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## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN READING – MAY 2011

Workers in the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.16 in May 2011, roughly 7 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, 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 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including legal; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; and life, physical, and social science. Three other groups had wages that were measurably higher than their respective national averages, including education, training, and library. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Reading	United States	Reading	Percent difference <sup>1</sup>
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.74	\$20.16 *	-7
Management	4.8	3.5 *	51.64	52.18	1
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.3 *	33.05	30.54 *	-8
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.2 *	37.85	33.30 *	-12
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7	37.08	32.23 *	-13
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4 *	32.44	26.75 *	-18
Community and social service	1.5	1.8 *	21.07	21.28	1
Legal	0.8	0.5 *	47.30	37.89 *	-20
Education, training, and library	6.6	7.1	24.46	26.20 *	7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.8 *	25.89	19.51 *	-25
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.2	34.97	32.65 *	-7
Healthcare support	3.1	3.4 *	13.16	13.02	-1
Protective service	2.5	1.5 *	20.54	18.67	-9
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.1 *	10.30	10.42	1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.8 *	12.29	13.11 *	7
Personal care and service	2.8	2.6	11.84	11.57	-2
Sales and related	10.6	10.4	18.04	17.58	-3
Office and administrative support	16.7	16.4	16.40	16.14	-2
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	13.63 *	17
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.7	21.46	20.82	-3
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.4 *	20.86	20.52	-2
Production	6.5	11.6 *	16.45	16.41	0
Transportation and material moving	6.7	8.6 *	15.96	15.87	-1

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Reading is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Reading employment was more highly concentrated in five occupational groups including production and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included business and financial operations, management, and protective service.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Reading had 18,900 jobs in production, accounting for 11.6 percent of local area employment, significantly above the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.41, similar to the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 3,410, production worker helpers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by team assemblers (1,510) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (1,160). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with a mean hourly wage of \$27.02, and metal-refining furnace operators and tenders, with a wage of \$20.05. At the lower end of the wage scale were sewing machine operators (\$10.94) and production worker helpers (\$11.06). (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\\_39740.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_39740.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 Reading, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, metal-refining furnace operators and tenders were employed at over 10 times the national rate in Reading, and metal and plastic molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, at 3 times the U.S. rate. In contrast, machinists had a location quotient of 1.1 in Reading, 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 Department of Labor and Industry. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and about 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 Reading 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 are also 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 Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,034 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](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The May 2011 OES estimates are 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 **Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Berks County in Pennsylvania.

### Additional information

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, Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011**

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Employment <sup>2</sup>		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient <sup>3</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>4</sup>
Production occupations	18,900	1.8	\$16.41	\$34,130
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,160	1.6	27.02	56,200
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	140	0.6	15.93	33,140
Electromechanical equipment assemblers	130	2.0	13.99	29,100
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	60	0.7	18.25	37,970
Team assemblers	1,510	1.3	13.85	28,800
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	60	0.2	12.16	25,290
Bakers	330	1.7	13.25	27,570
Butchers and meat cutters	110	0.7	16.30	33,900
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	50	0.2	13.38	27,840
Food batchmakers	260	2.0	13.62	28,330
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	50	1.2	15.00	31,200
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	280	1.7	19.71	41,000
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	19.69	40,950
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	1.3	16.17	33,640
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	70	1.7	21.04	43,770
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	380	1.6	17.58	36,570
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	1.4	15.31	31,840
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	330	3.7	18.30	38,070
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	3.1	20.53	42,710
Machinists	530	1.1	19.27	40,070
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	240	10.4	20.05	41,710
Pourers and casters, metal	60	4.2	18.81	39,120
Foundry mold and coremakers	(5)	(5)	19.07	39,670
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	460	3.0	15.39	32,010
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	260	2.7	15.97	33,210
Tool and die makers	110	1.2	22.35	46,480
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	510	1.3	18.09	37,630
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	30	0.6	20.54	42,720
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	100	3.8	19.50	40,550
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	110	2.7	17.59	36,580
Prepress technicians and workers	60	1.2	20.00	41,590
Printing press operators	240	1.1	18.26	37,990
Print binding and finishing workers	70	1.0	17.33	36,040
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	230	0.9	9.56	19,880
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	70	1.1	12.30	25,570
Sewing machine operators	510	2.8	10.94	22,750
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	40	2.1	11.73	24,390
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	130	4.8	16.67	34,680
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	50	1.3	(5)	(5)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011—continued**

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Employment <sup>2</sup>		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient <sup>3</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>4</sup>
Upholsterers	30	0.9	\$19.13	\$39,790
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	210	2.0	17.96	37,350
Furniture finishers	40	2.0	18.64	38,780
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	70	0.9	17.94	37,310
Power plant operators	40	0.8	31.35	65,200
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	30	0.8	19.68	40,930
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	160	1.2	22.83	47,480
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	70	1.1	15.51	32,250
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	14.91	31,020
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	(5)	(5)	14.44	30,040
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	1.0	16.76	34,860
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	1.9	17.74	36,890
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	120	1.5	20.80	43,260
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	720	1.3	18.18	37,820
Dental laboratory technicians	90	1.8	15.53	32,300
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(5)	(5)	14.91	31,000
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	700	1.6	13.68	28,450
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	170	1.8	16.72	34,770
Painters, transportation equipment	80	1.3	20.74	43,150
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	100	1.6	9.73	20,240
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	50	1.4	13.28	27,630
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	70	0.6	18.03	37,490
Helpers--production workers	3,410	6.4	11.06	23,000
Production workers, all other*	(5)	(5)	11.82	24,580

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

<sup>1</sup> For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Reading MSA, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_39740.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_39740.htm).

<sup>2</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>3</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>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates not available.