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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN YORK-HANOVER – MAY 2011

Workers in the York-Hanover Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.63 in May 2011, about 10 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 13 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; architecture and engineering; and computer and mathematical. Only one group had an hourly wage that was significantly higher than its respective national average—production. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	York	United States	York	Percent difference ¹
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.74	\$19.63 *	-10
Management	4.8	3.4 *	51.64	47.92 *	-7
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.5 *	33.05	30.20 *	-9
Computer and mathematical	2.7	1.1 *	37.85	33.17 *	-12
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.1	37.08	31.57 *	-15
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4 *	32.44	30.05	-7
Community and social service	1.5	1.6	21.07	18.73 *	-11
Legal	0.8	0.3 *	47.30	36.17 *	-24
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.6 *	24.46	23.78	-3
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.2	25.89	17.15 *	-34
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.5	34.97	35.74	2
Healthcare support	3.1	3.2	13.16	13.35	1
Protective service	2.5	1.5 *	20.54	20.58	0
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.3 *	10.30	9.99 *	-3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.7 *	12.29	11.53 *	-6
Personal care and service	2.8	2.4 *	11.84	11.50	-3
Sales and related	10.6	10.6	18.04	16.95 *	-6
Office and administrative support	16.7	15.5	16.40	15.63 *	-5
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	12.83	10
Construction and extraction	3.9	4.5 *	21.46	20.23 *	-6
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	20.86	20.26 *	-3
Production	6.5	12.5 *	16.45	17.25 *	5
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.8 *	15.96	16.17	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.

¹ A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in York-Hanover is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, York employment was more highly concentrated in 3 of the 22 occupational groups, which were production, transportation and material moving, and construction and extraction. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included 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. York had 21,560 jobs in production, accounting for 12.5 percent of local area employment, nearly twice the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.25, measurably above the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 2,590, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers with 1,430 jobs. Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, with mean hourly wages of \$26.35 and \$20.17, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were production worker helpers (\$11.18) and bakers (\$12.56). (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_49620.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 York area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, cutting, punching, and press machine setter, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic, were employed at three times the national rate in York, and welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers, at over two-and-a-half times the U.S. average.

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 York-Hanover 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 York-Hanover Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,033 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.

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.

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 **York-Hanover, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes York County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at 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, York-Hanover Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ¹	Employment ²		Mean wages	
	Level	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Production occupations	21,560	1.9	17.25	\$35,870
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,360	1.8	26.35	54,810
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	540	2.2	13.94	29,000
Electromechanical equipment assemblers	80	1.2	19.50	40,560
Engine and other machine assemblers	(5)	(5)	13.01	27,060
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	410	4.0	21.50	44,720
Team assemblers	2,590	2.0	16.42	34,160
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	110	0.3	12.57	26,140
Bakers	420	2.1	12.56	26,120
Butchers and meat cutters	(5)	(5)	12.87	26,760
Food batchmakers	250	1.9	15.16	31,530
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	180	4.3	18.44	38,360
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	330	1.9	20.62	42,900
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	1.3	15.83	32,920
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	730	3.0	16.90	35,140
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	390	4.1	19.58	40,720
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	15.64	32,530
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	1.3	19.25	40,030
Machinists	920	1.9	20.00	41,600
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	60	2.3	13.91	28,920
Pourers and casters, metal	(5)	(5)	15.79	32,840
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	460	2.9	13.72	28,530
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	340	3.3	18.48	38,440
Tool and die makers	250	2.6	22.33	46,440
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	1,110	2.6	20.17	41,950
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	18.33	38,120
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	19.04	39,600
Layout workers, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	20.04	41,680
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	70	1.6	17.97	37,370
Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners	(5)	(5)	17.00	35,370
Prepress technicians and workers	170	2.9	18.20	37,860

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Occupation ¹	Employment ²		Mean wages	
	Level	Location quotient ³	Hourly	Annual ⁴
Printing press operators	640	2.7	\$17.87	\$37,170
Print binding and finishing workers	240	3.3	14.99	31,170
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	240	0.9	10.42	21,670
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	(5)	(5)	9.67	20,120
Sewing machine operators	310	1.6	12.10	25,170
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	40	1.7	10.35	21,530
Upholsterers	50	1.2	10.83	22,520
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	150	1.4	15.84	32,940
Furniture finishers	80	3.8	15.45	32,130
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	70	1.4	14.80	30,780
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	270	3.4	13.45	27,980
Woodworkers, all other	30	3.1	17.55	36,500
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	(5)	(5)	18.01	37,470
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	160	1.1	19.84	41,260
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	90	1.4	17.97	37,370
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	140	3.3	20.75	43,160
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	140	3.7	12.11	25,200
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	170	1.0	17.09	35,560
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	1.9	16.71	34,760
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	120	1.3	16.80	34,940
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	60	2.5	17.01	35,370
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,430	2.5	17.80	37,020
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	70	2.0	13.51	28,110
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	880	1.8	15.04	31,290
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	220	2.1	15.21	31,640
Painters, transportation equipment	(5)	(5)	17.08	35,530
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	50	2.0	13.72	28,540
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	70	1.0	11.53	23,990
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	16.63	34,590
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	70	1.8	14.72	30,620
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	19.87	41,330
Helpers--production workers	1,280	2.3	11.18	23,250
Production workers, all other*	110	0.4	14.69	30,550

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

¹ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the York-Hanover MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_49620.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