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Occupational Employment and Wages in Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton – May 2015

Workers in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.88 in May 2015, six percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 8 of the 22 major occupational groups, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; protective service; and computer and mathematical. Two groups— building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations and production occupations—had average wages that were measurably higher than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Allentown employment shares were significantly higher in 6 of the 22 occupational groups including transportation and material moving; healthcare practitioners and technical; and production. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included management; business and financial operations; and computer and mathematical. (See [table A](#) and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Allentown metropolitan area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	Allentown		United States	Allentown		
Total, all occupations.....	100.00%	100.00%		\$23.23	\$21.88	*	-6
Management.....	5.0	3.7	*	55.30	55.00		-1
Business and financial operations.....	5.1	3.8	*	35.48	32.59	*	-8
Computer and mathematical.....	2.9	2.2	*	41.43	37.56	*	-9
Architecture and engineering.....	1.8	1.6		39.89	38.32		-4
Life, physical, and social science.....	0.8	0.5	*	34.24	32.44		-5
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.8	*	22.19	21.39		-4
Legal.....	0.8	0.4	*	49.74	48.18		-3
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	6.2		25.48	26.98		6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	1.0	*	27.39	22.22	*	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical.....	5.8	7.5	*	37.40	38.22		2
Healthcare support.....	2.9	3.7	*	14.19	13.96		-2
Protective service.....	2.4	1.9	*	21.45	19.52	*	-9
Food preparation and serving related.....	9.1	8.5		10.98	10.69	*	-3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance..	3.2	3.0	*	13.02	13.75	*	6
Personal care and service.....	3.1	3.7	*	12.33	11.90	*	-3

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Allentown metropolitan area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	Allentown		United States	Allentown		
Sales and related.....	10.5	9.9		18.90	18.07	*	-4
Office and administrative support.....	15.8	16.3		17.47	16.73	*	-4
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.1	*	12.67	13.88		10
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	3.2		22.88	22.75		-1
Installation, maintenance, and repair.....	3.9	3.9		22.11	22.09		0
Production.....	6.6	7.6	*	17.41	17.97	*	3
Transportation and material moving.....	6.9	9.6	*	16.90	16.42		-3

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Allentown is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* 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.

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Allentown had 33,250 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 9.6 percent of local area employment, significantly larger than the 6.9-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$16.42, similar to the national wage of \$16.90.

With employment of 11,900, 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 with 5,830 jobs. Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators and first-line supervisors of hand helpers, laborers, and material movers, with mean hourly wages of \$29.08 and \$25.53, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were automotive and watercraft service attendants (\$9.24) and cleaners of vehicles and equipment (\$10.27). (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_10900.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 as it does nationally. In the Allentown area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in several of the occupations within the transportation and material moving group. For instance, conveyor operators and tenders were employed at 3.8 times the national rate in Allentown, and industrial truck and tractor operators at 2.5 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, machine feeders and offbearers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Allentown, 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 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

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. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.-N.J. Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,579 establishments with a response rate of 77 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan 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 **Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.-N.J. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Carbon, Lehigh and

Northampton Counties in Pennsylvania and Warren County in New Jersey.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at <http://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic>. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment ⁽²⁾		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	33,250	1.4	\$16.42	\$34,140
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand..	590	1.3	25.53	53,100
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators.....	590	1.2	29.08	60,480
Commercial pilots.....	80	0.8	⁽⁵⁾	77,020
Air traffic controllers.....	40	0.8	41.87	87,090
Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians.....	⁽⁶⁾	⁽⁶⁾	11.89	24,730
Bus drivers, transit and intercity.....	450	1.1	17.44	36,270
Bus drivers, school or special client.....	1,650	1.3	16.24	33,770
Driver/sales workers.....	1,280	1.2	10.89	22,650
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.....	5,830	1.4	21.44	44,590
Light truck or delivery services drivers.....	2,370	1.1	17.12	35,600
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs.....	550	1.2	13.91	28,940
Parking lot attendants.....	300	0.8	10.77	22,410
Automotive and watercraft service attendants.....	350	1.3	9.24	19,220
Conveyor operators and tenders.....	320	3.8	16.65	34,630
Crane and tower operators.....	30	0.3	23.31	48,470
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators.....	30	0.3	19.74	41,060
Industrial truck and tractor operators.....	3,340	2.5	16.93	35,220
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment.....	640	0.8	10.27	21,360
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	11,900	1.9	14.34	29,830
Machine feeders and offbearers.....	250	1.0	15.02	31,240
Packers and packagers, hand.....	2,330	1.3	13.19	27,440
Refuse and recyclable material collectors.....	150	0.5	15.15	31,500

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(5) 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.

(6) Estimates not released.