



# NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Information: (215) 597-3282 • [BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov](mailto:BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/ro3](http://www.bls.gov/ro3)  
Media Contact: (215) 861-5600 • [BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov](mailto:BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov)

## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN LANCASTER – MAY 2010

Workers in the Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.81 in May 2010, roughly 12 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 14 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Lancaster	United States	Lancaster	Percent difference
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.35	\$18.81 *	-11.9
Management	4.7	3.3 *	50.69	46.29 *	-8.7
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.0 *	32.54	28.56 *	-12.2
Computer and mathematical	2.6	1.0 *	37.13	29.92 *	-19.4
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.0 *	36.32	30.76 *	-15.3
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5 *	31.92	25.83 *	-19.1
Community and social service	1.5	1.6	20.76	19.07 *	-8.1
Legal	0.8	0.3 *	46.60	35.77 *	-23.2
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.5 *	24.25	25.26	4.2
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.1 *	25.14	18.84 *	-25.1
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.4	34.27	34.33	0.2
Healthcare support	3.1	3.4	12.94	13.13	1.5
Protective service	2.5	1.2 *	20.43	19.47	-4.7
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.6	10.21	10.25	0.4
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1	12.16	12.17	0.1
Personal care and service	2.7	2.3 *	11.82	11.05 *	-6.5
Sales and related	10.6	11.8 *	17.69	16.57 *	-6.3
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.9	16.09	15.38 *	-4.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.3	11.70	14.58 *	24.6
Construction and extraction	4.0	5.0 *	21.09	19.33 *	-8.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.4 *	20.58	19.73 *	-4.1
Production	6.5	10.9 *	16.24	16.27	0.2
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.5 *	15.70	15.04 *	-4.2

\* 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.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including production and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and management.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Lancaster had 24,060 jobs in production, accounting for 10.9 percent of local area employment, significantly above the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.27, comparable to the national wage of \$16.24.

With employment of 2,630, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by production worker helpers (2,000). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers with mean hourly wages of \$24.94, and tool and die makers with a wage of \$23.99. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$10.37) and meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers (\$10.83). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_29540.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_29540.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 as it does nationally. In the Lancaster area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, production worker helpers were employed at almost three times the national rate in Lancaster, and food batchmakers at nearly five times the U.S. average. On the other hand, sewing machine operators had a location quotient of 1.0 in Lancaster, 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 Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. 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 Lancaster 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 this release. 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 Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,474 establishments with a response rate of 77 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 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](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 **Lancaster, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Lancaster County in Pennsylvania.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro3/](http://www.bls.gov/ro3/). If you have additional questions, you can contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. 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, Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean wage	
	Level <sup>1</sup>	Location quotient <sup>2</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Production occupations	24,060	1.7	\$16.27	\$33,830
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,540	1.6	24.94	51,870
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	400	1.3	13.61	28,300
Electromechanical equipment assemblers	50	0.5	17.56	36,530
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	160	1.2	17.61	36,620
Team assemblers	2,630	1.6	14.84	30,870
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	140	0.3	11.56	24,040
Bakers	610	2.5	13.21	27,470
Butchers and meat cutters	310	1.4	14.19	29,510
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	390	1.4	10.83	22,520
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	130	3.9	20.78	43,210
Food batchmakers	830	4.9	15.08	31,360
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	220	3.9	18.04	37,520
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	180	0.8	19.51	40,570
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	430	3.2	17.74	36,900
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	170	3.0	20.09	41,800
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	500	1.6	14.54	30,250
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	160	4.2	15.34	31,910
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	150	1.2	15.04	31,290
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	1.2	18.20	37,860
Machinists	710	1.2	16.64	34,610
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	60	2.2	20.29	42,210
Pourers and casters, metal	40	1.9	14.94	31,070
Foundry mold and coremakers	40	2.4	17.19	35,750
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	260	1.3	15.24	31,700
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	210	1.8	16.32	33,950
Tool and die makers	200	1.7	23.99	49,910
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	820	1.5	17.40	36,190
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(3)	(3)	16.93	35,220
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	100	3.1	(3)	(3)
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	140	2.6	16.63	34,590

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010—continued**

Occupation	Employment		Mean wage	
	Level <sup>1</sup>	Location quotient <sup>2</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners	40	1.8	18.17	37,800
Prepress technicians and workers	290	3.4	18.64	38,780
Printing press operators	1,350	4.0	17.18	35,740
Print binding and finishing workers	700	7.4	15.20	31,610
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	380	1.1	10.37	21,560
Sewing machine operators	250	1.0	11.09	23,060
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	60	1.5	12.08	25,120
Upholsterers	50	1.0	15.58	32,410
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	460	3.1	16.61	34,550
Furniture finishers	100	3.7	15.16	31,530
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	80	1.2	16.60	34,530
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	180	0.9	20.64	42,930
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	90	1.4	15.44	32,120
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	60	1.0	16.31	33,930
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	80	1.7	14.03	29,190
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	370	1.7	17.56	36,520
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	260	2.5	15.33	31,890
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	(3)	(3)	18.83	39,170
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,160	1.6	15.71	32,680
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	(3)	(3)	23.73	49,360
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(3)	(3)	12.91	26,840
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,640	2.8	15.58	32,410
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	280	2.0	15.67	32,590
Painters, transportation equipment	60	0.8	16.89	35,140
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	(3)	(3)	15.59	32,420
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	170	1.7	12.65	26,310
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	60	2.3	17.04	35,450
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	90	2.9	18.76	39,020
Cooling and freezing equipment operators and tenders	60	4.0	19.04	39,600
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	(3)	(3)	14.79	30,760
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	140	0.9	17.15	35,660
Helpers--production workers	2,000	2.9	13.72	28,540
Production workers, all other*	40	0.1	15.06	31,330

\* This occupation has the same title, but not necessarily the same content, as the 2010 SOC occupation.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate not released.