

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN
LINCOLN, NEB. – MAY 2010**

Workers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$18.83 in May 2010, roughly 12 percent below the nationwide average of \$21.35, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 2 of the 22 major occupational groups including farming, fishing, and forestry; and education training and library. Seventeen groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including computer and mathematical; life, physical, and social science; and architecture and engineering.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; transportation and material moving; and business and financial operations.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2010

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Average hourly wage	
	United States	Lincoln	United States	Lincoln
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$21.35	\$18.83 *
Management	4.7	3.4 *	50.69	43.04 *
Business and financial operations	4.8	5.5 *	32.54	27.35 *
Computer and mathematical	2.6	2.7	37.13	26.95 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.5 *	36.32	28.84 *
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.0 *	31.92	25.07 *
Community and social service	1.5	2.1 *	20.76	17.14 *
Legal	0.8	0.5 *	46.60	39.62
Education, training, and library	6.7	6.4	24.25	28.08 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.8 *	25.14	20.08 *
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.1 *	34.27	31.50 *
Healthcare support	3.1	2.5 *	12.94	12.94
Protective service	2.5	1.7 *	20.43	18.44 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.7	8.6	10.21	9.50 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	2.9	12.16	11.37 *
Personal care and service	2.7	2.4 *	11.82	10.62 *
Sales and related	10.6	10.2	17.69	15.14 *
Office and administrative support	16.9	18.9 *	16.09	14.22 *
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1 *	11.70	14.06 *
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.9	21.09	17.72 *
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.4 *	20.58	19.16 *
Production	6.5	6.4	16.24	16.40
Transportation and material moving	6.7	8.1 *	15.70	14.41 *

* 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.

Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including protective service, healthcare support, and installation, maintenance, and repair. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

One occupational group—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Lincoln had 30,000 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 18.9 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 16.9-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$14.22, measurably below the national wage of \$16.09.

With employment of 4,290, general office clerks was the largest occupation within the office and administrative support group, followed by customer service representatives (3,020) and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks (2,500). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service clerks and postal service mail carriers, with mean hourly wages of \$25.55 and \$24.44, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$8.44) and stock clerks and order fillers (\$10.09). (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/current/oes_30700.htm)

Location quotients allow for the exploration of a metropolitan area's occupational make-up 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 Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, insurance claims and policy processing clerks were employed at 3.5 times the national rate in Lincoln, and computer operators, at 3.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive had a location quotient of 1.0 in Lincoln, 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 Nebraska Department of Labor. 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 non-military 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 Lincoln 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 this release. 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 2010 survey was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. May 2010 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, and November 2007. The sample in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,764 establishments with a response rate of 93 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2010 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.

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 **Lincoln, Nebr. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Lancaster and Seward Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro5/home.htm. If you have additional questions, contact the Chicago Economic Analysis and Information Unit at (312) 353-1880. 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.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2010

Occupation	Employment		Mean Wages	
	Level ^[1]	Location quotient ^[2]	Hourly	Annual
Office and administrative support occupations	30,000	1.1	\$14.22	\$29,570
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	1,650	1.0	23.39	48,640
Switchboard operators, including answering service	160	0.9	12.14	25,250
Bill and account collectors	310	0.6	14.81	30,800
Billing and posting clerks	410	0.7	14.92	31,020
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	2,500	1.2	14.69	30,550
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	200	0.9	15.82	32,910
Procurement clerks	130	1.4	15.05	31,310
Tellers	960	1.4	10.91	22,700
Brokerage clerks	160	2.2	15.56	32,370
Court, municipal, and license clerks	40	0.3	16.67	34,670
Customer service representatives	3,020	1.1	13.50	28,080
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	120	0.8	17.96	37,350
File clerks	200	0.9	11.85	24,660
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	290	1.0	8.44	17,560
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	760	3.0	12.57	26,150
Library assistants, clerical	80	0.6	11.52	23,960
Loan interviewers and clerks	490	2.2	16.51	34,340
New accounts clerks	140	1.6	16.76	34,860
Order clerks	730	2.8	11.20	23,290
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	240	1.3	16.72	34,770
Receptionists and information clerks	900	0.7	11.54	24,010
Information and record clerks, all other	210	0.8	18.07	37,590
Couriers and messengers	180	1.6	10.24	21,300
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	80	0.7	17.51	36,420
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	210	0.9	19.20	39,940
Postal service clerks	60	0.7	25.55	53,140
Postal service mail carriers	290	0.7	24.44	50,830
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	150	0.8	23.67	49,230
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	290	0.9	19.95	41,490
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	400	0.5	14.54	30,250
Stock clerks and order fillers	2,340	1.0	10.09	20,990
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	[3]	[3]	13.89	28,880
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	1,880	1.3	17.90	37,230
Legal secretaries	260	0.9	16.71	34,750
Medical secretaries	690	1.1	14.16	29,450
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	2,330	1.0	14.55	30,260
Computer operators	360	3.4	15.33	31,890
Data entry keyers	330	1.2	11.84	24,630
Word processors and typists	90	0.7	13.97	29,050
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	1,010	3.5	16.78	34,900
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	310	2.0	11.47	23,860
Office clerks, general	4,290	1.2	10.91	22,700
Office machine operators, except computer	40	0.5	10.26	21,350
Office and administrative support workers, all other	200	0.6	12.66	26,340

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

[3] Estimate not released.