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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas
Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest
Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Occupational Employment and Wages in Baton Rouge – May 2017

Workers in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $21.39 in May 2017, about 12 percent below the nationwide average of $24.34, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 17 of the 22 major occupational groups including computer and mathematical; legal; and business and financial operations. Local wages were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 2 of the 22 major occupational groups, including production workers. Local wages in the three remaining groups were similar to the national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including office and administrative support; computer and mathematical; and business and financial operations. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2017

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Baton Rouge	United States	Baton Rouge	Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	$24.34	$21.39*	-12
Management	5.1	4.4*	57.65	49.97*	-13
Business and financial operations	5.2	4.3*	36.70	28.77*	-22
Computer and mathematical	3.0	1.3*	43.18	29.87*	-31
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.3*	41.44	40.22	-3
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.0*	35.76	29.16*	-18
Community and social service	1.5	1.2*	23.10	21.69*	-6
Legal	0.8	0.7*	51.62	36.17*	-30
Education, training, and library	6.1	5.8	26.67	24.42*	-8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.0*	28.34	27.52	-3
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.0	5.8	38.83	31.30*	-19
Healthcare support	2.9	2.5*	15.05	12.86*	-15
Protective service	2.4	3.0*	22.69	17.57*	-23
Food preparation and serving related	9.3	8.8*	11.88	9.85*	-17
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.1	2.8*	13.91	11.13*	-20
Personal care and service	3.6	3.2*	13.11	10.95*	-16
Sales and related	10.2	9.9	19.56	15.46*	-21
Office and administrative support	15.4	13.5*	18.24	16.33*	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.2*	13.87	18.42*	33

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2017 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Baton Rouge	United States	Baton Rouge	Percent difference (1)
Construction and extraction	4.0	9.5*	24.01	22.57*	-6
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.8*	23.02	22.18*	-4
Production	6.3	6.2	18.30	25.75*	41
Transportation and material moving	7.0	7.7*	17.82	17.47	-2

Footnotes:
(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area 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—construction and extraction—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Baton Rouge had 37,280 jobs in construction and extraction, accounting for 9.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.0-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $22.57, significantly below the national wage of $24.01.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the construction and extraction group included construction laborers (4,780), first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers (4,040), and plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters (3,570). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers, as well as construction and building inspectors, with mean hourly wages of $32.57 and $29.69, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were helpers-carpenters ($13.71) and helpers-electricians ($14.25). (Detailed occupational data for construction and extraction are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12940.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 Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, boilermakers were employed at 24.3 times the national rate in Baton Rouge, and insulation workers, mechanical, at 20.6 times the U.S. average. Both Baton Rouge location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, brickmasons and blockmasons had a location quotient of 1.0 in Baton Rouge, indicating that this 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 Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the release of the May 2017 estimates, the OES program has replaced 21 detailed occupations found in the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with 10 new aggregations of those occupations. In addition, selected 4- and 5-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries previously published by OES will no longer be published separately. Some of the 4-digit NAICS industries that are no longer being published separately will instead be published as OES-specific industry aggregations. More information about the new occupational and industry aggregations is available at www.bls.gov/oes/changes_2017.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 survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates 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. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2017 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2017, November 2016, May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, and November 2014. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 72 percent based on establishments and 68 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted sample employment of 82 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area included 3,242 establishments with a response rate of 76 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.htm.

The May 2017 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 **Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes in Louisiana.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. 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, Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2017

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Construction and extraction occupations	37,280	2.4	$22.57	$46,940
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	4,040	2.6	32.57	67,750
Boilermakers	1,000	24.3	27.66	57,520
Brickmasons and blockmasons	170	1.0	22.53	46,860
Carpenters	3,330	1.8	20.29	42,210
Tile and marble setters	60	0.6	15.58	32,410
Construction laborers	4,780	1.8	16.42	34,160
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators	130	0.9	[5]	[5]
Pile-driver operators	160	15.9	19.36	40,260
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	2,160	2.2	20.37	42,380
Electricians	3,440	2.0	25.83	53,730
Insulation workers, mechanical	1,410	20.6	21.66	45,050
Painters, construction and maintenance	1,470	2.4	19.34	40,230
Pipelayers	160	1.5	17.07	35,500
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	3,570	3.0	26.80	55,740
Plasterers and stucco masons	[5]	[5]	15.81	32,880
Reinforcing iron and rebar workers	[5]	[5]	33.46	69,590
Roofers	150	0.4	18.25	37,950
Sheet metal workers	210	0.6	21.41	44,540
Structural iron and steel workers	1,350	6.6	26.56	55,250
Helpers--brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters	180	2.7	17.77	36,960
Helpers-carpenters	700	7.5	13.71	28,520
Helpers-electricians	1,360	6.8	14.25	29,640
Helpers-painters, paperhangers, plasterers, and stucco masons	[5]	[5]	13.85	28,820
Helpers-pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	750	5.0	14.44	30,030
Construction and building inspectors	340	1.3	29.69	61,750
Hazardous materials removal workers	450	3.8	18.23	37,920
Highway maintenance workers	330	0.8	15.21	31,640
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	[5]	[5]	19.54	40,630
Miscellaneous construction and related workers	460	4.8	20.39	42,420
Derrick operators, oil and gas	[5]	[5]	23.59	49,070
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	[5]	[5]	16.80	34,940
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	[5]	[5]	27.02	56,210
Roustabouts, oil and gas	290	2.2	[5]	[5]
Helpers-extraction workers	[5]	[5]	17.59	36,580

Footnotes:
(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Baton Rouge, LA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_12940.htm
(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) Estimate not released.