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Boston, Mass.

For release: Wednesday, August 17, 2011

USDL-11-289

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## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN SPRINGFIELD, MAY 2010

Workers in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.40 in May 2010, similar to the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction, healthcare support, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. Seven groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal, architecture and engineering, and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including education, training, and library, healthcare practitioners and technical, and production. Conversely, six groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations, construction and extraction, and legal. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Springfield	United States	Springfield
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$21.40
Management	4.7	4.7	50.69	47.84 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.5 *	32.54	31.27 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	1.6 *	37.13	33.37 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5 *	36.32	33.71 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7	31.92	34.71
Community and social service	1.5	2.7 *	20.76	21.01
Legal	0.8	0.5 *	46.60	40.20 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	7.9 *	24.25	24.68
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.3	25.14	21.55 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	7.0 *	34.27	36.53
Healthcare support	3.1	3.5	12.94	14.68 *
Protective service	2.5	2.9 *	20.43	20.88
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.7	10.21	11.26 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.8 *	12.16	13.67 *
Personal care and service	2.7	3.3 *	11.82	12.23
Sales and related	10.6	10.1	17.69	16.40 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.4	16.09	16.88 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	**[1]	11.70	11.55
Construction and extraction	4.0	2.8 *	21.09	23.41 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8	20.58	21.95 *
Production	6.5	7.4 *	16.24	17.67 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	6.8	15.70	16.17

\* 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] Estimate not released

One occupational group—healthcare practitioners and technical—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Springfield had 19,900 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical, accounting for 7.0 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$36.53, compared to the national wage of \$34.27.

With employment of 6,610, registered nurses was the largest occupation within the healthcare practitioners and technical group, followed by licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (1,780) and pharmacy technicians (700). Among the higher paying jobs were psychiatrists and surgeons, with mean hourly wages of \$99.10 and \$93.81, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were veterinary technologists and technicians (\$13.00) and pharmacy technicians (\$13.59). (Detailed occupational data for healthcare practitioners and technical are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_78100.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_78100.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 Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, pediatricians, general were employed at 6.5 times the national rate in Springfield, and internists, general, at 3.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, medical records and health information technicians had a location quotient of 1.0 in Springfield, 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 Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance and the Connecticut Department of Labor. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and nearly 800 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 Springfield 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 2010 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. May 2010 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, and November 2007. The sample in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,197 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](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The May 2010 OES estimates mark the first set of estimates 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 **Springfield, Mass.-Conn. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Agawam city, MA, Ashfield town, MA, Belchertown town, MA, Blandford town, MA, Brimfield town, MA, Chester town, MA, Chesterfield town, MA, Chicopee city, MA, Cummington town, MA, Deerfield town, MA, East Longmeadow town, MA, East Windsor town, CT, Easthampton town, MA, Enfield town, CT, Goshen town, MA, Granby town, MA, Granville town, MA, Hadley town, MA, Hampden town, MA, Hatfield town, MA, Holyoke city, MA, Huntington town, MA, Longmeadow town, MA, Ludlow town, MA, Middlefield town, MA, Monson town, MA, Montgomery town, MA, Northampton city, MA, Palmer town, MA, Plainfield town, MA, Russell town, MA, Somers town, CT, South Hadley town, MA, Southampton town, MA, Southwick town, MA, Springfield city, MA, Suffield town, CT, Tolland town, MA, Wales town, MA, Ware town, MA, West Springfield town, MA, Westfield city, MA, Westhampton town, MA, Whately town, MA, Wilbraham town, MA, Williamsburg town, MA, Windsor Locks town, CT, and Worthington town, MA.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the New England Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (617) 565-2327. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 617-565-2072; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[1]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[2]</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	19,900	1.2	\$36.53	\$75,980
Dentists, general	190	1.0	69.41	144,380
Dietitians and nutritionists	160	1.3	28.12	58,490
Optometrists	70	1.2	47.34	98,470
Pharmacists	440	0.7	49.03	101,980
Anesthesiologists	110	1.5	*[3]	*[3]
Family and general practitioners	90	0.4	74.69	155,350
Internists, general	370	3.4	77.52	161,250
Obstetricians and gynecologists	60	1.3	80.46	167,350
Pediatricians, general	440	6.5	64.47	134,100
Psychiatrists	80	1.5	99.10	206,120
Surgeons	150	1.6	93.81	195,120
Physicians and surgeons, all other	1,030	1.6	105.39	219,220
Physician assistants	360	2.0	43.71	90,910
Registered nurses	6,610	1.1	33.97	70,650
Occupational therapists	360	1.6	32.21	67,000
Physical therapists	500	1.3	37.17	77,310
Recreational therapists	140	2.9	19.28	40,100
Respiratory therapists	200	0.8	28.75	59,790
Speech-language pathologists	370	1.5	32.67	67,950
Therapists, all other	40	1.2	19.47	40,510
Veterinarians	80	0.7	44.36	92,280
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	360	1.0	29.28	60,910
Dental hygienists	570	1.4	35.58	74,000
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	70	0.6	*[3]	*[3]
Diagnostic medical sonographers	80	0.7	33.37	69,420
Nuclear medicine technologists	*[3]	*[3]	29.68	61,730
Radiologic technologists and technicians	530	1.1	28.24	58,730
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	430	0.9	17.66	36,730
Dietetic technicians	110	2.1	15.57	32,380
Pharmacy technicians	700	0.9	13.59	28,260
Respiratory therapy technicians	50	1.8	18.77	39,040
Surgical technologists	*[3]	*[3]	23.08	48,010
Veterinary technologists and technicians	250	1.4	13.00	27,040
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	1,780	1.1	23.79	49,470
Medical records and health information technicians	390	1.0	18.75	39,000
Opticians, dispensing	210	1.6	20.39	42,420
Health technologists and technicians, all other	70	0.4	21.86	45,460
Occupational health and safety specialists	160	1.4	32.73	68,090
Athletic trainers	40	1.1	*[3]	47,150

[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] 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.

[3] Estimate not released.