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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN PALM BAY-MELBOURNE-TITUSVILLE, MAY 2010

Workers in the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.67 in May 2010, close to 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, 11 of the 22 major occupational groups had wages that were significantly lower than their respective national averages, including construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and office and administrative support. Production was the only occupational group with wages significantly higher than the national average.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, and healthcare practitioners and technical. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; education, training, and library; and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville had 12,000 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 6.3 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$37.19, compared to the national wage of \$36.32.

With employment of 1,450, electrical engineers was the largest occupation within the architecture and engineering group. Other large occupations included industrial engineers (1,340) and mechanical engineers (1,230). Among the higher paying jobs were aerospace engineers and electrical engineers, with mean hourly wages of \$45.01 and \$42.79, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were surveying and mapping technicians (\$17.21) and industrial engineering technicians (\$21.35). (Detailed occupational data for the architecture and engineering group are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_37340.htm)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Palm Bay	United States	Palm Bay
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$20.67
Management	4.7	3.1 *	50.69	49.55
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.4 *	32.54	30.32 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	3.8 *	37.13	38.26
Architecture and engineering	1.8	6.3 *	36.32	37.19
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	31.92	32.14
Community and social service	1.5	1.1 *	20.76	19.68
Legal	0.8	0.7 *	46.60	33.39 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.0 *	24.25	19.86 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	0.9 *	25.14	21.08 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.8 *	34.27	32.35
Healthcare support	3.1	3.4	12.94	12.66
Protective service	2.5	2.8	20.43	18.20 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	9.6 *	10.21	9.72 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.2	12.16	11.94
Personal care and service	2.7	2.2 *	11.82	12.25
Sales and related	10.6	10.7	17.69	16.79 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	17.7 *	16.09	14.35 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(1)	11.70	(1)
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.7	21.09	17.92 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3 *	20.58	18.76 *
Production	6.5	5.2 *	16.24	17.09 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	3.8 *	15.70	14.19 *

(1) Estimate not released.

* 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 Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, aerospace engineers were employed at 8.4 times the national rate in the Palm Bay area, and electrical engineers at 6.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, civil engineers had a location quotient of 0.9 in Palm Bay, 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 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. 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 Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville 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 Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,890 establishments with a response rate of 81 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 **Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, Fla. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Brevard County.

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, Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽¹⁾	Location quotient ⁽²⁾	Hourly	Annual
Architecture and engineering occupations	12,000	3.5	\$37.19	\$77,350
Architects, except landscape and naval	50	0.4	32.98	68,600
Surveyors	80	1.3	23.28	48,420
Aerospace engineers	990	8.4	45.01	93,620
Chemical engineers	70	1.7	48.47	100,810
Civil engineers	350	0.9	38.88	80,860
Computer hardware engineers	610	6.1	41.33	85,970
Electrical engineers	1,450	6.5	42.79	89,010
Electronics engineers, except computer	880	4.4	39.09	81,310
Environmental engineers	110	1.5	34.87	72,530
Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors	150	4.3	38.50	80,080
Industrial engineers	1,340	4.4	37.07	77,100
Materials engineers	120	3.7	34.63	72,040
Mechanical engineers	1,230	3.5	39.61	82,380
Engineers, all other	1,370	6.6	49.32	102,580
Architectural and civil drafters	170	1.2	21.87	45,480
Electrical and electronics drafters	70	1.8	21.46	44,630
Mechanical drafters	160	1.7	26.21	54,510
Aerospace engineering and operations technicians	40	3.4	27.26	56,690
Electrical and electronics engineering technicians	1,380	6.3	24.76	51,500
Industrial engineering technicians	310	3.4	21.35	44,400
Mechanical engineering technicians	130	1.9	27.63	57,470
Engineering technicians, except drafters, all other	280	2.8	29.24	60,810
Surveying and mapping technicians	130	1.6	17.21	35,810

(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.