



## NEWS RELEASE



NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE  
New York City, N.Y.

**For Release: Wednesday, September 29, 2010**

NYLS – 7453

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### **OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN NEW JERSEY TRENTON-EWING – MAY 2009**

Workers in the Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$26.49 in May 2009, 27 percent above the nationwide average of \$20.90, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in all but 3 of the 22 major occupational groups, with legal; farming, fishing, and forestry; and transportation and material moving being the exceptions.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 9 of the 22 occupational groups, including computer and mathematical science; business and financial operations; and education, training, and library. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including healthcare support, food preparation and serving related, construction and extraction, and transportation and material moving. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—computer and mathematical science—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Trenton-Ewing had 11,800 jobs in computer and mathematical science, accounting for 5.5 percent of local area employment, more than double the 2.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$41.40, measurably above the national wage of \$36.68.

With employment of 3,540, computer software engineers, applications, was the largest occupation within the computer and mathematical science operations group, followed by computer systems analysts (1,930) and computer support specialists (1,360). Among the higher paying jobs were actuaries (\$50.04), computer and information scientists, research (\$49.61), network systems and data communications analysts (\$46.61), computer software engineers, applications (\$46.53), and computer software engineers, systems software (\$46.48). At the lower end of the wage scale were computer support specialists (\$25.48), computer specialists, all other (\$37.32), and network and computer systems administrators (\$38.12). (Detailed occupational data for computer and mathematical science are presented in table B; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to [www.bls.gov/oes/2009/may/oes\\_45940.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2009/may/oes_45940.htm).)



**Round-the-clock recorded messages** for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage	
	United States	Trenton-Ewing	United States	Trenton-Ewing
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$ 20.90	\$ 26.49
Management	4.7	6.0*	49.47	58.01*
Business and financial operations	4.6	9.2*	31.68	36.75*
Computer and mathematical science	2.5	5.5*	36.68	41.40*
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.8	35.38	38.58*
Life, physical, and social science	1.0	2.0*	31.57	34.94*
Community and social services	1.4	2.2*	20.55	26.08*
Legal	0.8	1.3*	46.07	46.26
Education, training, and library	6.5	8.4*	23.81	27.10*
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.4	24.87	31.04*
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.5	5.2	33.51	37.68*
Healthcare support	3.0	2.6*	12.84	13.92*
Protective service	2.4	2.9*	20.07	28.51*
Food preparation and serving related	8.6	5.8*	10.04	11.03*
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.2	12.00	13.62*
Personal care and service	2.6	2.7	11.87	13.91*
Sales and related	10.5	8.5*	17.32	20.28*
Office and administrative support	17.1	19.3*	15.86	18.12*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	11.53	11.25
Construction and extraction	4.4	2.3*	20.84	26.81*
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	2.3*	20.30	22.56*
Production	6.8	3.1*	16.01	17.04*
Transportation and material moving	6.8	4.4*	15.47	14.87*

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

**Table B. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2009**

Occupation	Employment <sup>1</sup>	Mean hourly wage
Computer and mathematical science occupations	11,800	\$41.40
Computer and information scientists, research	(2)	49.61
Computer programmers	1,110	41.42
Computer software engineers, applications	3,540	46.53
Computer software engineers, systems software	1,110	46.48
Computer support specialists	1,360	25.48
Computer systems analysts	1,930	41.95
Database administrators	320	40.19
Network and computer systems administrators	920	38.12
Network systems and data communications analysts	420	46.61

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table B. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2009—Continued**

Occupation	Employment <sup>1</sup>	Mean hourly wage
Computer specialists, all other	780	\$37.32
Actuaries	60	50.04
Operations research analysts	40	43.80
Statisticians	60	39.11

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Estimate not released.

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 New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. 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 Trenton-Ewing 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 Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,300 establishments with a response rate of 78 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to <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.

**Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Statistical Area** is composed of Mercer County in New Jersey.

### **Additional information**

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the New York Economic Analysis and Information Unit at 646-264-3600. 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.