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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN GREENVILLE-MAULDIN-EASLEY, MAY 2011

Workers in the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.94 in May 2011, about 13 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.74, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective averages in 17 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical, construction and extraction, and business and financial operations.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 3 of the 22 occupational groups, including production, and transportation and material moving. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including education, training, and library; business and financial operations; and construction and extraction. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Greenville-Mauldin-Easley had 34,380 jobs in production, accounting for 11.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.5-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.67, compared to the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 9,790, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by machinists (1,980) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (1,850). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, and machinists, with mean hourly wages of \$27.07 and \$20.06, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were helpers (\$11.91) and team assemblers (\$12.28). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_24860.htm.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2011

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Greenville	United States	Greenville	Percent difference (1)
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$18.94 *	-13
Management	4.8	4.4 *	51.64	47.70 *	-8
Business and financial operations	4.8	3.7 *	33.05	28.18 *	-15
Computer and mathematical	2.7	2.0 *	37.85	29.66 *	-22
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.8 *	37.08	34.91 *	-6
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5 *	32.44	24.90 *	-23
Community and social service	1.5	1.3	21.07	19.81	-6
Legal	0.8	0.6 *	47.30	42.87	-9
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.3 *	24.46	23.02	-6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9 *	25.89	20.80 *	-20
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	5.5 *	34.97	30.27 *	-13
Healthcare support	3.1	2.8 *	13.16	12.20 *	-7
Protective service	2.5	1.8 *	20.54	15.44 *	-25
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.7	10.30	9.18 *	-11
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.2	12.29	10.77 *	-12
Personal care and service	2.8	2.3 *	11.84	10.77 *	-9
Sales and related	10.6	10.7	18.04	16.21 *	-10
Office and administrative support	16.7	16.7	16.40	14.90 *	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(2)	11.68	12.56	8
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.1 *	21.46	17.30 *	-19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.9	20.86	19.68 *	-6
Production	6.5	11.6 *	16.45	15.67	-5
Transportation and material moving	6.7	7.9 *	15.96	14.12 *	-12

* 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.

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

(2) Estimate not released

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 Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at 16.4 times the national rate in Greenville, and machinists, at 2.3 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Greenville, 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 South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and nearly 800 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas.

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Greenville Metropolitan Statistical Area were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

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 also are 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 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the May 2011 survey was 77.3 percent based on establishments and 73.3 percent based on employment. May 2011 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2011, November 2010, May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, and November 2008. The sample in the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,627 establishments with a response rate of 78 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2011 OES estimates mark the first set of estimates based in part on data collected using the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Nearly all the occupations in this release are 2010 SOC occupations; however, some are not. The May 2012 OES data will reflect the full set of detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC. For a list of all occupations, including 2010 SOC occupations, and how data collected on two structures were combined, see the OES Frequently Asked Questions online at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1 (800) 877-8339.

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 **Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Greenville, Laurens and Pickens Counties.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Greenville-Mauldin-Easley Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	34,380	1.8	\$15.67	\$32,590
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,850	1.4	27.07	56,300
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	640	1.5	13.93	28,980
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	130	0.8	17.79	36,990
Fiberglass laminators and fabricators	(5)	(5)	14.23	29,610
Team assemblers	9,790	4.5	12.28	25,530
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	410	0.7	11.36	23,620
Bakers	250	0.7	10.41	21,650
Butchers and meat cutters	280	0.9	12.55	26,100
Food batchmakers	40	0.2	13.36	27,780
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	170	0.6	17.18	35,740
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	22.60	47,020
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	570	1.4	18.94	39,400
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	1.8	25.58	53,200
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	0.8	16.26	33,810
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	160	1.8	17.39	36,180
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.7	18.52	38,520
Machinists	1,980	2.3	20.06	41,710
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	500	1.8	16.12	33,530
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	130	0.7	14.98	31,150
Tool and die makers	(5)	(5)	24.69	51,360
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	800	1.1	20.52	42,680
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	90	1.0	17.86	37,150
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	15.69	32,630
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	14.41	29,960
Prepress technicians and workers	190	1.9	14.48	30,120
Printing press operators	570	1.4	16.28	33,870
Print binding and finishing workers	70	0.6	14.46	30,080
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	380	0.8	11.50	23,920
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	(5)	(5)	8.75	18,210
Sewing machine operators	530	1.6	10.83	22,520
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	(5)	(5)	10.74	22,330
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	180	6.4	12.16	25,300
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	2.1	13.56	28,210
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	800	16.4	14.86	30,910
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	300	4.7	13.49	28,060
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	380	2.1	13.95	29,020
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	60	0.7	11.19	23,280
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	100	0.7	9.60	19,970
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	50	0.6	29.43	61,200
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	150	0.6	18.36	38,180
Chemical plant and system operators	240	2.6	21.35	44,400
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	210	1.9	17.27	35,920
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	40	0.6	13.32	27,700
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	580	2.1	17.25	35,870
Cutters and trimmers, hand	40	1.1	11.68	24,300
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	170	1.3	19.63	40,830
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	430	2.8	13.94	28,990
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	40	1.0	18.63	38,750
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,680	1.7	15.43	32,090
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	(5)	(5)	18.78	39,070
Dental laboratory technicians	40	0.4	15.13	31,470
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	(5)	(5)	14.65	30,480
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	1,370	1.7	13.95	29,020
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	150	0.9	17.41	36,220
Painters, transportation equipment	120	1.2	22.29	46,350
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	90	2.0	10.25	21,320
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	100	0.8	10.66	22,170
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	70	1.8	18.45	38,380

Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	100	1.4	13.15	27,350
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	240	1.1	13.92	28,960
Helpers--production workers	1,670	1.7	11.91	24,770
Production workers, all other	600	1.1	11.79	24,520

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_24860.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.