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Occupational Employment and Wages in Greensboro-High Point — May 2015

Workers in the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.18 in May 2015, about 13 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, 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 lower than their respective national averages in 18 of the 22 major occupational groups including construction and extraction, healthcare support, and architecture and engineering. One group had a significantly higher wage than its respective national average.

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, 14 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including computer and mathematical; construction and extraction; and personal care and service. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

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 2015

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%	\$23.23	\$20.18*	-13
Management	5.0	4.2*	55.30	56.61	2
Business and financial operations	5.1	4.3*	35.48	31.29*	-12
Computer and mathematical	2.9	1.9*	41.43	35.66*	-14
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.3*	39.89	33.89*	-15
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.6*	34.24	31.28*	-9
Community and social services	1.4	0.8*	22.19	20.79*	-6
Legal	0.8	0.4*	49.74	37.49*	-25
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.4*	25.48	21.90*	-14
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.9*	27.39	24.06*	-12
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.8	5.1*	37.40	36.91	-1
Healthcare support	2.9	3.4*	14.19	11.82*	-17
Protective service	2.4	2.4	21.45	17.23*	-20
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.8*	10.98	9.54*	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.2	13.02	10.72*	-18
Personal care and service	3.1	2.2*	12.33	11.04*	-10
Sales and related	10.5	10.1	18.90	19.69	4
Office and administrative support	15.8	16.8*	17.47	16.04*	-8
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(2)*	12.67	16.20*	28
Construction and extraction	4.0	3.1*	22.88	17.69*	-23
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.3*	22.11	21.19*	-4
Production	6.6	11.6*	17.41	15.59*	-10

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Greensboro	United States	Greensboro	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Transportation and material moving	6.9	9.1*	16.90	14.98*	-11

Footnotes:

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

(2) Indicates a value of less than 0.05 percent

* 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—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Greensboro-High Point had 41,110 jobs in production, accounting for 11.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.59, significantly below the national wage of \$17.41.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the production group included team assemblers (5,560), inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers (2,860), and packaging and filling machine operators and tenders (2,750). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers; and food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders, with mean hourly wages of \$26.03 and \$25.75, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$8.98) and pressers, textile, garment, and related materials (\$9.88). (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 .)

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, textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders were employed at 15.5 times the national rate in Greensboro, and upholsterers, at 15.1 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, machinists had a location quotient of 0.9 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 Department of Commerce.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

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 program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and 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. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,996 establishments with a response rate of 87 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 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 **Greensboro-High Point, N.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southeast. 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, Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production Occupations	41,110	1.8	\$15.59	\$32,440
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	2,450	1.6	26.03	54,130
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	250	0.5	14.61	30,390
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	180	0.9	18.78	39,060
Team Assemblers	5,560	1.9	13.62	28,330
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	810	1.4	12.36	25,700
Bakers	270	0.6	11.11	23,110
Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders	430	8.2	25.75	53,560
Food Batchmakers	230	0.7	13.27	27,610
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	460	1.2	19.50	40,550
Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers, Metal and Plastic	90	1.4	22.76	47,350
Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	450	2.4	15.57	32,390
Rolling Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	90	1.1	14.01	29,150
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	860	1.7	15.41	32,050
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	150	0.8	14.69	30,560
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	110	1.1	18.73	38,960
Milling and Planing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	50	0.9	16.75	34,850
Machinists	900	0.9	17.88	37,190
Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	1,450	4.2	14.26	29,650
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	330	1.2	(5)	(5)
Tool and Die Makers	220	1.1	23.19	48,240
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	830	0.8	18.23	37,920
Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	40	0.3	17.60	36,610
Heat Treating Equipment Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	(5)	(5)	13.17	27,400
Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	110	1.2	21.88	45,500
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	40	1.7	15.63	32,510
Prepress Technicians and Workers	70	0.8	19.38	40,320
Printing Press Operators	780	1.8	15.51	32,260
Print Binding and Finishing Workers	240	1.8	12.98	27,000
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	380	0.7	8.98	18,680
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	250	2.1	9.88	20,560
Sewing Machine Operators	2,180	6.0	11.98	24,910
Sewers, Hand	30	1.9	12.66	26,330
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing Machine Operators and Tenders	430	14.3	12.60	26,210
Textile Cutting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	330	8.7	11.97	24,900
Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	730	12.5	12.86	26,750
Textile Winding, Twisting, and Drawing Out Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,100	15.5	12.50	25,990
Extruding and Forming Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Synthetic and Glass Fibers	210	4.1	13.88	28,870
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers	100	7.6	21.66	45,050
Upholsterers	1,170	15.1	16.57	34,460

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers, All Other	90	2.0	14.12	29,370
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	300	1.3	15.54	32,320
Furniture Finishers	600	14.2	12.12	25,220
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	290	2.4	12.25	25,480
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	640	3.3	12.40	25,800
Power Plant Operators	70	0.8	40.13	83,480
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	290	1.0	19.35	40,250
Chemical Plant and System Operators	80	0.9	23.99	49,910
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	560	3.2	18.41	38,290
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	50	0.4	22.93	47,690
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand	190	2.7	12.39	25,770
Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	680	2.1	16.70	34,730
Cutters and Trimmers, Hand	200	5.0	14.31	29,770
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	550	3.4	13.51	28,110
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	410	2.3	17.84	37,100
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders.....	90	1.9	13.67	28,440
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers ...	2,860	2.2	14.40	29,950
Dental Laboratory Technicians	80	0.8	16.69	34,720
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	(5)	(5)	10.35	21,520
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders..	2,750	2.8	17.66	36,730
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders.....	310	1.4	13.93	28,980
Painters, Transportation Equipment.....	190	1.4	19.04	39,600
Painting, Coating, and Decorating Workers	100	2.5	18.75	39,000
Semiconductor Processors	300	4.8	20.56	42,760
Photographic Process Workers and Processing Machine Operators	40	0.6	16.15	33,590
Adhesive Bonding Machine Operators and Tenders.....	130	2.9	12.16	25,290
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders ..	710	3.0	16.94	35,230
Tire Builders	110	2.4	16.86	35,070
Helpers--Production Workers	1,620	1.4	12.37	25,720
Production Workers, All Other	750	1.2	16.59	34,500

Footnotes:

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Greensboro-High Point, NC, 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.