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Occupational Employment and Wages in Tucson, May 2014

Workers in the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.45 in May 2014, about 10 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, no wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 22 major occupational groups. Thirteen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; management; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; protective service; and healthcare practitioners and technical. Conversely, three groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; and transportation and material moving. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	Tucson	United States	Tucson	
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.71	\$20.45*	-10
Management	5.0	4.8	54.08	44.17*	-18
Business and financial operations	5.1	4.6	34.81	28.88*	-17
Computer and mathematical	2.8	2.8	40.37	34.94*	-13
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.1	39.19	37.16*	-5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.2*	33.69	28.33*	-16
Community and social services	1.4	2.0*	21.79	18.69*	-14
Legal	0.8	0.8	48.61	34.09*	-30
Education, training, and library	6.2	6.1	25.10	22.47	-10
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.4	26.82	20.68*	-23
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.8	6.7*	36.54	34.91	-4
Healthcare support	2.9	2.9	13.86	14.27	3
Protective service	2.4	3.4*	21.14	22.10	5
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	9.8*	10.57	10.50	-1
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.2	12.68	11.48*	-9
Personal care and service	3.1	(2)	12.01	11.53	-4
Sales and related	10.5	10.2	18.59	15.35*	-17
Office and administrative support	16.0	17.5*	17.08	15.97*	-6
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	12.09	12.02	-1
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.8	22.40	18.84*	-16
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3*	21.74	20.99	-3
Production	6.6	3.3*	17.06	16.94	-1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Tucson	United States	Tucson	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Transportation and material moving	6.8	4.6*	16.57	14.05*	-15

Footnotes:

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

(2) Estimate not released

* 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—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Tucson had 61,800 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 16.0-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.97, significantly below the national wage of \$17.08.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included customer service representatives (10,780), general office clerks (7,590), and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (6,320). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service mail carriers and postal service clerks, with mean hourly wages of \$25.73 and \$25.53, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$10.09) and clerical library assistants (\$10.57). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/oes_46060.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 Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, customer service representatives were employed at 1.6 times the national rate in Tucson, and medical secretaries, at 1.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance, had a location quotient of 1.0 in Tucson, 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 Arizona Department of Administration.

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 are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. 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 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 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 Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,759 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.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 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.

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 **Tucson, Ariz. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Pima County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/west. 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/2014/may/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, Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	61,800	1.1	\$15.97	\$33,220
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	5,100	1.4	22.46	46,720
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	260	0.9	11.55	24,030
Bill and Account Collectors	1,300	1.4	13.15	27,350
Billing and Posting Clerks	1,720	1.3	15.39	32,020
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	2,460	0.6	16.61	34,560
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks	490	1.1	16.42	34,160
Procurement Clerks	400	2.2	15.98	33,250
Tellers	1,120	0.8	12.83	26,690
Financial Clerks, All Other	(5)	(5)	17.85	37,120
Brokerage Clerks	70	0.5	24.42	50,790
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks	430	1.3	15.60	32,450
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks	40	0.3	16.26	33,830
Customer Service Representatives	10,780	1.6	13.17	27,390
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	190	0.6	18.46	38,400
File Clerks	300	0.8	13.97	29,060
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	810	1.3	10.09	20,980
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	(5)	(5)	10.86	22,590
Library Assistants, Clerical	290	1.1	10.57	21,980
Loan Interviewers and Clerks	730	1.3	18.85	39,200
New Accounts Clerks	190	1.4	19.61	40,790
Order Clerks	200	0.4	15.90	33,070
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping	330	0.9	15.74	32,730
Receptionists and Information Clerks	2,190	0.9	12.38	25,740
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	(5)	(5)	16.01	33,310
Information and Record Clerks, All Other	1,260	2.7	15.65	32,540
Cargo and Freight Agents	(5)	(5)	18.58	38,650
Couriers and Messengers	70	0.4	10.87	22,600
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	330	1.3	18.70	38,890
Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance	500	1.0	16.48	34,290
Meter Readers, Utilities	50	0.5	22.42	46,630
Postal Service Clerks	140	0.7	25.53	53,090
Postal Service Mail Carriers	780	1.0	25.73	53,510
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators	220	0.7	23.34	48,550
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	1,130	1.5	24.14	50,220
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	1,310	0.8	14.76	30,700
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	5,440	1.1	11.81	24,570
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping	90	0.5	13.42	27,920
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	950	0.5	25.06	52,110
Legal Secretaries	650	1.2	16.78	34,910
Medical Secretaries	2,130	1.6	15.33	31,890
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	6,320	1.1	15.67	32,580
Computer Operators	60	0.4	19.50	40,560
Data Entry Keyers	390	0.7	12.87	26,770
Word Processors and Typists	80	0.4	12.65	26,310
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	460	0.7	16.68	34,700
Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service	160	0.6	11.68	24,290
Office Clerks, General	7,590	1.0	15.94	33,140
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	100	0.6	13.11	27,270

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Tucson Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Statistical Assistants.....	40	1.0	19.60	40,770
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other.....	190	0.3	15.82	32,900

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Tucson, AZ, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_46060.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.