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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN  
MILWAUKEE-WAUKESHA-WEST ALLIS, MAY 2010**

Workers in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.64 in May 2010 compared to 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 7 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction, sales and related, and healthcare practitioners and technical. Nine groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including protective service, computer and mathematical, and business and financial operations.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee
<b>Total, all occupations</b>	100%	100%	\$21.35	\$21.64
Management	4.7	4.6 *	50.69	51.21
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.3 *	32.54	30.35 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	2.9 *	37.13	33.74 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.9	36.32	32.73 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6 *	31.92	29.86 *
Community and social service	1.5	1.2 *	20.76	20.54
Legal	0.8	0.7	46.60	42.19 *
Education, training, and library	6.7	5.4 *	24.25	24.52
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.5 *	25.14	21.97 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.5 *	34.27	37.42 *
Healthcare support	3.1	3.5 *	12.94	13.08
Protective service	2.5	1.9 *	20.43	18.35 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.1 *	10.21	9.70 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1 *	12.16	12.77 *
Personal care and service	2.7	3.4 *	11.82	10.89 *
Sales and related	10.6	9.9 *	17.69	20.11 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	16.3 *	16.09	16.25
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	[1]	11.70	14.78 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	2.8 *	21.09	25.34 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.5 *	20.58	21.47 *
Production	6.5	9.9 *	16.24	17.43 *
Transportation and material moving	6.7	6.8	15.70	15.32

\* 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] Estimate not released.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including production, healthcare practitioners and technical, and personal care and service. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; construction and extraction; and protective service. (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. Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis had 77,580 jobs in production, accounting for 9.9 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$17.43, measurably above the national wage of \$16.24.

With employment of 7,450, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (5,090) and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (5,050). Among the higher paying jobs were power plant operators and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, with mean hourly wages of \$30.00 and \$29.78, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$9.60) and pressers of textile, garment, and related materials (\$10.77). (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\\_33340.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33340.htm))

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 Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, machinists were employed at 2.2 times the national rate in Milwaukee, and multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic, at 4.2 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, production worker helpers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Milwaukee, 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 Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. 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 Milwaukee 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 Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,499 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 **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wis. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha 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, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>(1)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(2)</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Production occupations	77,580	1.5	\$17.43	\$36,250
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	5,090	1.5	29.78	61,930
Coil winders, tapers, and finishers	330	3.6	13.81	28,710
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	2,710	2.4	17.75	36,920
Electromechanical equipment assemblers	900	3.0	16.34	33,990
Engine and other machine assemblers	630	3.1	19.37	40,300
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	510	1.0	17.86	37,140
Team assemblers	7,450	1.3	14.77	30,720
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	2,140	1.4	20.40	42,430
Bakers	980	1.1	10.96	22,790
Butchers and meat cutters	1,140	1.5	16.05	33,390
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	760	0.8	11.31	23,520
Slaughterers and meat packers	<sup>(3)</sup>	<sup>(3)</sup>	11.40	23,720
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	100	0.8	16.55	34,420
Food batchmakers	860	1.4	13.74	28,580
Food cooking machine operators and tenders	<sup>(3)</sup>	<sup>(3)</sup>	12.84	26,720
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	2,490	3.3	17.87	37,170
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	330	3.2	22.64	47,080
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	220	0.5	15.56	32,370
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	70	0.5	18.34	38,150
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	<sup>(3)</sup>	<sup>(3)</sup>	17.16	35,690
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	2,500	2.2	16.26	33,820
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	380	2.8	19.04	39,610
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,520	3.5	15.33	31,880
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	660	2.6	18.93	39,380
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	1.0	20.04	41,690
Machinists	4,800	2.2	20.64	42,920
Metal-refining furnace operators and tenders	210	2.2	16.45	34,220
Pourers and casters, metal	230	3.4	15.07	31,340
Model makers, metal and plastic	130	3.5	25.70	53,460
Patternmakers, metal and plastic	60	2.2	18.58	38,640
Foundry mold and coremakers	190	3.1	15.22	31,660
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,830	2.6	14.33	29,810
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,780	4.2	15.57	32,390
Tool and die makers	1,400	3.4	25.73	53,510
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	2,590	1.3	18.15	37,750
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	420	1.8	19.83	41,240
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	310	2.8	13.75	28,590
Layout workers, metal and plastic	40	0.8	20.03	41,670
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	170	0.9	17.59	36,580
Tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners	570	7.7	20.02	41,640
Metal workers and plastic workers, all other	330	2.2	18.71	38,920
Prepress technicians and workers	650	2.2	19.94	41,470
Printing press operators	2,680	2.3	19.75	41,080
Print binding and finishing workers	1,240	3.7	16.63	34,590
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	1,050	0.8	9.60	19,960

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010--continued**

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level <sup>[1]</sup>	Location quotient <sup>[2]</sup>	Hourly	Annual
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	140	0.4	10.77	22,400
Sewing machine operators	640	0.7	11.47	23,850
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	[3]	[3]	12.20	25,370
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	[3]	[3]	13.65	28,390
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	0.6	12.86	26,750
Upholsterers	100	0.5	13.79	28,680
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	590	1.1	18.62	38,730
Furniture finishers	[3]	[3]	14.04	29,210
Sewing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	50	0.2	13.27	27,600
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	[3]	[3]	14.97	31,130
Power plant operators	170	0.7	30.00	62,400
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	110	0.5	25.43	52,900
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	460	0.7	23.96	49,830
Chemical plant and system operators	70	0.3	27.34	56,860
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	310	1.1	19.25	40,040
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	240	1.0	19.06	39,640
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	0.7	16.59	34,510
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	300	1.8	15.42	32,080
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	930	1.2	16.83	35,000
Cutters and trimmers, hand	130	1.2	13.73	28,570
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	480	1.3	15.33	31,890
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	280	0.7	16.02	33,330
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	[3]	[3]	18.40	38,270
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	5,050	2.0	15.30	31,830
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	100	0.8	23.74	49,390
Dental laboratory technicians	190	0.8	20.87	43,410
Medical appliance technicians	[3]	[3]	18.22	37,890
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	180	1.1	18.46	38,410
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	3,740	1.8	13.61	28,310
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	900	1.9	15.86	32,990
Painters, transportation equipment	170	0.6	18.55	38,590
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	190	1.3	11.67	24,280
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	480	1.4	10.99	22,860
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	70	0.7	14.68	30,540
Cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders	90	0.8	12.05	25,060
Etchers and engravers	140	2.8	17.16	35,690
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	[3]	[3]	14.06	29,240
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,640	3.0	17.56	36,530
Helpers--production workers	2,690	1.1	12.40	25,790
Production workers, all other	1,800	1.3	14.63	30,430

[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.