

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE
Atlanta, Ga.

For release: Thursday, July 19, 2012

12-1392-ATL

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLInfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro4
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN GREENSBORO-HIGH POINT, MAY 2011

Workers in the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.35 in May 2011, about 11 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, 15 groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including construction and extraction, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and healthcare support.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including production, transportation and material moving, and office and administrative support. Conversely, 17 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including healthcare practitioners and technical, construction and extraction, and business and financial operations. (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. Greensboro-High Point had 39,750 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 \$15.33, measurably below the national wage of \$16.45.

With employment of 4,850, team assemblers was the largest occupation within the production group, followed by first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (2,650) and inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (2,500). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, and mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders, with mean hourly wages of \$25.56 and \$18.57, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were sewing machine operators (\$11.48) and textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders (\$12.01). (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_24660.htm.)

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

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Greensboro	United States	Greensboro	Percent difference (1)
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.74	\$19.35 *	-11
Management	4.8	4.3 *	51.64	51.12	-1
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.0 *	33.05	30.48 *	-8
Computer and mathematical	2.7	2.1 *	37.85	35.43 *	-6
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.1 *	37.08	35.30	-5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5 *	32.44	31.63	-2
Community and social service	1.5	1.0 *	21.07	18.80 *	-11
Legal	0.8	0.4 *	47.30	44.01	-7
Education, training, and library	6.6	5.9 *	24.46	21.21 *	-13
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.0 *	25.89	21.02 *	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	4.8 *	34.97	33.83	-3
Healthcare support	3.1	3.5 *	13.16	11.42 *	-13
Protective service	2.5	2.2 *	20.54	16.45 *	-20
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.2 *	10.30	9.49 *	-8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.1 *	12.29	10.48 *	-15
Personal care and service	2.8	2.1 *	11.84	10.81 *	-9
Sales and related	10.6	10.1 *	18.04	17.90	-1
Office and administrative support	16.7	17.3 *	16.40	15.80 *	-4
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.68	13.76 *	18
Construction and extraction	3.9	2.9 *	21.46	16.50 *	-23
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.0 *	20.86	19.82 *	-5
Production	6.5	11.6 *	16.45	15.33 *	-7
Transportation and material moving	6.7	8.8 *	15.96	14.27 *	-11

* 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 Greensboro is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

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 Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, sewing machine operators were employed at 6.1 times the national rate in Greensboro, and packaging and filling machine operators and tenders, at 2.6 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, metal and plastic cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders had a location quotient of 1.2 in Greensboro, 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 North Carolina Employment Security Commission. 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 Greensboro 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 Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,924 establishments with a response rate of 90 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 **Greensboro-High Point, N.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham Counties.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2011

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	39,750	1.8	\$15.33	\$31,880
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	2,650	1.8	25.56	53,160
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	740	1.5	17.33	36,050
Electromechanical equipment assemblers	60	0.5	13.12	27,290
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	240	1.2	17.77	36,950
Team assemblers	4,850	1.9	14.90	30,990
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	430	0.6	10.33	21,490
Bakers	380	1.0	12.06	25,090
Butchers and meat cutters	180	0.5	13.86	28,830
Food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders	230	4.5	19.70	40,980
Food batchmakers	150	0.6	(5)	(5)
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic	70	0.2	17.14	35,640
Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	290	1.4	13.24	27,550
Rolling machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.4	16.52	34,350
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	590	1.2	15.10	31,410
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.7	11.95	24,860
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	120	0.7	13.26	27,590
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	120	1.2	19.31	40,170
Milling and planing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	50	0.8	16.79	34,930
Machinists	1,680	1.7	16.73	34,810
Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	1,030	3.3	14.09	29,300
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	110	0.5	14.73	30,650
Tool and die makers	260	1.4	21.08	43,850
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	660	0.8	18.18	37,820
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	70	0.7	15.30	31,820
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	0.8	13.46	28,000
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	90	1.1	20.02	41,640
Prepress technicians and workers	110	1.0	17.57	36,550
Printing press operators	700	1.5	18.16	37,760
Print binding and finishing workers	340	2.3	12.58	26,160
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	330	0.6	8.78	18,270
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	310	2.2	9.80	20,390
Sewing machine operators	2,310	6.1	11.48	23,880
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	50	0.7	11.19	23,280
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	550	17.5	12.01	24,980
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	170	4.0	12.73	26,470
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	940	16.6	12.29	25,570
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	1,080	14.7	12.74	26,500
Extruding and forming machine setters, operators, and tenders, synthetic and glass fibers	340	7.8	16.07	33,420
Fabric and apparel patternmakers	130	7.5	18.33	38,130
Upholsterers	1,450	19.2	15.06	31,330
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers, all other	240	6.3	10.25	21,330
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	630	2.9	13.51	28,100
Furniture finishers	310	7.7	12.81	26,650
Model makers, wood	(5)	(5)	16.02	33,320
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	290	2.9	12.15	25,270
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	710	4.6	12.91	26,850
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	50	0.6	24.29	50,530
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	210	0.7	17.65	36,710
Chemical plant and system operators	150	1.3	22.88	47,590
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	160	1.2	18.66	38,820
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	190	1.8	14.81	30,800
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	190	2.6	12.23	25,430
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	630	2.0	18.57	38,630
Cutters and trimmers, hand	280	7.3	13.72	28,540
Cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders	480	3.0	16.32	33,950
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	490	2.7	13.84	28,790
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	40	0.7	11.65	24,230
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	2,500	2.2	14.37	29,880
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	60	1.1	14.02	29,150
Dental laboratory technicians	100	1.0	18.60	38,700
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	2,420	2.6	16.58	34,490
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	340	1.7	15.59	32,430
Painters, transportation equipment	120	1.0	19.49	40,540
Painting, coating, and decorating workers	120	2.2	11.90	24,750
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	140	1.0	11.96	24,880
Adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders	190	4.5	14.70	30,570

Etchers and engravers	(5)	(5)	20.12	41,850
Molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic	(5)	(5)	12.00	24,960
Paper goods machine setters, operators, and tenders	610	2.5	13.26	27,590
Helpers--production workers	2,160	1.9	11.36	23,640
Production workers, all other	310	0.5	14.43	30,020

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Greensboro-High Point, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_24660.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.