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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN GREENVILLE-MAULDIN-EASLEY, MAY 2010

Workers in the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.80 in May 2010, roughly 12 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, no wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in the 22 major occupational groups. Eighteen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including computer and mathematical; life, physical, and social science; and legal.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 3 of the 22 occupational groups: production, architecture and engineering, and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library, business and financial operations, and computer and mathematical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Greenville-Mauldin-Easley had 34,010 jobs in production, accounting for 11.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.63, compared to the national wage of \$16.24.

With employment of 8,700, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by production worker helpers (2,140) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (1,880). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers and tool and die makers, with mean hourly wages of \$26.56 and \$24.55, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing (\$9.01) and bakers (\$9.97). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_24860.htm)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Greenville	United States	Greenville
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$18.80 *
Management	4.7	4.6	50.69	47.58 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.7 *	32.54	28.68 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	1.9 *	37.13	29.07 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.7 *	36.32	34.16 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5 *	31.92	24.62 *
Community and social service	1.5	1.4	20.76	24.16
Legal	0.8	0.6 *	46.60	40.79 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.2 *	24.25	22.40
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.0 *	25.14	20.68 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.4 *	34.27	29.37 *
Healthcare support	3.1	2.8 *	12.94	12.03 *
Protective service	2.5	1.8 *	20.43	15.53 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.6	10.21	9.12 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1	12.16	10.94 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.3 *	11.82	10.72 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.5	17.69	16.02 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.7	16.09	14.85 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2	11.70	12.30
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.5 *	21.09	16.81 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	20.58	18.83 *
Production	6.5	11.8 *	16.24	15.63
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.6 *	15.70	13.97 *

* 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.

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 Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at nearly 11 times the national rate in Greenville, and team assemblers, at over 4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Greenville, 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 South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. 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 Greenville 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. 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 Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,472 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.

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 **Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Greenville, Laurens, and Pickens Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Southeast Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (404) 893-4222. 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, Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[1]	Location quotient ^[2]	Hourly	Annual
Production occupations	34,010	1.8	\$15.63	\$32,520
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,880	1.5	26.56	55,240
Coil winders, tapers, and finishers	70	2.1	11.02	22,910
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	490	1.2	13.86	28,830
Engine and other machine assemblers	640	8.4	16.81	34,960
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	210	1.2	15.85	32,970
Fiberglass laminators and fabricators	^[3]	^[3]	14.01	29,150
Team assemblers	8,700	4.1	12.88	26,790
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	^[3]	^[3]	11.37	23,640
Bakers	260	0.8	9.97	20,730
Butchers and meat cutters	250	0.9	12.84	26,700
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	190	0.7	17.01	35,390
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	80	2.1	22.17	46,110
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	^[3]	^[3]	17.31	36,010
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	660	1.6	17.06	35,490
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	1.8	24.53	51,010
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	70	0.5	16.12	33,540
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	210	2.3	15.91	33,100
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.9	17.76	36,950
Machinists	1,750	2.2	20.39	42,410
Model makers, metal and plastic	^[3]	^[3]	19.23	39,990
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	470	1.8	16.26	33,820
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	110	0.7	13.96	29,030
Tool and die makers	^[3]	^[3]	24.55	51,060
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	780	1.1	19.99	41,590
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	^[3]	^[3]	17.21	35,790
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	^[3]	^[3]	15.73	32,720
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	190	2.7	13.12	27,290
Prepress technicians and workers	260	2.4	13.28	27,620
Printing press operators	490	1.1	17.55	36,510
Print binding and finishing workers	80	0.7	14.48	30,110
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	320	0.7	11.41	23,720
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	420	3.3	11.19	23,270
Sewing machine operators	560	1.7	10.90	22,660
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	160	5.7	11.99	24,930
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	2.4	13.08	27,200
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	520	10.8	12.56	26,120
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	400	6.3	13.73	28,550
Upholsterers	30	0.5	18.47	38,410
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	360	1.9	16.18	33,650
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	60	0.8	10.96	22,800
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	^[3]	^[3]	9.01	18,730
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	170	0.7	17.93	37,300
Chemical plant and system operators	240	2.4	20.46	42,570
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	250	2.4	18.43	38,330

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010—continued

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[1]	Location quotient ^[2]	Hourly	Annual
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	[3]	[3]	\$19.66	\$40,890
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	[3]	[3]	14.77	30,730
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	840	3.0	18.88	39,270
Cutters and trimmers, hand	50	1.2	11.73	24,390
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	190	1.3	19.43	40,410
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	310	2.1	13.49	28,050
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,810	2.0	14.93	31,050
Dental laboratory technicians	[3]	[3]	14.93	31,050
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	170	2.7	14.97	31,140
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,400	1.8	13.73	28,560
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	210	1.2	17.17	35,710
Painters, transportation equipment	120	1.3	20.94	43,550
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	140	2.5	10.65	22,160
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	160	1.2	11.38	23,670
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	[3]	[3]	10.36	21,550
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	80	1.2	13.08	27,220
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	180	0.9	12.43	25,850
Helpers--production workers	2,140	2.4	10.76	22,370
Production workers, all other	670	1.3	11.73	24,390

[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.