

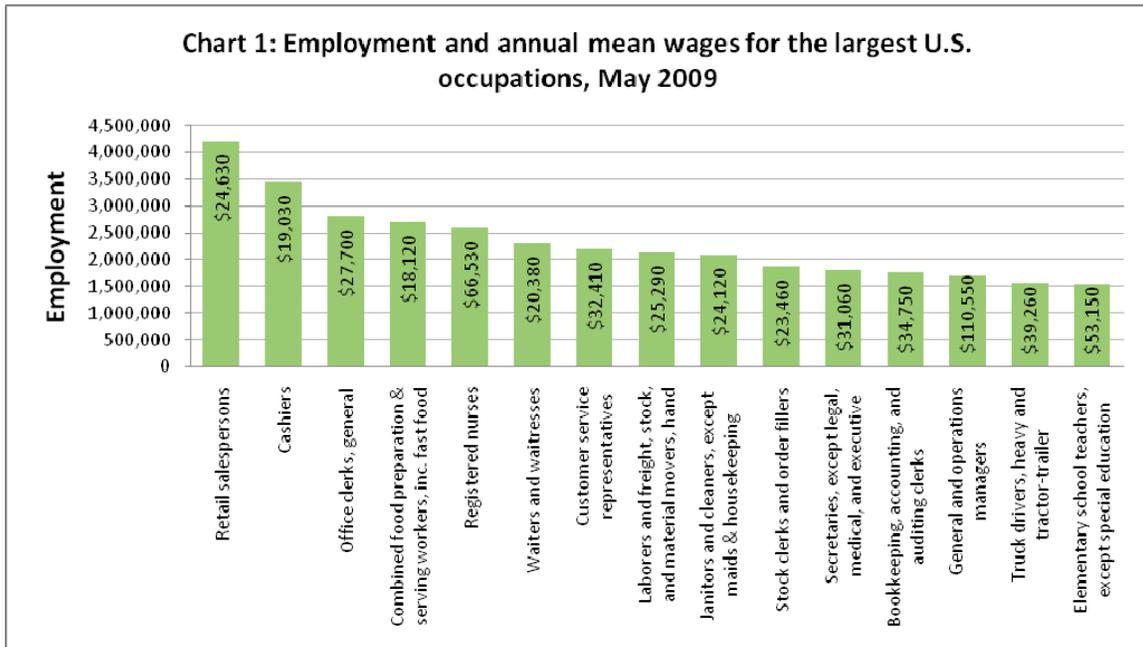
June 2010

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Highlights

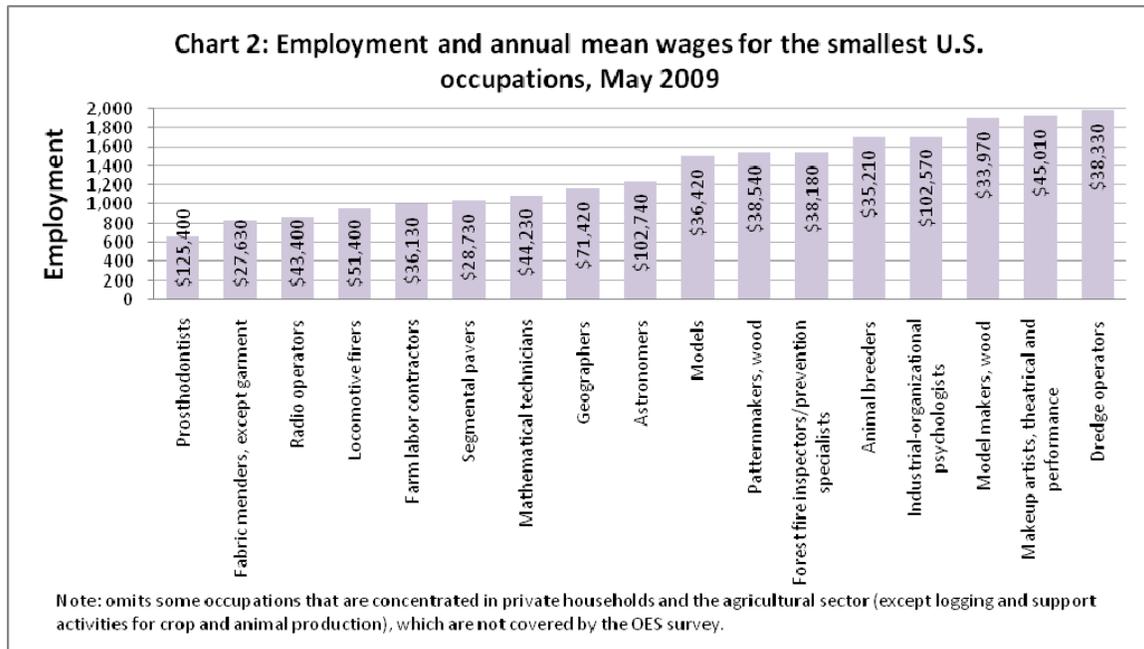


An Overview of U.S. Occupational Employment and Wages in 2009

Retail salespersons and cashiers were the two largest occupations in May 2009, representing nearly 1 out of every 17 jobs. Just 15 occupations accounted for over one-quarter of U.S. employment. In addition to retail salespersons and cashiers, these occupations included general office clerks, janitors, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and elementary school teachers. Of the 15 largest occupations, only 3—general and operations managers, registered nurses, and elementary school teachers—had mean wages above the U.S. average of \$20.90 per hour or \$43,460 annually. (See chart 1; data are available in table format on page 8.)



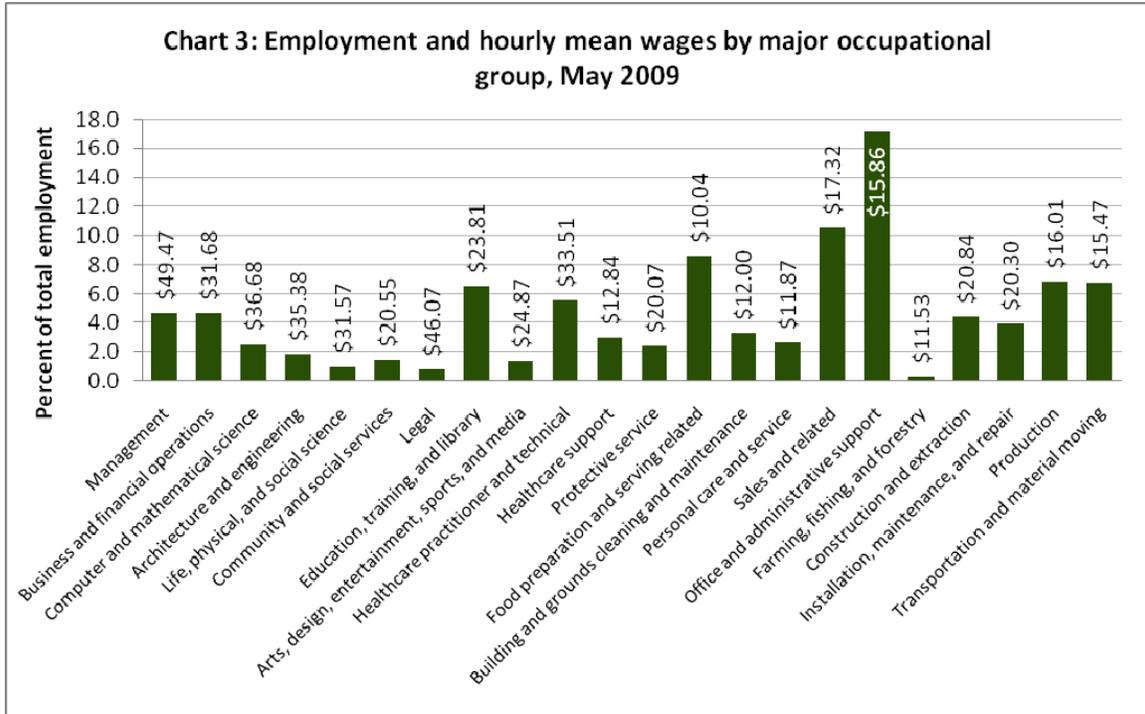
At the other end of the spectrum, occupations with employment of 5,000 or less accounted for about 0.1 percent of total U.S. employment. Some of the smallest occupations in the United States are shown in chart 2. These occupations included dredge operators, astronomers, geographers, locomotive firers, and radio operators.



(See page 9 to view these data in table format.)

More than 1 out of every 3 jobs was in an office and administrative support, sales, or food preparation and serving occupation. (See chart 3.) Office and administrative support jobs made up 5 of the 15 largest occupations, including general office clerks, with employment of over 2.8 million; customer service representatives (2.2 million); stock clerks and order fillers (1.9 million); secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive (1.8 million); and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks (1.8 million). The largest food preparation and serving occupations included combined food preparation and serving workers and waiters and waitresses, which were also among the largest occupations overall. Life, physical, and social science; community and social services; legal; and arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media were

among the smallest occupational groups, each accounting for only about 1 percent of total employment.



(See page 10 to view these data in table format.)

Establishments providing health care and social assistance, such as hospitals and physicians' offices, accounted for about 1 out of every 8 jobs, more than any other type of employer. The five largest occupations in this industry made up over one-third of total industry employment, and included registered nurses; nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; and home health aides. (See table a.)

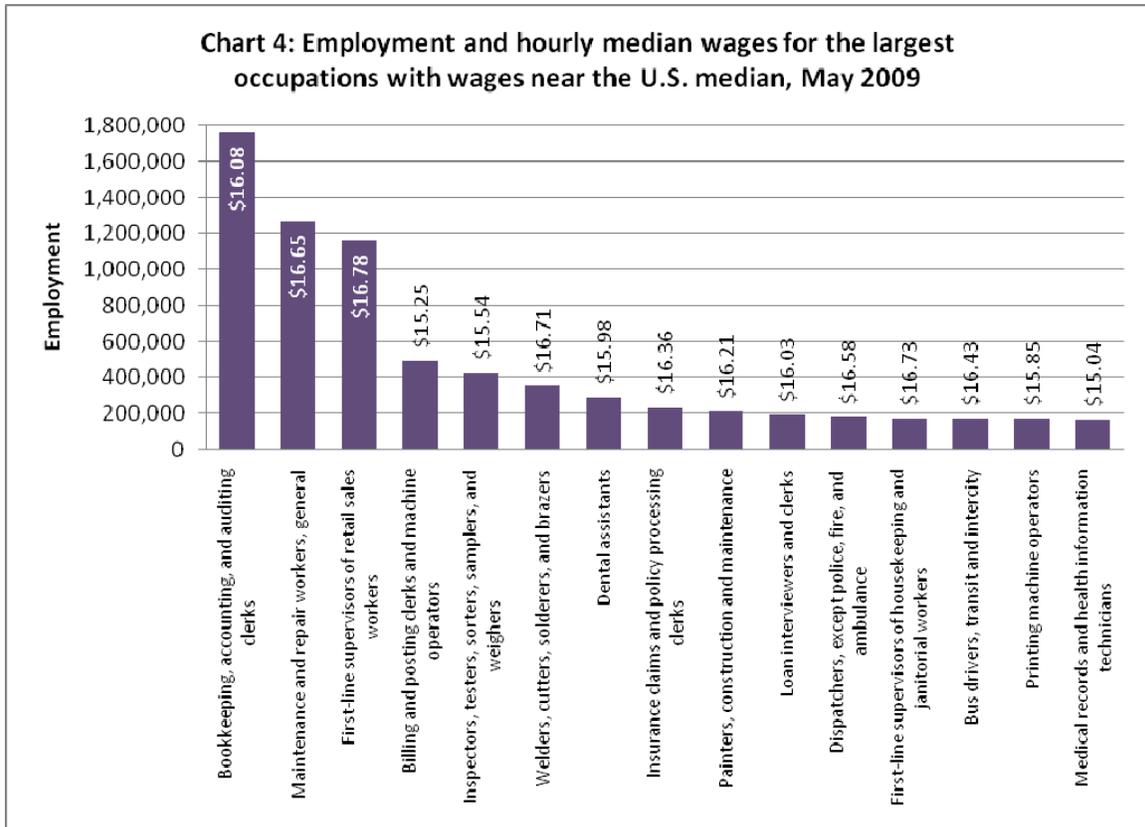
Retail trade businesses accounted for more than 1 out of every 9 jobs. Cashiers, retail salespersons, and their supervisors made up over half of employment in the retail trade sector. Two occupations associated with handling merchandise—stock clerks and order fillers; and laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers—made up an additional 11 percent of retail employment. Manufacturing establishments, providers of educational services, and businesses offering

Table a. Largest industry sectors and employment and mean wages for the largest occupations in those sectors, May 2009

Industry sector	Percent of total U.S. employment	Largest occupations in sector				
		Occupation	Employment	Percent of sector employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Health care and social assistance	12.9	Registered nurses	2,225,330	13.2	\$32.02	\$66,600
		Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	1,317,360	7.8	11.89	24,720
		Home health aides	899,980	5.3	10.24	21,300
		Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	623,210	3.7	19.58	40,730
		Personal and home care aides	570,480	3.4	9.64	20,040
Retail trade	11.5	Retail salespersons	3,891,310	26.0	11.75	24,440
		Cashiers	2,828,730	18.9	9.14	19,010
		Stock clerks and order fillers	1,303,730	8.7	10.25	21,320
		First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,037,570	6.9	18.66	38,800
		Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	351,870	2.4	10.53	21,900
Educational services	9.8	Elementary school teachers, except special education	1,532,990	12.0	(1)	53,190
		Teacher assistants	1,098,920	8.6	(1)	24,710
		Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	1,084,060	8.5	(1)	55,200
		Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	661,700	5.2	(1)	53,580
		Teachers and instructors, all other	525,780	4.1	(1)	40,140
Manufacturing	9.5	Team assemblers	756,630	6.1	14.52	30,190
		First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	444,390	3.6	26.60	55,320
		Machinists	305,610	2.5	18.78	39,060
		Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	299,450	2.4	16.90	35,150
		Helpers—production workers	286,600	2.3	11.92	24,790
Accommodation and food services	8.6	Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	2,229,440	19.8	8.46	17,590
		Waiters and waitresses	2,128,120	18.9	9.76	20,310
		Cooks, restaurant	849,920	7.5	11.05	22,980
		First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	620,750	5.5	14.83	30,840
		Cooks, fast food	514,660	4.6	8.73	18,160

(1) 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.

accommodation and food services were also among the largest employers, with each of these three industry sectors accounting for 9 to 10 percent of total employment.



(See page 11 to view these data in table format.)

The U.S. median wage in 2009 was \$15.95 per hour or \$33,190 per year. The median represents the wage in the middle of the earnings distribution—half of jobs pay this amount or more, and half pay this amount or less—and may be a more accurate measure of typical earnings than the mean wage, which can be affected by a small percentage of jobs with very high pay. Occupations with wages near the U.S. median included many office and administrative support; construction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; and transportation and material moving occupations. Chart 4 shows some of the largest occupations with wages between \$1.00 above and \$1.00 below the median, including dental assistants, insurance claims and policy processing clerks, general maintenance and repair workers, and transit and intercity bus drivers. In addition, these occupations included first-line

supervisors for two groups of relatively low-paying occupations: retail sales workers and housekeeping and janitorial workers.

California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois were the States with the highest total employment, accounting for more than one-third of U.S. jobs. These and other States with high overall employment also had the highest employment of many individual occupations. However, smaller States were among the largest employers of some occupations, due in part to factors like geographical characteristics and industry mix. For example, Nevada, a relatively small State in terms of total employment, had more gaming managers, gaming dealers, and gaming supervisors than any other State; Mississippi, another small State, also had some of the highest employment of these occupations. Colorado, Louisiana, and Oklahoma had among the highest employment of petroleum engineers and geological and petroleum technicians. The midwestern States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota accounted for about 7 percent of total U.S. employment, but 28 percent of employment of farm equipment mechanics; all of these States except Wisconsin also had among the highest employment of slaughterers and meatpackers.

As at the State level, metropolitan areas and divisions with high total employment—like New York-White Plains-Wayne, N.Y.-N.J.; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif.; Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.; and Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Texas—also tended to have high employment in many specific occupations. However, there were exceptions. Orlando-Kissimmee, Fla., a much smaller area than those listed above, had some of the highest employment levels of meeting and convention planners; baggage porters and bellhops; travel agents; and hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks. Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, Conn., was a significant employer of insurance underwriters and actuaries, while Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, Tenn., had among the highest employment of agents and business managers of artists, performers, and athletes; and musicians and singers. The areas with the highest employment of anthropologists and archeologists included Albuquerque, N.M.; Tucson, Ariz.; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Santa Fe, N.M.

Complete Occupational Employment Statistics data for May 2009 are available from the OES home page at www.bls.gov/oes. This highlight was prepared by Audrey Watson. For more information, please contact the OES program at www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm#contact.

Table 1. Employment and mean wages for the largest U.S. occupations, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Percent of total U.S. employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Retail salespersons	4,209,500	3.2	\$11.84	\$24,630
Cashiers	3,439,380	2.6	9.15	19,030
Office clerks, general	2,815,240	2.2	13.32	27,700
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	2,695,740	2.1	8.71	18,120
Registered nurses	2,583,770	2.0	31.99	66,530
Waiters and waitresses	2,302,070	1.8	9.80	20,380
Customer service representatives	2,195,860	1.7	15.58	32,410
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	2,135,790	1.6	12.16	25,290
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	2,090,400	1.6	11.60	24,120
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,864,410	1.4	11.28	23,460
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	1,797,670	1.4	14.93	31,060
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,757,870	1.3	16.71	34,750
General and operations managers	1,689,680	1.3	53.15	110,550
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	1,550,930	1.2	18.87	39,260
Elementary school teachers, except special education	1,544,300	1.2	⁽¹⁾	53,150
⁽¹⁾ 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.				

Table 2. Employment and mean wages for the smallest U.S. occupations, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Prosthodontists	660	\$60.29	\$125,400
Fabric menders, except garment	840	13.28	27,630
Radio operators	870	20.86	43,400
Locomotive firers	960	24.71	51,400
Farm labor contractors	1,000	17.37	36,130
Segmental pavers	1,040	13.81	28,730
Mathematical technicians	1,090	21.27	44,230
Geographers	1,170	34.33	71,420
Astronomers	1,240	49.40	102,740
Models	1,510	17.51	36,420
Patternmakers, wood	1,540	18.53	38,540
Forest fire inspectors and prevention specialists	1,540	18.36	38,180
Animal breeders	1,700	16.93	35,210
Industrial-organizational psychologists	1,710	49.31	102,570
Model makers, wood	1,900	16.33	33,970
Makeup artists, theatrical and performance	1,930	21.64	45,010
Dredge operators	1,990	18.43	38,330
Note: omits some occupations that are concentrated in private households and the agricultural sector (except logging and support activities for crop and animal production), which are not covered by the OES survey.			

Table 3. Employment and mean wages by major occupational group, May 2009

Occupational group	Employment	Percent of total U.S. employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Management	6,116,380	4.7	\$49.47	\$102,900
Business and financial operations	6,063,670	4.6	31.68	65,900
Computer and mathematical science	3,303,690	2.5	36.68	76,290
Architecture and engineering	2,412,730	1.8	35.38	73,590
Life, physical, and social science	1,308,380	1.0	31.57	65,660
Community and social services	1,891,320	1.4	20.55	42,750
Legal	999,020	0.8	46.07	95,820
Education, training, and library	8,488,740	6.5	23.81	49,530
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1,745,670	1.3	24.87	51,720
Healthcare practitioner and technical	7,200,950	5.5	33.51	69,690
Healthcare support	3,886,690	3.0	12.84	26,710
Protective service	3,172,420	2.4	20.07	41,740
Food preparation and serving related	11,218,260	8.6	10.04	20,880
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	4,269,480	3.3	12.00	24,970
Personal care and service	3,461,910	2.6	11.87	24,680
Sales and related	13,715,050	10.5	17.32	36,020
Office and administrative support	22,336,450	17.1	15.86	32,990
Farming, fishing, and forestry	419,200	0.3	11.53	23,990
Construction and extraction	5,751,630	4.4	20.84	43,350
Installation, maintenance, and repair	5,114,150	3.9	20.30	42,210
Production	8,927,130	6.8	16.01	33,290
Transportation and material moving	8,844,700	6.8	15.47	32,180
All occupations	130,647,610	100.0	20.90	43,460

Table 4. Employment, median wages, and hourly mean wages for the largest occupations with wages near the U.S. median, May 2009

Occupation	Employment	Hourly median wage	Annual median wage	Hourly mean wage
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	1,757,870	\$16.08	\$33,450	\$16.71
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1,268,930	16.65	34,620	17.56
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,163,040	16.78	34,900	18.81
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	493,780	15.25	31,720	15.82
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	430,450	15.54	32,330	16.75
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	357,740	16.71	34,750	17.61
Dental assistants	294,020	15.98	33,230	16.35
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	235,480	16.36	34,040	17.18
Painters, construction and maintenance	214,240	16.21	33,720	17.94
Loan interviewers and clerks	195,310	16.03	33,350	16.67
Dispatchers, except police, fire and ambulance	185,100	16.58	34,480	17.94
First-line supervisors/managers of housekeeping and janitorial workers	177,730	16.73	34,810	17.88
Bus drivers, transit and intercity	177,510	16.43	34,180	17.30
Printing machine operators	174,720	15.85	32,970	16.84
Medical records and health information technicians	170,580	15.04	31,290	16.29
All occupations	130,647,610	15.95	33,190	20.90
Note: Table shows the largest occupations with hourly median wages between \$15.00 and \$17.00, approximately \$1.00 above and \$1.00 below the U.S. hourly median of \$15.95.				