

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE
Atlanta, Ga.

For release: Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro4
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN SAVANNAH, MAY 2010

Workers in the Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.07 in May 2010, roughly 11 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 15 of the 22 major occupational groups including management, healthcare practitioners and technical, and sales and related.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment had a lower concentration in 12 of the 22 occupational groups, including business and financial operations, computer and mathematical, and healthcare support. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly above their national representation, including healthcare practitioners and technical; installation, maintenance, and repair; and transportation and material moving. (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. Savannah had 14,000 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 9.6 percent of local area employment, 43 percent higher than the 6.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.71, measurably above the national wage of \$15.70.

With employment of 5,210, 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 (2,020), light truck or delivery services drivers (1,210), and industrial truck and tractor operators (1,040). Among the higher paying jobs were captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels and first-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators, with mean hourly wages of \$33.39 and \$28.14, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were taxi drivers and chauffeurs (\$8.79) and cleaners of vehicles and equipment (\$8.95). (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_42340.htm)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of		Mean hourly wage	
	total employment		United	
	United States	Savannah	States	Savannah
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	\$21.35	\$19.07 *
Management	4.7	5.0 *	50.69	44.81 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.5 *	32.54	30.11 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	0.8 *	37.13	28.25 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.7 *	36.32	36.97
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4 *	31.92	30.72
Community and social service	1.5	0.9 *	20.76	19.00 *
Legal	0.8	0.5 *	46.60	38.36 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	6.7	24.25	20.26 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	0.9 *	25.14	22.04 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.1 *	34.27	30.55 *
Healthcare support	3.1	2.4 *	12.94	12.03 *
Protective service	2.5	3.1 *	20.43	16.59 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	10.9 *	10.21	9.77
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	4.3 *	12.16	10.31 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.3 *	11.82	10.75 *
Sales and related	10.6	11.5 *	17.69	14.66 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.1 *	16.09	15.38 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(1) *	11.70	16.50 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.9	21.09	18.31 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.3 *	20.58	20.34
Production	6.5	4.2 *	16.24	19.83 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	9.6 *	15.70	17.71 *

*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.

¹ Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent.

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 Savannah area, above average concentrations of employment were found in a number of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, industrial truck and tractor operators, one of the larger occupations in the grouping, were employed at 1.7 times the national rate in Savannah and captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels, at over 7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, taxi drivers and chauffeurs had a location quotient of 0.8 in Savannah, indicating that this particular occupation's local employment share was close to the national average.

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 Georgia 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 Savannah 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 Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,596 establishments with a response rate of 86 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 **Savannah, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties in Georgia.

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, Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean wage	
	Level ¹	Location quotient ²	Hourly	Annual
Transportation and material moving occupations	14,000	1.4	\$17.71	\$36,830
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	420	2.2	23.76	49,430
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	360	1.6	28.14	58,540
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians	(3)	(3)	10.89	22,650
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	(3)	(3)	9.69	20,160
Bus drivers, school or special client	740	1.4	12.91	26,860
Driver/sales workers	(3)	(3)	11.41	23,730
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	2,020	1.2	19.06	39,650
Light truck or delivery services drivers	1,210	1.4	16.32	33,950
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	140	0.8	8.79	18,280
Sailors and marine oilers	140	3.7	18.05	37,550
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	240	7.1	33.39	69,440
Ship engineers	60	5.2	27.63	57,470
Parking lot attendants	120	0.8	10.45	21,740
Automotive and watercraft service attendants	(3)	(3)	9.76	20,300
Transportation attendants, except flight attendants	(3)	(3)	9.23	19,200
Conveyor operators and tenders	40	1.0	19.33	40,210
Crane and tower operators	40	0.8	17.22	35,810
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	60	1.1	16.99	35,330
Industrial truck and tractor operators	1,040	1.7	14.33	29,800
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	250	0.8	8.95	18,620
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	5,210	2.3	17.94	37,320
Packers and packagers, hand	380	0.5	9.20	19,130
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	250	1.7	13.92	28,960

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.