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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY, MAY 2010

Workers in the Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.39 in May 2010, roughly 9 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 16 of the 22 major occupational groups including management, computer and mathematical, and food preparation and serving related. Two groups, production and healthcare support, had significantly higher wages than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including food preparation and serving related, production, and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; business and financial operations; and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Louisville-Jefferson County had 56,280 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 9.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.26, compared to the national wage of \$15.70.

With employment of 15,510, hand laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, was the largest occupation within the transportation and material moving group, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (9,110) and industrial truck and tractor operators (5,210). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with mean hourly wages of \$25.04 and \$18.25, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were taxi drivers and chauffeurs (\$9.78) and hand packers and packagers, (\$10.08). (Detailed occupational data for transportation and material moving are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31140.htm.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Louisville	United States	Louisville
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$19.39 *
Management	4.7	4.8	50.69	44.43 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.9 *	32.54	27.71 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	1.9 *	37.13	32.12 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4 *	36.32	31.14 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4 *	31.92	25.60 *
Community and social service	1.5	1.1 *	20.76	18.56 *
Legal	0.8	0.7 *	46.60	34.74 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.4 *	24.25	23.19
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.0 *	25.14	19.11 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.6 *	34.27	30.28 *
Healthcare support	3.1	2.9 *	12.94	13.25 *
Protective service	2.5	2.0 *	20.43	16.59 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.2 *	10.21	9.47 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.0 *	12.16	10.74 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.4 *	11.82	11.00 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.2	17.69	17.51
Office and administrative support	16.9	17.3	16.09	15.00 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.70	11.29
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.8	21.09	18.72 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3 *	20.58	19.46 *
Production	6.5	8.3 *	16.24	17.44 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.7 *	15.70	17.26

* 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 Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, industrial truck and tractor operators were employed at 2.2 times the national rate in Louisville, and machine feeders and offbearers, at 1.9 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, light truck or delivery service drivers had a location quotient of 1.2 in Louisville, 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 Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment. 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 Louisville 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 Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,662 establishments with a response rate of 76 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 **Louisville-Jefferson County, Ky.-Ind. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties of Kentucky, and Clark, Floyd, Harrison, and Washington Counties of Indiana.

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, Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽¹⁾	Location quotient ⁽²⁾	Hourly	Annual
Transportation and material moving occupations	56,280	1.4	\$17.26	\$35,890
Aircraft cargo handling supervisors	(3)	(3)	24.89	51,780
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	1,340	1.8	22.18	46,130
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	1,250	1.4	25.04	52,090
Airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers	(3)	(3)	(4)	150,250
Commercial pilots	150	1.1	(4)	66,720
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	850	1.0	15.06	31,320
Bus drivers, school or special client	2,720	1.3	16.03	33,340
Driver/sales workers	1,960	1.1	13.27	27,590
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	9,110	1.4	18.25	37,960
Light truck or delivery services drivers	4,360	1.2	16.63	34,590
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	700	0.9	9.78	20,340
Motor vehicle operators, all other	290	1.0	14.88	30,960
Rail yard engineers, dinkey operators, and hostlers	(3)	(3)	17.57	36,550
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	(3)	(3)	24.15	50,230
Parking lot attendants	200	0.4	10.65	22,150
Automotive and watercraft service attendants	410	1.0	11.10	23,100
Transportation inspectors	120	1.1	41.43	86,180
Transportation workers, all other	180	1.2	14.63	30,440
Conveyor operators and tenders	310	1.8	14.99	31,190
Crane and tower operators	220	1.2	20.08	41,770
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	210	0.9	16.98	35,310
Industrial truck and tractor operators	5,210	2.2	14.37	29,890
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	1,530	1.2	11.90	24,750
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	15,510	1.7	12.45	25,900
Machine feeders and offbearers	1,050	1.9	15.31	31,850
Packers and packagers, hand	3,600	1.2	10.08	20,970
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	370	0.6	15.49	32,230

(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) Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year-round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries depending on how they are typically paid.