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Occupational Employment and Wages in Pittsburgh – May 2018

Workers in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $24.07 in May 2018, 4 percent below the nationwide average of $24.98, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that after testing for statistical significance, 14 of the 22 major occupational groups had average wages in the local area that were significantly lower than their respective national averages, including arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; healthcare practitioners and technical; and life, physical, and social science. Three other occupational groups had average wages that were measurably higher than their respective national averages: education, training, and library; production; and construction and extraction.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment shares were significantly higher in 8 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical, personal care and service, and office and administrative support. Conversely, 11 occupational groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation; these groups included production; management; and education, training, and library. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2018

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Pittsburgh		United States	Pittsburgh		Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations...	100	100		$24.98	$24.07	*	-4
Management	5.3	4.5	*	58.44	59.01		1
Business and financial operations.....................	5.3	4.9	*	36.98	35.23	*	-5
Computer and mathematical	3.0	3.4		44.01	39.27	*	-11
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.3	*	42.01	38.80	*	-8
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.7	*	36.62	32.08	*	-12
Community and social service...........................	1.5	1.8	*	23.69	21.33	*	-10
Legal...	0.8	0.8		52.25	48.27	*	-8
Education, training, and library.........................	6.1	5.3	*	27.22	30.11	*	11
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.	1.3	1.2	*	28.74	23.41	*	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.0	7.7	*	39.42	32.86	*	-17
Healthcare support	2.8	3.1	*	15.57	15.19	*	-2
Protective service	2.4	2.1	*	23.36	20.80	*	-11
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	9.2		12.30	11.65	*	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance..	3.1	2.6	*	14.43	13.75	*	-5
Personal care and service................................	3.8	4.7	*	13.51	12.59	*	-7
Sales and related	10.0	9.6	*	20.09	19.60		-2
Office and administrative support......................	15.1	15.9	*	18.75	18.12	*	-3
Farming, fishing, and forestry..........................	0.3	0.0	*	14.49	15.38		6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2018 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Pittsburgh		United States	Pittsburgh		Percent difference [1]
Construction and extraction.............................	4.1	4.6	*	24.62	25.97	*	5
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.1	*	23.54	23.85		1
Production	6.3	5.3	*	18.84	19.96	*	6
Transportation and material moving..................	7.1	6.4	*	18.41	17.98		-2

Footnotes:
(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
* The mean hourly wage or percent share of employment 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. Pittsburgh had 52,210 jobs in construction and extraction occupations, accounting for 4.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 4.1-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $25.97, which was significantly above the national average of $24.62.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the construction and extraction group included construction laborers (9,540), carpenters (6,560), and operating engineers and other construction equipment operators (4,930). Among the higher-paying jobs in this group were first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers ($35.23) and electricians ($33.76). At the lower end of the wage scale were oil and gas roustabouts and electrician helpers, with mean hourly wages of $15.43 and $14.91, respectively. (Detailed data for construction and extraction occupations are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_38300.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 Pittsburgh area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in several of the occupations within the construction and extraction group. For instance, highway maintenance workers were employed at 2.2 times the national rate in Pittsburgh, and oil, gas, and mining service unit operators were employed at 4.3 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters had a location quotient of 1.0 in Pittsburgh, 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.

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 580 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-digit, most 4-digit, 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.

The OES survey is a cooperative effort between BLS and State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies collect most of the data. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 180,000 to 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 2018 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2018, November 2017, May 2017, November 2016, May 2016, and November 2015. The unweighted sample employment of 83 million across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 71 percent based on establishments and 68

percent based on weighted sampled employment. The sample in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area included 5,735 establishments with a response rate of 66 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.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 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.

The May 2018 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2017 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 2017 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 **Pittsburgh, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at 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, Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2018

Occupation [1]	Employment [2]		Mean wage	
	Level	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Construction and extraction occupations	52,210	1.1	$25.97	$54,010
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers..	4,900	1.0	35.23	73,270
Brickmasons and blockmasons...	840	1.7	28.32	58,900
Carpenters...	6,560	1.2	27.76	57,750
Carpet installers	(5)	(5)	25.23	52,470
Tile and marble setters	250	0.8	24.46	50,890
Cement masons and concrete finishers.............................	1,090	0.7	22.29	46,370
Construction laborers	9,540	1.2	20.85	43,370
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators........	280	0.8	20.65	42,940
Pile-driver operators	(5)	(5)	33.25	69,160
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	4,930	1.6	24.93	51,860
Drywall and ceiling tile installers..	320	0.4	23.44	48,760
Tapers..	50	0.3	24.35	50,640
Electricians	4,410	0.9	33.76	70,230
Glaziers	420	1.1	25.76	53,570
Insulation workers, floor, ceiling, and wall	(5)	(5)	17.50	36,400
Painters, construction and maintenance	1,320	0.7	23.08	48,010
Paperhangers..	(5)	(5)	16.52	34,360
Pipelayers..	210	0.7	29.29	60,930
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters..............................	3,430	1.0	29.67	61,720
Plasterers and stucco masons	170	0.9	26.62	55,370
Roofers..	670	0.7	22.76	47,330
Sheet metal workers..	640	0.6	25.24	52,500
Structural iron and steel workers.......................................	510	0.8	29.64	61,650
Helpers--brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters	(5)	(5)	16.52	34,370
Helpers--carpenters...	210	0.8	16.51	34,340
Helpers--electricians..	250	0.4	14.91	31,010
Helpers--pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters...	260	0.6	18.19	37,830
Helpers--roofers	(5)	(5)	15.32	31,860
Helpers, construction trades, all other...............................	100	0.5	15.11	31,430
Construction and building inspectors	1,310	1.6	28.09	58,440
Hazardous materials removal workers................................	460	1.3	23.11	48,080
Highway maintenance workers	2,620	2.2	20.71	43,070
Septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners	270	1.3	22.16	46,080
Miscellaneous construction and related workers	50	0.2	31.74	66,010
Rotary drill operators, oil and gas......................................	270	1.9	24.67	51,320
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	1,700	4.3	18.53	38,540
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	(5)	(5)	22.37	46,530
Roustabouts, oil and gas..	980	2.3	15.43	32,100
Helpers--extraction workers	(5)	(5)	19.46	40,470

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_38300.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) Estimates not released.