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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN  
CHICAGO-NAPERVILLE-JOLIET, MAY 2010**

Workers in the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$23.62 in May 2010, roughly 11 percent above the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 15 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; education, training, and library; and legal. Only one group had significantly lower wages than its respective national average: architecture and engineering.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including business and financial operations, transportation and material moving, and management. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including food preparation and serving related; installation, maintenance, and repair; and office and administrative support. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Chicago	United States	Chicago
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$23.62 *
Management	4.7	5.6 *	50.69	51.47 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	6.3 *	32.54	33.80 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	2.6	37.13	37.18
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4 *	36.32	35.46 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	31.92	35.87 *
Community and social service	1.5	1.3 *	20.76	22.86 *
Legal	0.8	1.0 *	46.60	54.80 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	7.2 *	24.25	29.26 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.4	25.14	25.60
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.7	34.27	35.33
Healthcare support	3.1	2.7 *	12.94	13.39
Protective service	2.5	2.7	20.43	23.15
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	7.6 *	10.21	10.54 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	12.16	13.16 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.4 *	11.82	12.77 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.8	17.69	20.39 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.3 *	16.09	17.23 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	***[1] *	11.70	14.99 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.5 *	21.09	27.98 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.0 *	20.58	22.92 *
Production	6.5	6.9 *	16.24	16.51
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.8 *	15.70	16.57 *

\* 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.

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet had 276,030 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 7.8 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.7-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.57, measurably above the national wage of \$15.70.

With employment of 73,570, laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand was the largest occupation within the transportation and material moving group, followed by hand packers and packagers, hand (33,830), and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (32,860). Among the higher paying jobs were air traffic controllers; and crane and tower operators, with mean hourly wages of \$65.17 and \$31.34, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were automotive and watercraft service attendants (\$9.65) and transportation attendants, except flight attendants (\$10.31). (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\\_16974.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_16974.htm))

Location quotients allow for the exploration of a metropolitan area's occupational make-up 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 Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, flight attendants were employed at 3.3 times the national rate in Chicago, and airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers, at 3.0 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, cleaners of vehicles and equipment had a location quotient of 1.0 in Chicago, 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 Illinois Department of Employment Security. 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 Chicago Metropolitan Division 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 Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division included 11,457 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](http://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](http://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 **Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill. Metropolitan Division** includes Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, and Will Counties.

### Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at [www.bls.gov/ro5/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro5/home.htm). If you have additional questions, contact the Chicago Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (312) 353-1880. 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, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[1]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[2]</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Transportation and material moving occupations	276,030	1.2	\$16.57	\$34,460
Aircraft cargo handling supervisors	230	1.3	22.90	47,620
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	5,330	1.2	24.47	50,900
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	4,380	0.8	27.50	57,200
Airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers	5,780	3.0	[3]	121,820
Commercial pilots	180	0.2	[3]	57,530
Air traffic controllers	890	1.3	65.17	135,550
Airfield operations specialists	440	2.3	14.71	30,600
Flight attendants	8,110	3.3	[3]	33,350
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians	400	0.7	12.41	25,810
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	8,570	1.7	19.82	41,230
Bus drivers, school or special client	13,520	1.0	13.13	27,320
Driver/sales workers	9,790	0.9	15.46	32,160
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	32,860	0.8	21.83	45,400
Light truck or delivery services drivers	20,370	0.9	17.74	36,890
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	5,010	1.1	13.49	28,050
Motor vehicle operators, all other	2,880	1.7	27.69	57,600
Rail yard engineers, dinkey operators, and hostlers	350	2.3	17.51	36,420
Railroad conductors and yardmasters	890	0.7	[3]	[3]
Rail transportation workers, all other	310	3.5	24.91	51,810
Sailors and marine oilers	330	0.4	13.74	28,570
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	240	0.3	27.89	58,020
Ship engineers	[3]	[3]	38.53	80,140
Parking lot attendants	4,550	1.3	11.46	23,840
Automotive and watercraft service attendants	970	0.4	9.65	20,070
Traffic technicians	[3]	[3]	19.08	39,680
Transportation inspectors	640	0.9	27.00	56,150
Transportation attendants, except flight attendants	1,410	2.0	10.31	21,450
Conveyor operators and tenders	810	0.8	16.55	34,420
Crane and tower operators	680	0.6	31.34	65,190
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	320	0.2	28.69	59,670
Industrial truck and tractor operators	17,660	1.2	14.74	30,650
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	8,320	1.0	10.68	22,220
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	73,570	1.3	12.51	26,020
Machine feeders and offbearers	4,600	1.4	12.69	26,400
Packers and packagers, hand	33,830	1.8	10.82	22,510
Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers	[3]	[3]	21.79	45,310
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	2,090	0.6	22.81	47,450
Tank car, truck, and ship loaders	[3]	[3]	24.47	50,900

[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.