



# NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE  
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## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN ST. GEORGE – MAY 2009

Workers in the St. George, Utah, Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$16.14 during May 2009, significantly below the nationwide average of \$20.90, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, 18 occupational groups had wages in the local area that were measurably lower than their respective national averages, including legal, management, and computer and mathematical science. No group had a local wage that was significantly higher than its respective national average. (For a comprehensive definition of the St. George, Utah, Metropolitan Statistical Area, please see Technical Note.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the St. George Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2009**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	St. George	United States	St. George
All Occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$20.90	\$16.14 *
Management occupations	4.7	3.9 *	49.47	35.04 *
Business and financial operations occupations	4.6	2.6 *	31.68	24.95 *
Computer and mathematical science occupations	2.5	0.9 *	36.68	26.31 *
Architecture and engineering occupations	1.8	0.8 *	35.38	28.04 *
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1.0	0.7 *	31.57	22.13 *
Community and social services occupations	1.4	1.7 *	20.55	16.12 *
Legal occupations	0.8	0.6	46.07	28.93 *
Education, training, and library occupations	6.5	5.4 *	23.81	16.67 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	1.3	1.1 *	24.87	17.16 *
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	5.5	5.5	33.51	28.58 *
Healthcare support occupations	3.0	4.2 *	12.84	12.33
Protective service occupations	2.4	2.0	20.07	17.52 *
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.6	11.1 *	10.04	9.47 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	3.3	3.9 *	12.00	11.61
Personal care and service occupations	2.6	1.9 *	11.87	10.71 *
Sales and related occupations	10.5	13.2 *	17.32	13.50 *
Office and administrative support occupations	17.1	16.6	15.86	13.44 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.3	0.1 *	11.53	15.33
Construction and extraction occupations	4.4	8.7 *	20.84	16.75 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3.9	3.3 *	20.30	17.94 *
Production occupations	6.8	4.9 *	16.01	14.91 *
Transportation and material moving occupations	6.8	7.2	15.47	15.11

\* The employment share or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90 percent confidence interval.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction, food preparation and serving related, and healthcare support. Conversely, eleven groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations and production occupations. (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. St. George had 4,190 jobs in the construction and extraction group accounting for 8.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the occupational group's 4.4-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for the construction and extraction group locally was \$16.75, significantly below the national wage of \$20.84.

With employment of 600, construction laborers were the largest published occupation within the construction and extraction group, followed by carpenters (530), and first-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers (380). Four occupations had hourly wages exceeding \$20.00, led by construction and building inspectors averaging \$22.72. At the lower end of the wage scale were helpers--pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters (\$9.91). (Detailed occupational data for the construction and extraction group are presented in table B; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_41100.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41100.htm). OES data are published annually for all metropolitan areas. The most recent data for all areas are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm).)

**Table B. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, for construction and extraction occupations, St. George Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2009**

Occupation	Employment[1]	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual[2]	
Construction and extraction occupations	4,190	\$16.75	\$34,840	\$16.05
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	380	22.26	46,300	22.03
Brickmasons and blockmasons	[3]	21.99	45,740	22.66
Stonemasons	70	17.86	37,150	19.08
Carpenters	530	16.76	34,860	16.96
Tile and marble setters	[3]	19.43	40,410	18.03
Cement masons and concrete finishers	260	15.49	32,220	15.56
Construction laborers	600	12.62	26,250	12.48
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators	70	17.76	36,930	18.38
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	250	17.92	37,260	17.65
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	210	14.98	31,150	15.06
Electricians	220	19.59	40,740	21.19
Painters, construction and maintenance	[3]	12.61	26,230	12.44
Pipelayers	30	18.22	37,890	17.78
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	160	20.22	42,070	21.17
Plasterers and stucco masons	200	14.02	29,160	13.85
Roofers	80	13.69	28,470	13.35
Helpers--brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters	60	14.02	29,160	14.67
Helpers--painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons	[3]	10.21	21,230	10.26
Helpers--pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	80	9.91	20,610	10.47
Construction and building inspectors	40	22.72	47,260	21.79
Highway maintenance workers	60	18.64	38,770	18.61

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

[3] Indicates that an employment estimate is not available.

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 Utah Department of Workforce Services. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and up to 801 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 St. George 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 2009 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.5 percent based on employment. The survey included establishments sampled in the May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, November 2007, May 2007, and November 2006 semiannual panels. The sample in the St. George Metropolitan Statistical Area included 878 establishments with a response rate of 87 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).

### **Metropolitan area definition**

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated November 2007.

The St. George Metropolitan Statistical Area consists of Washington County in Utah.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro7/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro7/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the Mountain-Plains Economic Analysis and Information Office at 816-285-7000. 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.