

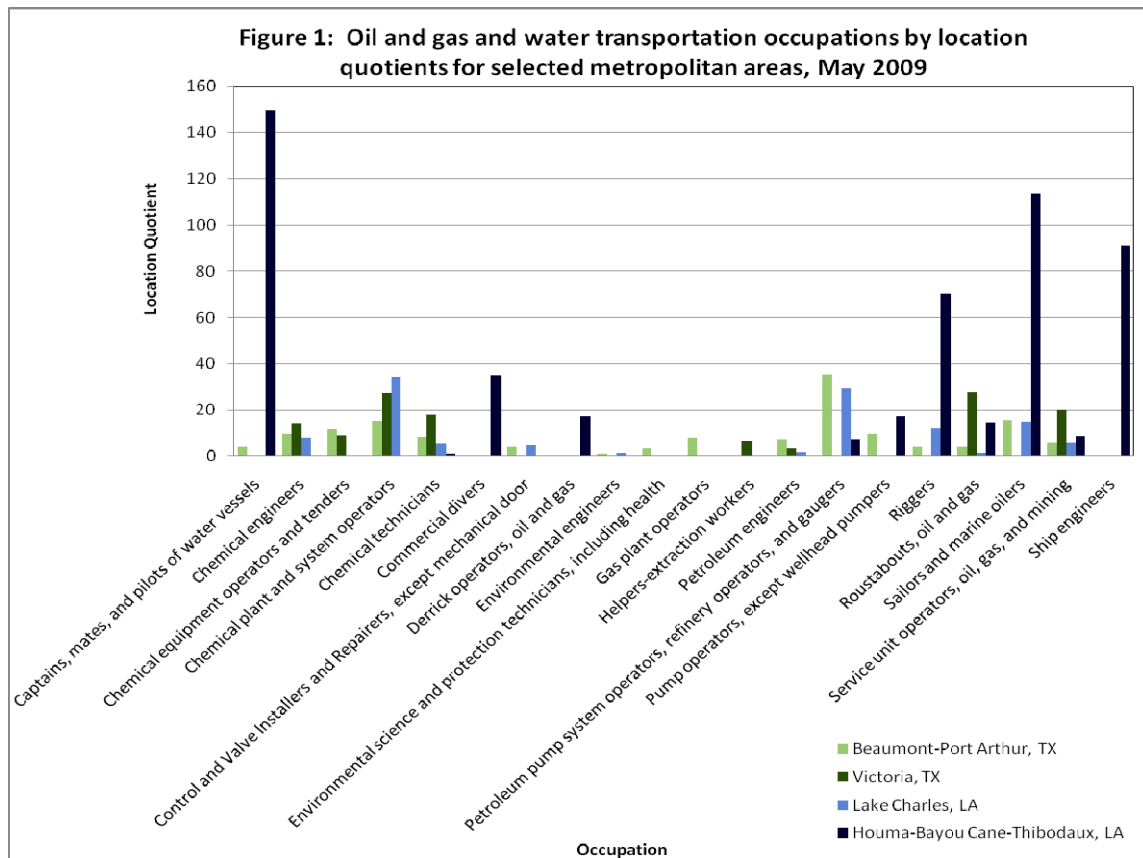
October 2010

# Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Highlights



## Gulf Coast Occupational Employment and Wages

Some of the largest industries in areas along the Gulf of Mexico Coast are related to oil and gas drilling, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality. A closer look at the occupations and wages in these industries and areas prior to the Gulf oil spill could provide insight into potential implications of the spill for the labor force in the region, although it is difficult to say which occupations may be adversely affected in their employment or wages.



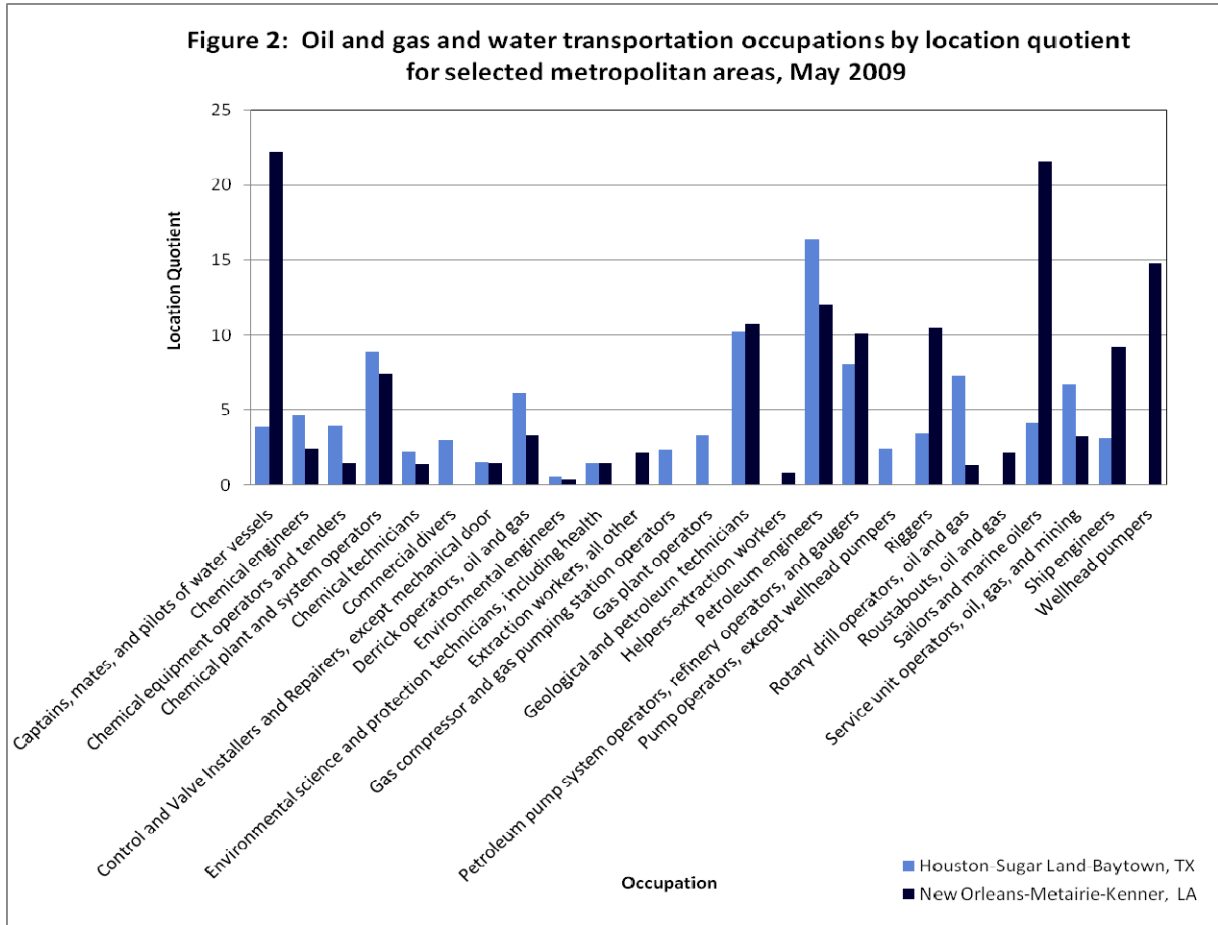
While the largest occupations in the Gulf areas were often the same large occupations found in other areas of the United States, location quotients<sup>1</sup> can be used to show occupations that are more highly concentrated in the Gulf areas than in other parts of the country. Location quotients compare an occupation's share of total employment in the area to its share of total U.S. employment. A location quotient greater than one indicates that the occupation is more concentrated in the area than in the United States as a whole. Occupations that were the most prevalent in the 25 areas<sup>2</sup> along the Gulf Coast, measured in terms of location quotients, are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/highlight\\_gulf\\_table1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/highlight_gulf_table1.htm). Some of the occupations that were the most prevalent in the Gulf Coast areas included occupations associated with oil and gas extraction, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality.

Occupations closely related to oil and gas extraction and water transportation accounted for over 100,000 jobs across the 25 Gulf Coast areas. Six of the 19 metropolitan areas and 2 of the 6 nonmetropolitan areas had especially high employment concentrations of occupations prevalent in the oil and gas and/or water transportation industries. The location quotients for selected occupations in these 8 areas are shown in figures 1 through 4.

Four of the metropolitan areas—Beaumont-Port Arthur, Victoria, Lake Charles, and Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux—are smaller metropolitan areas consisting of 2 parishes or counties and are shown in figure 1. (See page 9 to view these data in table format.) The Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux metropolitan area dominates the graph with four occupations with location quotients over 60, including captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels; riggers; sailors and marine oilers; and ship engineers. Chemical plant and system operators and petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers also had high location quotients for 3 of the metropolitan areas.

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX, and New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, also had high employment concentrations of occupations related to the oil and gas and water transportation industries. In many of the occupations, the metropolitan areas were similar in the concentrations of employment. For instance, both areas had similar

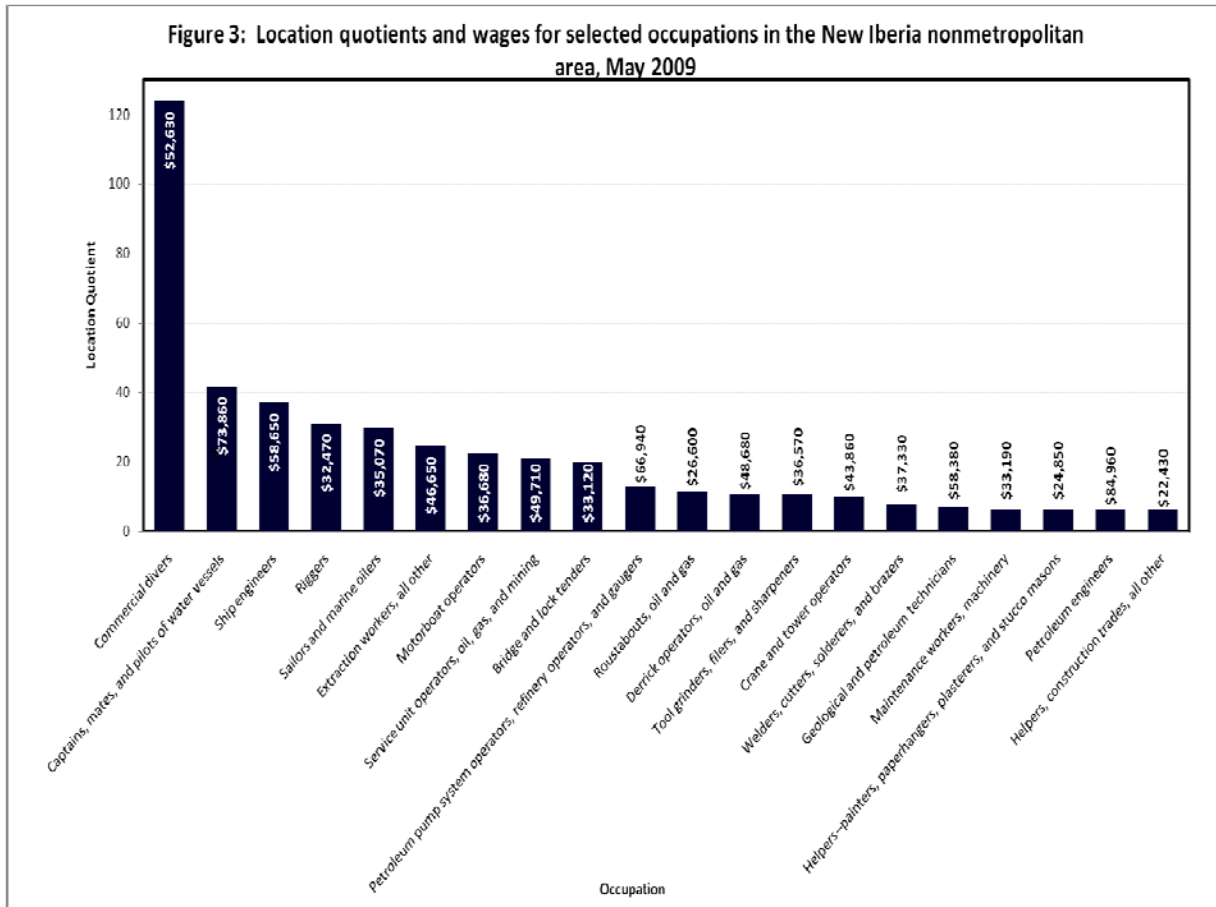
location quotients for geological and petroleum technicians as well as petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers. Both areas also had high concentrations of petroleum engineers. See figure 2.



(See page 10 to view these data in table format.)

Two nonmetropolitan areas with high concentrations of oil and gas occupations are shown in figures 3 and 4. The New Iberia nonmetropolitan area is located in Louisiana and consists of Acadia Parish, Assumption Parish, Iberia Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, St. James Parish, St. Landry Parish, St. Mary Parish, and Vermillion Parish. More than half of the 20 occupations with the highest location quotients in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area were in some way related to the oil and gas industry or to water transportation. Employment concentrations for several of these occupations were more than 10 times as high in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area than in the United States as a whole. For example, commercial divers were 124

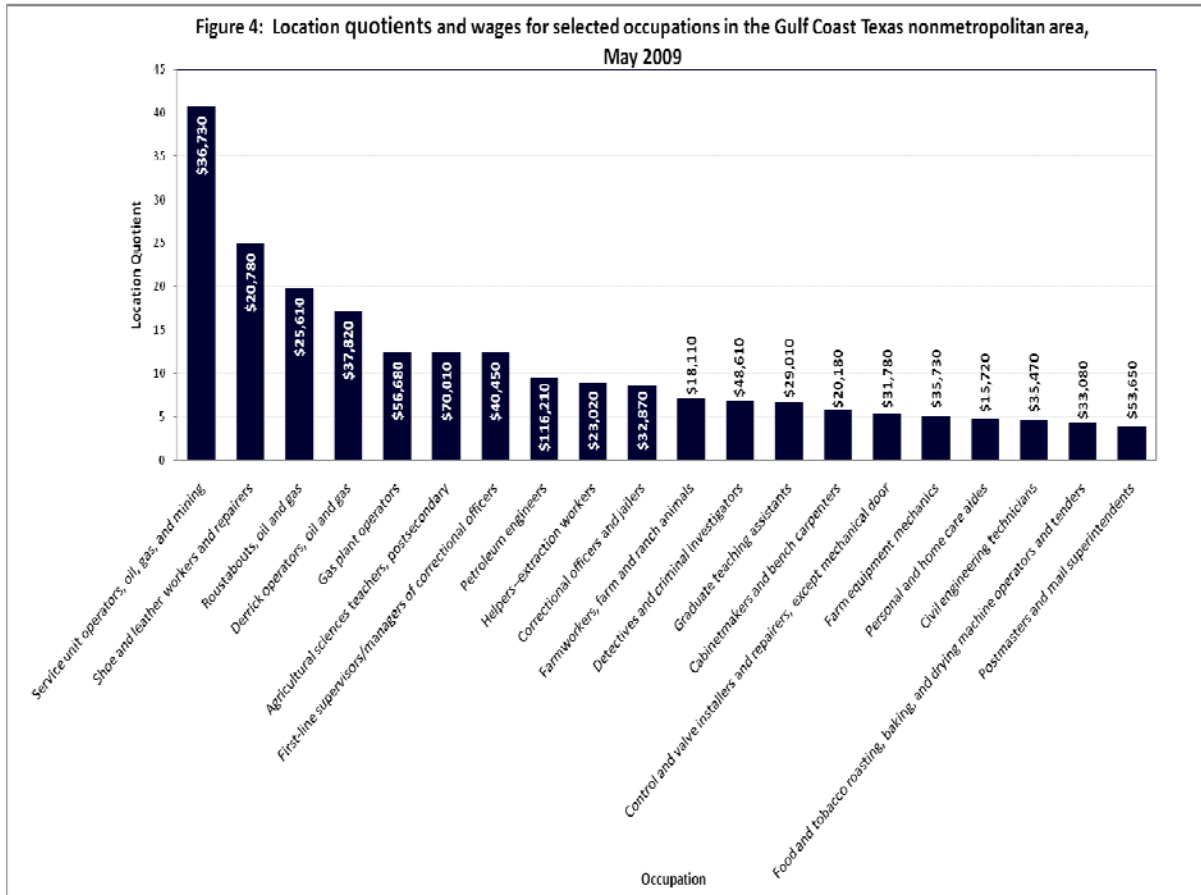
times more concentrated in the New Iberia nonmetropolitan area than in the United States. The annual mean wages for almost half of these occupations also were above the U.S. all-occupations average of \$43,460. For instance, petroleum engineers had an annual wage of \$84,960 and a location quotient of 6.3. Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels also had a high location quotient and an annual wage of \$73,860. (See figure 3.)



(See page 11 to view these data in table format.)

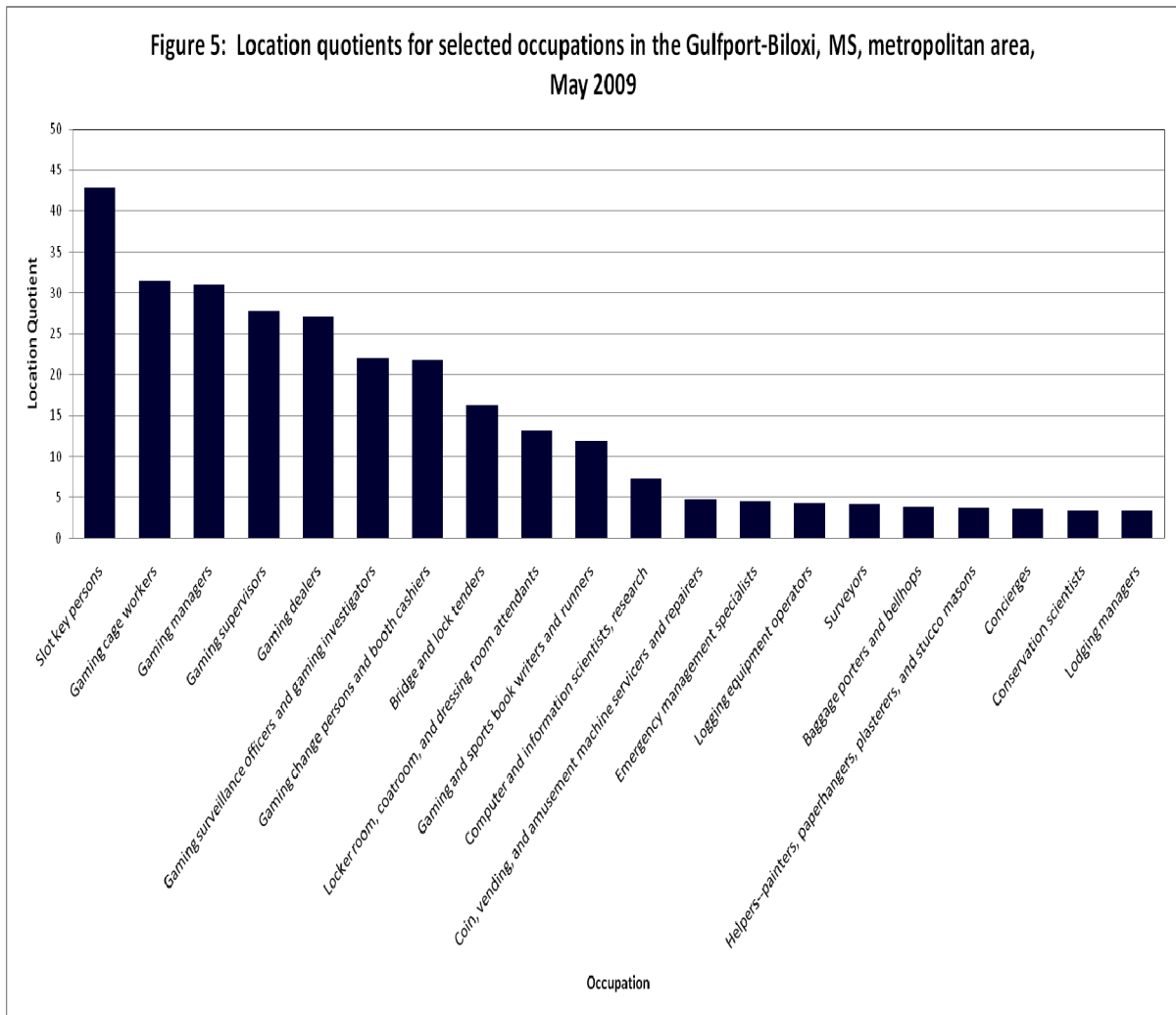
The Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan area is located in Texas and consists of 17 counties. The occupations with the highest location quotients in this area were more diverse, and included a number of occupations not closely related to oil and gas extraction, such as postsecondary agricultural science teachers and personal and home care aides. Among the oil- and gas-related occupations, service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining had an employment concentration approximately 41 times the

U.S. average. Petroleum engineers were also highly concentrated in this nonmetropolitan area, and had a high annual mean wage of \$116,210.



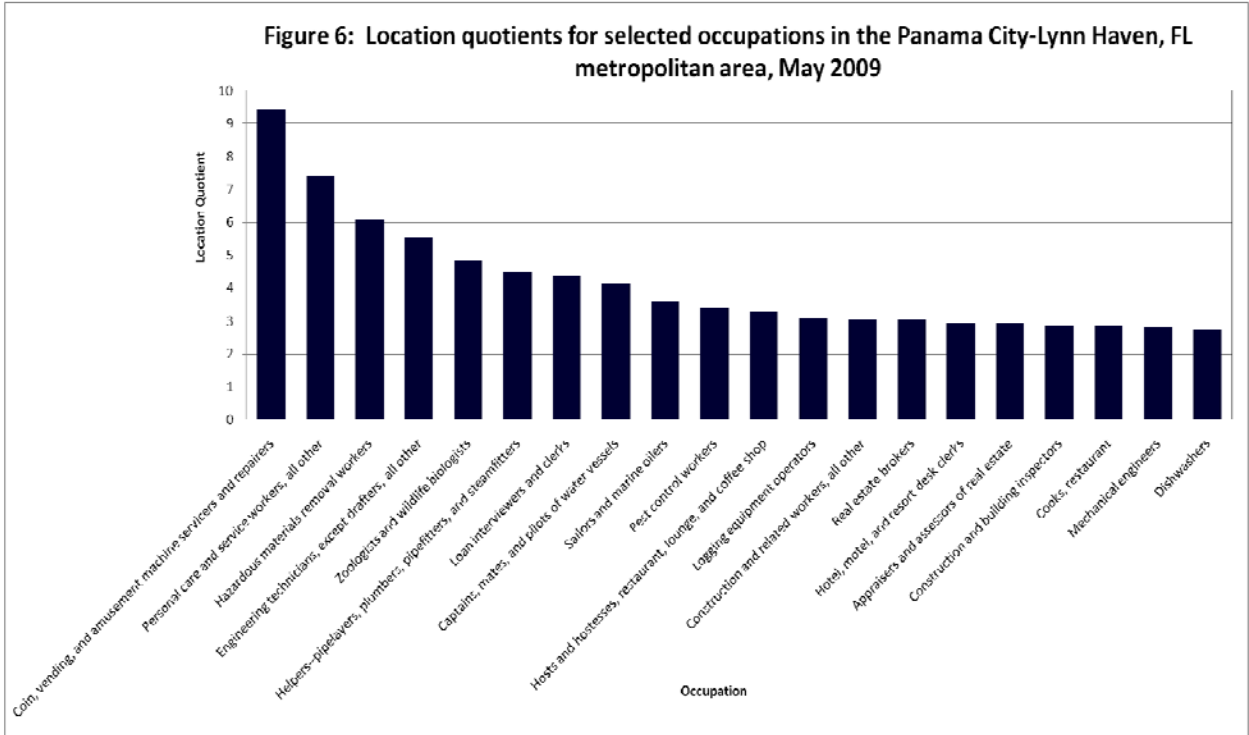
(See page 12 to view these data in table format.)

The proximity to water and the types of entertainment found around the Gulf Coast make it ideal for tourism and the service industries that support it, such as traveler accommodation and food service. Two metropolitan areas with high concentrations of leisure and hospitality-related occupations—Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, and Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL—are shown in figures 5 and 6. The occupations with high location quotients in Gulfport-Biloxi overwhelmingly consist of occupations that are directly related to gaming. Other leisure and hospitality-related occupations include concierges, baggage porters and bellhops, and lodging managers.

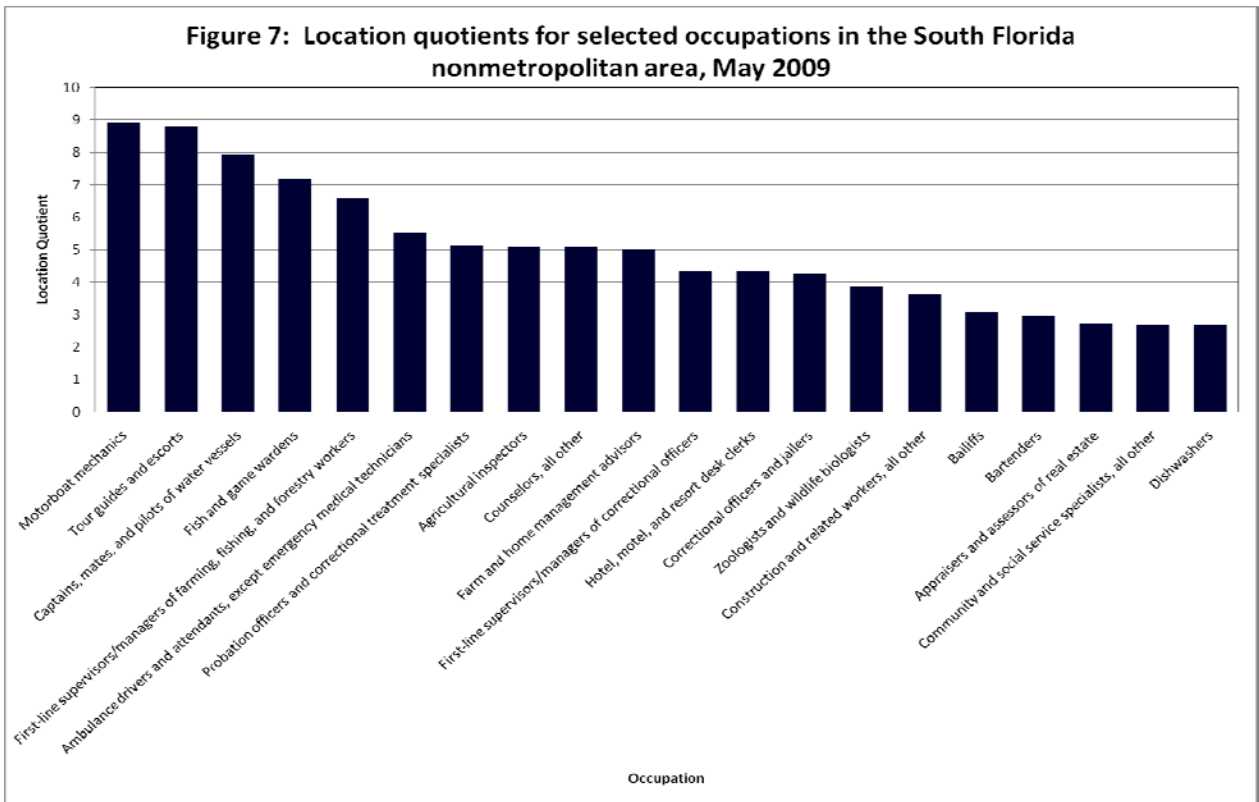


(See page 13 to view these data in table format.)

The Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL, metropolitan area also highlights the large concentrations of occupations in the leisure and hospitality industries. Particularly prevalent in this area were several occupations related to lodging and food service, including hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop; hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks; and restaurant cooks. Like some of the other Gulf Coast areas highlighted above, this area also included high concentrations of sailors and marine oilers and captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels.



(See page 14 to view these data in table format.)



(See page 15 to view these data in table format.)

The South Florida nonmetropolitan area also had high concentrations of several leisure and hospitality-related occupations, such as tour guides and escorts, bartenders, and dishwashers. (See figure 7.)

In addition to the occupations highlighted above, other occupations were also prevalent in specific Gulf Coast areas. For example, several nonmetropolitan areas had high concentrations of protective service occupations, including the Northeast Florida, South Florida, and Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan areas. The Southwest Alabama and Northwest Florida nonmetropolitan areas had high location quotients for logging occupations. Among metropolitan areas, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX, had high concentrations of several teaching occupations, while Naples-Marco Island, FL, had high concentrations of construction and landscaping occupations. Although occupations associated with oil and gas extraction, water transportation, and leisure and hospitality were prevalent across the Gulf Coast region, individual Gulf Coast areas also retained some occupational diversity, suggesting that not every area may be equally affected by the Gulf oil spill.

Complete Occupational Employment Statistics data for May 2009 are available from the OES home page at [www.bls.gov/oes](http://www.bls.gov/oes). This highlight was prepared by Swati Patel. For more information, please contact the OES program at [www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm#contact](http://www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm#contact).

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<sup>1</sup> Location quotients represent the ratio of an occupation's share of total local employment to the occupation's share of total U.S. employment. If a location quotient is equal to 1, then the occupation has the same share of area employment as it does of national employment. Location quotients greater than 1 indicate that the occupation makes up a larger share of local area employment than it does of national employment. For example, if the location quotient for tile and marble setters was 4 in the Naples-Marco Island, FL, metropolitan area, then that means that the employment share of tile and marble setters was 4 times as high in Naples-Marco Island, FL, as in the United States as a whole.

<sup>2</sup> The 25 areas include 19 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and 6 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas that border the Gulf of Mexico.



**Table 1. Oil and gas and water transportation occupations by location quotient for selected metropolitan areas, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                                  | <b>Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX</b> | <b>Victoria, TX</b> | <b>Lake Charles, LA</b> | <b>Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels                       | 4.00                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | 149.70                                |
| Chemical engineers                                                 | 9.50                            | 14.05               | 7.91                    | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Chemical equipment operators and tenders                           | 11.97                           | 9.05                | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Chemical plant and system operators                                | 15.14                           | 27.46               | 34.29                   | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Chemical technicians                                               | 8.10                            | 17.65               | 5.43                    | 0.96                                  |
| Commercial divers                                                  | ( <sup>1</sup> )                | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | 35.00                                 |
| Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door | 4.13                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | 4.72                    | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Derrick operators, oil and gas                                     | ( <sup>1</sup> )                | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | 17.50                                 |
| Environmental engineers                                            | 0.97                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | 1.44                    | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Environmental science and protection technicians, including health | 3.17                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Gas plant operators                                                | 7.64                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Helpers—extraction workers                                         | ( <sup>1</sup> )                | 6.74                | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Petroleum engineers                                                | 7.50                            | 3.30                | 1.70                    | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      |
| Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers   | 35.09                           | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | 29.46                   | 7.46                                  |
| Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers                            | 9.63                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | 17.63                                 |
| Riggers                                                            | 4.20                            | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | 12.20                   | 70.10                                 |
| Roustabouts, oil and gas                                           | 4.23                            | 27.83               | 1.34                    | 14.40                                 |
| Sailors and marine oilers                                          | 15.67                           | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | 14.96                   | 113.71                                |
| Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining                       | 5.82                            | 20.14               | 6.07                    | 8.39                                  |
| Ship engineers                                                     | ( <sup>1</sup> )                | ( <sup>1</sup> )    | ( <sup>1</sup> )        | 91.00                                 |
| ( <sup>1</sup> ) Estimate not released                             |                                 |                     |                         |                                       |

**Table 2. Oil and gas and water transportation occupations by location quotient for selected metropolitan areas, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                                  | <b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX</b> | <b>New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels                       | 3.91                                  | 22.22                                  |
| Chemical engineers                                                 | 4.64                                  | 2.40                                   |
| Chemical equipment operators and tenders                           | 3.97                                  | 1.50                                   |
| Chemical plant and system operators                                | 8.89                                  | 7.43                                   |
| Chemical technicians                                               | 2.20                                  | 1.40                                   |
| Commercial divers                                                  | 3.00                                  | ( <sup>1</sup> )                       |
| Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door | 1.56                                  | 1.47                                   |
| Derrick operators, oil and gas                                     | 6.13                                  | 3.31                                   |
| Environmental engineers                                            | 0.59                                  | 0.39                                   |
| Environmental science and protection technicians, including health | 1.46                                  | 1.50                                   |
| Extraction workers, all other                                      | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      | 2.17                                   |
| Gas compressor and gas pumping station operators                   | 2.33                                  | ( <sup>1</sup> )                       |
| Gas plant operators                                                | 3.27                                  | ( <sup>1</sup> )                       |
| Geological and petroleum technicians                               | 10.18                                 | 10.73                                  |
| Helpers—extraction workers                                         | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      | 0.79                                   |
| Petroleum engineers                                                | 16.40                                 | 12.00                                  |
| Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers   | 8.00                                  | 10.09                                  |
| Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers                            | 2.40                                  | ( <sup>1</sup> )                       |
| Riggers                                                            | 3.40                                  | 10.50                                  |
| Rotary drill operators, oil and gas                                | 7.30                                  | 1.30                                   |
| Roustabouts, oil and gas                                           | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      | 2.17                                   |
| Sailors and marine oilers                                          | 4.17                                  | 21.63                                  |
| Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining                       | 6.68                                  | 3.25                                   |
| Ship engineers                                                     | 3.13                                  | 9.25                                   |
| Wellhead pumpers                                                   | ( <sup>1</sup> )                      | 14.75                                  |
| ( <sup>1</sup> ) Estimate not released                             |                                       |                                        |

**Table 3. Location quotients and wages for selected occupations in the New Iberia, LA, nonmetropolitan area, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                                | <b>Location Quotient</b> | <b>Annual Mean Wage</b> | <b>Employment</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Commercial divers                                                | 124.00                   | \$52,630                | 340               |
| Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels                     | 41.83                    | 73,860                  | 1,330             |
| Ship engineers                                                   | 37.00                    | 58,650                  | 410               |
| Riggers                                                          | 31.10                    | 32,470                  | 430               |
| Sailors and marine oilers                                        | 29.50                    | 35,070                  | 980               |
| Extraction workers, all other                                    | 24.50                    | 46,650                  | 200               |
| Motorboat operators                                              | 22.50                    | 36,680                  | 60                |
| Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining                     | 20.96                    | 49,710                  | 820               |
| Bridge and lock tenders                                          | 20.00                    | 33,120                  | 80                |
| Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers | 12.89                    | 66,940                  | 630               |
| Roustabouts, oil and gas                                         | 11.30                    | 26,600                  | 740               |
| Derrick operators, oil and gas                                   | 10.75                    | 48,680                  | 240               |
| Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners                            | 10.55                    | 36,570                  | 160               |
| Crane and tower operators                                        | 10.13                    | 43,860                  | 440               |
| Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers                         | 7.87                     | 37,330                  | 2,990             |
| Geological and petroleum technicians                             | 7.09                     | 58,380                  | 110               |
| Maintenance workers, machinery                                   | 6.57                     | 33,190                  | 460               |
| Helpers--painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons   | 6.33                     | 24,850                  | 110               |
| Petroleum engineers                                              | 6.30                     | 84,960                  | 180               |
| Helpers, construction trades, all other                          | 6.19                     | 22,430                  | 140               |

**Table 4. Location quotients and wages for selected occupations in the Gulf Coast Texas nonmetropolitan area, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                                           | <b>Location Quotient</b> | <b>Annual Mean Wage</b> | <b>Employment</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining                                | 40.71                    | \$36,730                | 1,390             |
| Shoe and leather workers and repairers                                      | 25.00                    | 20,780                  | 180               |
| Roustabouts, oil and gas                                                    | 19.87                    | 25,610                  | 1,140             |
| Derrick operators, oil and gas                                              | 17.19                    | 37,820                  | 330               |
| Gas plant operators                                                         | 12.55                    | 56,680                  | 170               |
| Agricultural sciences teachers, postsecondary                               | 12.50                    | 70,010                  | 120               |
| First-line supervisors/managers of correctional officers                    | 12.43                    | 40,450                  | 530               |
| Petroleum engineers                                                         | 9.55                     | 116,210                 | 230               |
| Helpers—extraction workers                                                  | 8.95                     | 23,020                  | 210               |
| Correctional officers and jailers                                           | 8.54                     | 32,870                  | 3,630             |
| Farmworkers, farm and ranch animals                                         | 7.15                     | 18,110                  | 240               |
| Detectives and criminal investigators                                       | 6.81                     | 48,610                  | 700               |
| Graduate teaching assistants                                                | 6.72                     | 29,010                  | 760               |
| Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters                                          | 5.76                     | 20,180                  | 530               |
| Control and valve installers and repairers, except mechanical door          | 5.41                     | 31,780                  | 210               |
| Farm equipment mechanics                                                    | 5.17                     | 35,730                  | 140               |
| Personal and home care aides                                                | 4.82                     | 15,720                  | 2,840             |
| Civil engineering technicians                                               | 4.62                     | 35,470                  | 350               |
| Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders | 4.42                     | 33,080                  | 60                |
| Postmasters and mail superintendents                                        | 3.95                     | 53,650                  | 90                |

**Table 5. Location quotients for selected occupations in the Gulfport-Biloxi, MS, metropolitan area, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                             | <b>Location Quotient</b> | <b>Annual Mean Wage</b> | <b>Employment</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Slot key persons                                              | 42.91                    | \$29,100                | 480               |
| Gaming cage workers                                           | 31.50                    | 25,640                  | 390               |
| Gaming managers                                               | 31.00                    | 74,290                  | 90                |
| Gaming supervisors                                            | 27.79                    | 48,190                  | 540               |
| Gaming dealers                                                | 27.05                    | 23,040                  | 1,850             |
| Gaming surveillance officers and gaming investigators         | 22.00                    | 34,340                  | 130               |
| Gaming change persons and booth cashiers                      | 21.80                    | 23,440                  | 330               |
| Bridge and lock tenders                                       | 16.33                    | 22,610                  | 50                |
| Locker room, coatroom, and dressing room attendants           | 13.07                    | 15,720                  | 190               |
| Gaming and sports book writers and runners                    | 11.91                    | 20,040                  | 130               |
| Computer and information scientists, research                 | 7.35                     | 76,820                  | 150               |
| Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers  | 4.69                     | 32,740                  | 140               |
| Emergency management specialists                              | 4.50                     | 36,980                  | 50                |
| Logging equipment operators                                   | 4.28                     | 31,940                  | 80                |
| Surveyors                                                     | 4.18                     | 40,120                  | 170               |
| Baggage porters and bellhops                                  | 3.92                     | 18,900                  | 150               |
| Helpers—painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons | 3.83                     | 21,390                  | 50                |
| Concierges                                                    | 3.69                     | 20,580                  | 60                |
| Conservation scientists                                       | 3.46                     | 50,860                  | 50                |
| Lodging managers                                              | 3.46                     | 48,810                  | 80                |

**Table 6. Location quotients for selected occupations in the Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL, metropolitan area, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                            | <b>Location Quotient</b> | <b>Annual Mean Wage</b> | <b>Employment</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers | 9.45                     | \$27,810                | 190               |
| Personal care and service workers, all other                 | 7.42                     | 21,340                  | 290               |
| Hazardous materials removal workers                          | 6.07                     | <sup>(1)</sup>          | 130               |
| Engineering technicians, except drafters, all other          | 5.53                     | 57,860                  | 200               |
| Zoologists and wildlife biologists                           | 4.85                     | 65,490                  | 40                |
| Helpers—pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters  | 4.48                     | 26,120                  | 160               |
| Loan interviewers and clerks                                 | 4.36                     | 29,140                  | 450               |
| Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels                 | 4.13                     | 46,290                  | 70                |
| Sailors and marine oilers                                    | 3.58                     | 28,140                  | 60                |
| Pest control workers                                         | 3.39                     | 24,350                  | 110               |
| Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop     | 3.28                     | 16,930                  | 580               |
| Logging equipment operators                                  | 3.11                     | 28,430                  | 40                |
| Construction and related workers, all other                  | 3.08                     | 30,930                  | 80                |
| Real estate brokers                                          | 3.08                     | 40,080                  | 80                |
| Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks                         | 2.94                     | 21,200                  | 350               |
| Appraisers and assessors of real estate                      | 2.92                     | 42,600                  | 100               |
| Construction and building inspectors                         | 2.88                     | 50,140                  | 140               |
| Cooks, restaurant                                            | 2.88                     | 20,390                  | 1,360             |
| Mechanical engineers                                         | 2.80                     | 90,210                  | 340               |
| Dishwashers                                                  | 2.73                     | 17,210                  | 740               |
| <sup>(1)</sup> Estimate not released                         |                          |                         |                   |

**Table 7. Location quotients for selected occupations in the South Florida nonmetropolitan area, May 2009**

| <b>Occupation</b>                                                         | <b>Location Quotient</b> | <b>Annual Mean Wage</b> | <b>Employment</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Motorboat mechanics                                                       | 8.93                     | \$48,000                | 130               |
| Tour guides and escorts                                                   | 8.79                     | 31,780                  | 210               |
| Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels                              | 7.91                     | 42,720                  | 180               |
| Fish and game wardens                                                     | 7.17                     | 36,650                  | 40                |
| First-line supervisors/managers of farming, fishing, and forestry workers | 6.60                     | 43,600                  | 100               |
| Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians    | 5.53                     | 22,190                  | 80                |
| Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists                 | 5.11                     | 33,190                  | 370               |
| Agricultural inspectors                                                   | 5.09                     | 38,510                  | 60                |
| Counselors, all other                                                     | 5.08                     | 31,830                  | 120               |
| Farm and home management advisors                                         | 5.00                     | 52,660                  | 40                |
| First-line supervisors/managers of correctional officers                  | 4.34                     | 50,590                  | 150               |
| Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks                                      | 4.34                     | 21,970                  | 750               |
| Correctional officers and jailers                                         | 4.27                     | 35,760                  | 1,510             |
| Zoologists and wildlife biologists                                        | 3.85                     | 45,020                  | 50                |
| Construction and related workers, all other                               | 3.64                     | 31,820                  | 130               |
| Bailiffs                                                                  | 3.08                     | 44,480                  | 40                |
| Bartenders                                                                | 2.94                     | 19,070                  | 1,120             |
| Appraisers and assessors of real estate                                   | 2.72                     | 42,310                  | 140               |
| Community and social service specialists, all other                       | 2.70                     | 36,720                  | 230               |
| Dishwashers                                                               | 2.68                     | 17,180                  | 1,070             |