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Technical information: (415) 625-2286 • BLSinfoSF@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro9
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN
BEND – MAY 2009**

Workers in the Bend, Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$19.29 during May 2009, roughly 8 percent below the nationwide average of \$20.90, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 5 of the 22 major occupational groups, including healthcare practitioner and technical; protective service; and healthcare support. Nine groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; management; and computer and mathematical science. (For a comprehensive definition of the Bend, Ore. Metropolitan Statistical Area, please see Technical Note. For convenience, the metropolitan statistical area is referred to as Bend throughout this release.)

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including food preparation and serving related; sales and related; and construction and extraction. Conversely, eight groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; business and financial operations; and transportation and material moving. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and Bend Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2009

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Average hourly wage	
	United States	Bend		United States	Bend
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$20.90	\$19.29 *
Management	4.7	4.1 *		49.47	39.35 *
Business and financial operations	4.6	3.2 *		31.68	27.89 *
Computer and mathematical science	2.5	1.3 *		36.68	30.32 *
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4 *		35.38	31.63 *
Life, physical, and social science	1.0	1.3 *		31.57	25.73 *
Community and social services	1.4	1.5		20.55	20.09
Legal	0.8	0.4 *		46.07	35.19 *
Education, training, and library	6.5	6.3		23.81	19.83 *
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.7 *		24.87	18.95 *
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.5	5.7		33.51	40.50 *
Healthcare support	3.0	2.6		12.84	14.71 *
Protective service	2.4	1.6 *		20.07	23.80 *
Food preparation and serving related	8.6	11.2 *		10.04	10.89 *
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.7 *		12.00	12.37
Personal care and service	2.6	2.8		11.87	13.28 *
Sales and related	10.5	12.8 *		17.32	16.76
Office and administrative support	17.1	17.6		15.86	15.54
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.4		11.53	12.42
Construction and extraction	4.4	5.8 *		20.84	20.13
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.8		20.30	19.68
Production	6.8	5.2 *		16.01	15.93
Transportation and material moving	6.8	5.4 *		15.47	14.23 *

* The employment share 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, food preparation and serving related, was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. With employment of 6,950, food preparation and serving related occupations accounted for 11.2 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the occupational group's 8.6 percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$10.89, compared to the national wage of \$10.04.

With employment of 1,610, combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food, were the largest occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, followed by waiters and waitresses (1,300). Chefs and head cooks had the highest average wages (\$20.09), followed by first-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers (\$15.27). At the lower end of the wage scale were hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop (\$9.18) and combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food (\$9.26). (Detailed occupational data for the food preparation and serving related occupations group are presented in table B; a complete listing of detailed occupations is available at www.bls.gov/oes/2009/may/oes_13460.htm.)

Table B. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, for food preparation and serving related occupations, Bend Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2009

Occupation	Employment ¹	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ²	
Food preparation and serving related occupations	6,950	\$10.89	22,650	\$9.71
Chefs and head cooks	60	20.09	41,800	20.98
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	410	15.27	31,750	15.07
Cooks, fast food	-- ³	9.75	20,280	9.56
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	150	11.65	24,240	10.74
Cooks, restaurant	750	12.38	25,740	12.31
Cooks, short order	190	10.88	22,620	10.59
Food preparation workers	350	10.55	21,940	9.71
Bartenders	320	10.58	22,010	9.46
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	1,610	9.26	19,260	9.04
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	-- ³	10.14	21,080	9.50
Waiters and waitresses	1,300	11.43	23,770	10.30
Food servers, nonrestaurant	170	13.12	27,290	11.29
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	-- ³	9.89	20,570	9.18
Dishwashers	520	9.45	19,660	9.16
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	280	9.18	19,090	9.07
Food preparation and serving related workers, all other	-- ³	11.82	24,580	11.24

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 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.

³ Estimate not released.

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 Oregon Employment Department. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and up to 801 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 Bend 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.

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. Each year forms are mailed to two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments, one panel in May and the other in November. May 2009 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, November 2007, May 2007, and November 2006. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.5 percent based on employment. The sample in Bend included 1,219 establishments with a response rate of 82 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

Metropolitan Statistical Area definition

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated November 2007.

Bend, Ore. Metropolitan Statistical Area is composed of Deschutes County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro9/home.htm. If you have additional questions, please contact the San Francisco Economic Analysis and Information Unit at 415-625-2270. 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.