htm).)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Pensacola	United States	Pensacola	Percent difference (1)
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$17.94 *	-17
Management	4.8	2.7 *	51.64	43.48 *	-16
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.2 *	33.05	27.47 *	-17
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.5 *	37.85	28.44 *	-25
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4 *	37.08	28.65 *	-23
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	32.44	27.12 *	-16
Community and social service	1.5	1.4 *	21.07	18.17 *	-14
Legal	0.8	0.9 *	47.30	34.03 *	-28
Education, training, and library	6.6	7.1 *	24.46	21.81 *	-11
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9 *	25.89	18.64 *	-28
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	7.6 *	34.97	28.96 *	-17
Healthcare support	3.1	3.9 *	13.16	11.77 *	-11
Protective service	2.5	3.0 *	20.54	17.48 *	-15
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	10.7 *	10.30	9.59 *	-7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.2 *	12.29	10.16 *	-17
Personal care and service	2.8	2.4 *	11.84	10.98 *	-7
Sales and related	10.6	12.9 *	18.04	15.91 *	-12
Office and administrative support	16.7	18.3 *	16.40	14.17 *	-14
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.26 *	5
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.5 *	21.46	16.59 *	-23
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.8 *	20.86	18.87 *	-10
Production	6.5	3.7 *	16.45	17.22 *	5
Transportation and material moving	6.7	4.3 *	15.96	14.59 *	-9

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Pensacola is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

\* 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.

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 Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the sales and related group. For instance, real estate agents were employed at 1.9 times the national rate in Pensacola, and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers, at 1.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, retail salespersons had a location quotient of 1.2 in Pensacola, 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 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 Pensacola 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 Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,723 establishments with a response rate of 82 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).

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.

### **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 **Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, Fla. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent 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>
Sales and related occupations	19,600	1.2	\$15.91	\$33,100
First-line supervisors of retail sales workers	2,050	1.5	19.62	40,820
First-line supervisors of non-retail sales workers	360	1.3	35.02	72,840
Cashiers	4,750	1.2	8.92	18,560
Counter and rental clerks	440	0.9	11.52	23,960
Parts salespersons	300	1.2	15.04	31,280
Retail salespersons	6,100	1.2	11.84	24,630
Advertising sales agents	130	0.8	25.57	53,190
Insurance sales agents	550	1.5	30.10	62,600
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	280	0.8	35.05	72,910
Travel agents	80	1.0	11.77	24,490
Sales representatives, services, all other	1,600	2.3	21.46	44,630
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products	350	0.8	44.24	92,020
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	1,340	0.8	24.93	51,850
Demonstrators and product promoters	40	0.4	13.15	27,350
Real estate sales agents	360	1.9	16.76	34,860
Telemarketers	560	1.9	14.57	30,310
Sales and related workers, all other	250	1.2	15.73	32,720

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_37860.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_37860.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.