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Occupational Employment and Wages in Laredo, May 2016

Workers in the Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$17.43 in May 2016, about 27 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 18 of the 22 major occupational group including computer and mathematical; personal care and service; and sales and related. Wage levels in the remaining groups were not statistically different from their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; transportation and material moving; and personal care and service. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; healthcare practitioners and technical; and computer and mathematical. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Laredo, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Laredo, TX		United States	Laredo, TX	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0		\$23.86	\$17.43	* -27
Management	5.1	3.1	*	56.74	45.20	* -20
Business and financial operations	5.2	3.1	*	36.09	35.23	-2
Computer and mathematical	3.0	0.7	*	42.25	28.37	* -33
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.5	*	40.53	31.32	* -23
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.2	*	35.06	30.82	* -12
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.0	*	22.69	21.38	* -6
Legal.....	0.8	0.3	*	50.95	37.33	* -27
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	7.9	*	26.21	22.59	* -14
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.4	0.8	*	28.07	20.83	* -26
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	3.4	*	38.06	37.95	0
Healthcare support	2.9	2.4		14.65	12.28	* -16
Protective service	2.4	4.7	*	22.03	23.75	8
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	10.3	*	11.47	9.68	* -16
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.2	2.4	*	13.47	10.72	* -20
Personal care and service.....	3.2	7.8	*	12.74	9.00	* -29
Sales and related	10.4	11.0		19.50	14.26	* -27
Office and administrative support.....	15.7	21.5	*	17.91	14.28	* -20
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	(2)		13.37	(2)	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Laredo, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Laredo, TX		United States	Laredo, TX	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	2.4	*	23.51	18.48	*
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.6		22.45	17.16	*
Production	6.5	1.3	*	17.88	14.88	*
Transportation and material moving.....	6.9	11.6	*	17.34	14.72	*

Footnotes:

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

(2) Estimates not released.

Note: * 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.

One occupational group – office and administrative support – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Laredo had 20,990 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 21.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.7-percent national share. However, the local wage for this occupational group was significantly below the U.S. average. At \$14.28 an hour, the mean wage for Laredo office and administrative support workers was 20 percent below the \$17.91 national average.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included general office clerks (4,370), customer service representatives (2,580), and stock clerks and order fillers (1,690). Among the higher-paying jobs were first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers, as well as cargo and freight agents with mean hourly wages of \$25.57 and \$17.82, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were stock clerks and order fillers (\$10.00) and receptionists and information clerks (\$10.21). (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/2016/may/oes_29700.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 than it does nationally. In the Laredo metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, local cargo and freight agents were employed at 13.8 times the U.S. average, and dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance, at 5.7 times the national rate. Both location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks had a location quotient of 1.0 in Laredo, indicating that this 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 Texas Workforce Commission.

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. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, 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.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 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 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,151 establishments with a response rate of 64 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 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 2012 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 **Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Webb County in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. 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, Laredo, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and administrative support occupations.....	20,990	1.4	\$14.28	\$29,700
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers.....	1,370	1.4	25.57	53,180
Bill and account collectors.....	250	1.2	16.30	33,910
Billing and posting clerks.....	570	1.7	13.44	27,950
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks.....	1,120	1.0	15.93	33,140
Payroll and timekeeping clerks.....	90	0.9	16.92	35,190
Tellers.....	640	1.9	11.36	23,630
Court, municipal, and license clerks.....	170	1.9	18.02	37,490
Customer service representatives.....	2,580	1.4	11.96	24,870
Eligibility interviewers, government programs.....	150	1.6	16.92	35,190
File clerks.....	70	0.7	12.27	25,520
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks.....	180	1.0	8.99	18,700
Library assistants, clerical.....	70	1.0	12.10	25,180
Loan interviewers and clerks.....	40	0.2	18.02	37,480
Order clerks.....	190	1.5	15.74	32,730
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping.....	120	1.3	14.33	29,820
Receptionists and information clerks.....	450	0.7	10.21	21,230
Information and record clerks, all other.....	150	1.3	16.31	33,920
Cargo and freight agents.....	850	13.8	17.82	37,060
Couriers and messengers.....	90	1.7	10.24	21,310
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance.....	780	5.7	17.23	35,830
Postal service mail carriers.....	140	0.6	24.45	50,850
Production, planning, and expediting clerks.....	360	1.6	15.11	31,430
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks.....	1,410	3.0	12.36	25,720
Stock clerks and order fillers.....	1,690	1.2	10.00	20,790
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants.....	140	0.3	23.96	49,830
Legal secretaries.....	90	0.7	17.04	35,440
Medical secretaries.....	670	1.7	12.36	25,710
Secretaries & administrative assistants, except legal, medical, & executive.....	1,490	0.9	14.46	30,070
Computer operators.....	40	1.1	13.93	28,970
Data entry keyers.....	270	2.0	10.66	22,180
Office clerks, general.....	4,370	2.1	13.00	27,040

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Laredo, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_29700.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.