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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN WORCESTER, MAY 2010

Workers in the Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$23.11 in May 2010, roughly 8 percent above 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 12 of the 22 major occupational groups, including, computer and mathematical, healthcare support, and installation, maintenance, and repair.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical, education, training, and library, and community and social service. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving, construction and extraction, and food preparation and serving related. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Worcester	United States	Worcester
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$23.11 *
Management	4.7	5.5 *	50.69	52.44 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.4	32.54	32.65
Computer and mathematical	2.6	2.4 *	37.13	38.74 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	36.32	34.69 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.1 *	31.92	30.53
Community and social service	1.5	2.8 *	20.76	19.97
Legal	0.8	0.4 *	46.60	46.33
Education, training, and library	6.7	7.8 *	24.25	25.59 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.2	25.14	23.59 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	8.0 *	34.27	35.99 *
Healthcare support	3.1	3.5 *	12.94	15.49 *
Protective service	2.5	2.1 *	20.43	22.32
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.1 *	10.21	11.52 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1	12.16	15.27 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.2 *	11.82	13.85 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.0	17.69	18.32
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.7	16.09	17.42 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	***[2] *	11.70	19.22 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	2.9 *	21.09	23.01 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.4 *	20.58	21.86 *
Production	6.5	6.8	16.24	17.42 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	5.6 *	15.70	16.08

* 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.

***[2] Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent.

One occupational group—healthcare practitioners and technical—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Worcester had 18,950 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical, accounting for 8.0 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$35.99, compared to the national wage of \$34.27.

With employment of 7,510, registered nurses was the largest occupation within the healthcare practitioners and technical group, followed by licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (1,540) and emergency medical technicians and paramedics (650). Among the higher paying jobs were dentists, general and internists, general, with mean hourly wages of \$107.53 and \$88.59, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were pharmacy technicians (\$15.05) and recreational therapists (\$15.32). (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_79600.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 Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, veterinary technologists and technicians were employed at 4.0 times the national rate in Worcester, and occupational therapists, at 2.1 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, pharmacists had a location quotient of 0.9 in Worcester, 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 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 Worcester 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 Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,614 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 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.

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 **Worcester, Mass.-Conn. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Auburn town, MA, Barre town, MA, Boylston town, MA, Brookfield town, MA, Charlton town, MA, Clinton town, MA, Douglas town, MA, Dudley town, MA, East Brookfield town, MA, Grafton town, MA, Holden town, MA, Holland town, MA, Hubbardston town, Lancaster town, MA, Leicester town, MA, Millbury town, MA, New Braintree town, MA, North Brookfield town, MA, Northborough town, MA, Northbridge town, MA, Oakham town, MA, Oxford town, MA, Paxton town, MA, Princeton town, MA, Putnam town, CT, Rutland town, MA, Shrewsbury town, MA, Southbridge town, MA, Spencer town, MA, Sterling town, MA, Sturbridge town, MA, Sutton town, MA, Thompson town, CT, Uxbridge town, MA, Webster town, MA, West Boylston town, MA, West Brookfield town, MA, Westborough town, MA, Woodstock town, CT, and Worcester city, MA.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at 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: 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, Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[1]	Location quotient ^[2]	Hourly	Annual
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	18,950	1.4	\$35.99	\$74,860
Dentists, general	*[3]	*[3]	107.53	223,660
Dietitians and nutritionists	130	1.3	26.64	55,410
Optometrists	40	0.9	66.11	137,520
Pharmacists	460	0.9	50.69	105,420
Anesthesiologists	*[3]	*[3]	*[4]	*[4]
Family and general practitioners	130	0.7	85.26	177,340
Internists, general	170	1.8	88.59	184,260
Pediatricians, general	130	2.2	79.92	166,240
Psychiatrists	30	0.8	87.55	182,100
Surgeons	*[3]	*[3]	*[4]	*[4]
Physicians and surgeons, all other	240	0.4	100.89	209,860
Physician assistants	230	1.5	43.02	89,480
Registered nurses	7,510	1.5	40.14	83,490
Occupational therapists	400	2.1	34.56	71,890
Physical therapists	600	1.8	37.45	77,890
Recreational therapists	140	3.5	15.32	31,870
Respiratory therapists	220	1.1	31.69	65,920
Speech-language pathologists	270	1.3	35.84	74,560
Veterinarians	210	2.1	41.66	86,660
Audiologists	50	2.0	*[3]	*[3]
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	610	2.0	29.70	61,770
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	420	1.5	17.37	36,130
Dental hygienists	640	1.9	39.57	82,300
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	60	0.7	29.67	61,710
Diagnostic medical sonographers	150	1.6	44.28	92,100
Radiologic technologists and technicians	540	1.3	30.69	63,840
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	650	1.6	18.23	37,910
Dietetic technicians	50	1.0	16.50	34,320
Pharmacy technicians	540	0.9	15.05	31,300
Surgical technologists	120	0.7	24.77	51,520
Veterinary technologists and technicians	600	4.0	17.52	36,440
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	1,540	1.1	25.50	53,040
Medical records and health information technicians	640	1.9	19.13	39,790
Opticians, dispensing	*[3]	*[3]	24.43	50,810
Health technologists and technicians, all other	90	0.6	23.46	48,810
Occupational health and safety specialists	60	0.6	29.43	61,210

[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.

[4] This wage is equal to or greater than \$80.00 per hour or \$166,400 per year.