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Occupational Employment and Wages in Corvallis — May 2015

Workers in the Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $25.06 in May 2015, about 8 percent above the nationwide average of $23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 5 of the 22 major occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical; education, training, and library; and production. Five groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including management; business and financial operations; and life, physical, and social science.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 11 of the 22 occupational groups, including education, training, and library; life, physical, and social science; and architecture and engineering. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; sales and related; and 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 Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Corvallis	United States	Corvallis	Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	$23.23	$25.06*	8
Management	5.0	6.1*	55.30	47.39*	-14
Business and Financial Operations	5.1	4.0*	35.48	28.78*	-19
Computer and Mathematical	2.9	4.5*	41.43	37.13*	-10
Architecture and Engineering	1.8	3.6*	39.89	[2]	
Life, Physical, and Social Science	0.8	4.3*	34.24	27.78*	-19
Community and Social Services	1.4	2.2*	22.19	21.71	-2
Legal	0.8	0.3*	49.74	[2]	
Education, Training, and Library	6.2	11.8*	25.48	29.98*	18
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1.3	1.6*	27.39	28.07	2
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical	5.8	7.1*	37.40	46.74*	25
Healthcare Support	2.9	3.0	14.19	15.20	7
Protective Service	2.4	1.4*	21.45	21.02	-2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	9.1	10.7*	10.98	11.23	2
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	3.2	3.4	13.02	13.79*	6
Personal Care and Service	3.1	4.1*	12.33	12.47	1
Sales and Related	10.5	7.1*	18.90	16.58*	-12
Office and Administrative Support	15.8	13.2*	17.47	16.97	-3
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	0.3	0.9*	12.67	21.44*	69
Construction and Extraction	4.0	2.0*	22.88	23.13	1
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	3.9	2.4*	22.11	22.92	4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Corvallis	United States	Corvallis	Percent difference (1)
Production	6.6	3.3*	17.41	20.49*	18
Transportation and Material Moving	6.9	3.0*	16.90	16.06	-5

Footnotes:
(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Corvallis is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
(2) Estimate not released
* 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.

One occupational group—life, physical, and social science—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Corvallis had 1,490 jobs in life, physical, and social science, accounting for 4.3 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 0.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $27.78, significantly below the national wage of $34.24.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the life, physical, and social science group included biological technicians (290), zoologists and wildlife biologists (140), and agricultural and food science technicians (130). Among the higher paying jobs were geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers and conservation scientists, with mean hourly wages of $40.53 and $40.47, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were biological technicians ($18.62) and environmental science and protection technicians, including health ($23.01). (Detailed occupational data for life, physical, and social science are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes_18700.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 than it does nationally. In the Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in nearly all of the occupations within the life, physical, and social science group. For instance, zoologists and wildlife biologists were employed at 30.6 times the national rate in Corvallis, and agricultural and food science technicians, at 25.2 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 Oregon Employment Department.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

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. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 703 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.

The May 2015 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan 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 **Corvallis, Ore. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Benton County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/west. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request . Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Corvallis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	1,490	5.1	$27.78	$57,780
Soil and Plant Scientists	80	22.2	33.22	69,110
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	140	30.6	30.73	63,930
Conservation Scientists	80	15.5	40.47	84,190
Chemists	[5]	[5]	29.22	60,780
Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health	50	2.1	36.24	75,370
Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers	40	4.9	40.53	84,300
Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists	40	1.5	31.61	65,750
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	130	25.2	23.48	48,840
Biological Technicians	290	15.6	18.62	38,720
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health	50	5.3	23.01	47,850
Forest and Conservation Technicians	70	8.7	23.82	49,540
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	40	2.1	20.28	42,180

Footnotes:
(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Corvallis, OR, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_18700.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) Estimate not released.