



**For Release: Thursday, May 01, 2014**

**14-728-DAL**

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas  
 Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest  
 Media contact: (972) 850-4800

## Occupational Employment and Wages in Laredo, May 2013

Workers in the Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$16.63 in May 2013, 26 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly lower than their respective national averages in 19 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical; legal; and sales and related. Local wages in two occupational groups were not statistically different from their respective national averages: protective service; and community and social service.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including, transportation and material moving; office and administrative support; and personal care and service. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; computer and mathematical; healthcare practitioners and technical. (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 Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Laredo		United States	Laredo		Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations .....	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.33	\$16.63	*	-26
Management .....	4.9	3.4	*	53.15	42.85	*	-19
Business and financial operations .....	5.0	3.5	*	34.14	28.26	*	-17
Computer and mathematical .....	2.8	0.7	*	39.43	25.78	*	-35
Architecture and engineering .....	1.8	0.7	*	38.51	29.27	*	-24
Life, physical, and social science .....	0.9	0.2	*	33.37	25.21	*	-24
Community and social service .....	1.4	0.9	*	21.50	23.85		11
Legal .....	0.8	0.4	*	47.89	32.76	*	-32
Education, training, and library .....	6.3	8.5	*	24.76	20.01	*	-19
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media .....	1.3	0.7	*	26.72	18.80	*	-30
Healthcare practitioners and technical .....	5.8	3.9	*	35.93	31.04	*	-14
Healthcare support .....	3.0	2.8		13.61	11.85	*	-13
Protective service .....	2.5	4.8	*	20.92	24.52		17
Food preparation and serving related .....	9.0	9.5		10.38	8.98	*	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance .....	3.2	2.2	*	12.51	9.54	*	-24
Personal care and service .....	3.0	6.1	*	11.88	8.43	*	-29
Sales and related .....	10.6	NA		18.37	12.99	*	-29
Office and administrative support .....	16.2	19.7	*	16.78	13.48	*	-20
Farming, fishing, and forestry .....	0.3	NA		11.70	NA		NA

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013 - Continued**

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Laredo		United States	Laredo		Percent difference <sup>(1)</sup>
Construction and extraction.....	3.8	2.9	*	21.94	17.60	*	-20
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	3.9	3.2	*	21.35	15.67	*	-27
Production .....	6.6	2.1	*	16.79	14.65	*	-13
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	10.9	*	16.28	14.66	*	-10

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

\* 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.

NA: estimate is not available.

One occupational group—transportation and material moving—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Laredo had 10,040 jobs in transportation and material moving, accounting for 10.9 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.8-percent national share. However, the local wage for this occupational group was significantly below the U.S. average. At \$14.66 an hour, the mean wage for Laredo transportation and material moving workers was 10 percent below the \$16.28 national average.

With employment of 3,620, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers was one of the largest occupations within the transportation and material moving group, as were hand laborers and freight, stock and material movers (2,550) and industrial truck and tractor operators (670). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and hand material movers, as well as heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with mean hourly wages of \$21.45 and \$17.73, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were cleaners of vehicles and equipment (\$10.32) and industrial truck and tractor operators (\$10.53). (Detailed data for transportation and material moving occupations are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of all detailed occupations see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_29700.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/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 transportation and material moving group. For instance, heavy and tractor trailer truck drivers were employed at 3.3 times the national rate in Laredo, and pump operators, except wellhead pumpers, at 11.1 times the U.S. average. Laredo’s location quotient for pump operators, except wellhead pumpers, was the third-highest for this occupation among all U.S. metropolitan areas. On the other hand, light truck or delivery services drivers had a location quotient of 1.1 in Laredo, 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 Texas Workforce Commission.

## Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Laredo 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 are also 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 sampled establishments in May and November each year for a 3-year period. May 2013 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected in May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, November 2011, May 2011, and November 2010. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 75.3 percent based on establishments and 71.6 percent based on employment. The sample in the Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,112 establishments with a response rate of 61 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm) and [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm), respectively.

The May 2013 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](http://www.bls.gov/soc) and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at [www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm).

### 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/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/home.htm). Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm](http://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/2013/may/methods\\_statement.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2013/may/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: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Laredo Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level <sup>(2)</sup>	Location quotient <sup>(3)</sup>	Hourly	Annual <sup>(4)</sup>
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	10,040	1.6	\$14.66	\$30,500
First-line supervisors of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand.....	210	1.8	21.45	44,620
First-line supervisors of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators.....	400	2.9	17.57	36,540
Bus drivers, school or special client.....	310	0.9	12.59	26,180
Driver/sales workers.....	360	1.3	12.18	25,330
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.....	3,620	3.3	17.73	36,890
Light truck or delivery services drivers.....	600	1.1	16.98	35,320
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs.....	90	0.8	11.91	24,770
Automotive and watercraft service attendants.....	110	1.4	10.59	22,020
Transportation inspectors.....	50	3.1	20.77	43,190
Industrial truck and tractor operators.....	670	1.9	10.53	21,900
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment.....	170	0.8	10.32	21,460
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	2,550	1.6	10.80	22,470
Pump operators, except wellhead pumpers.....	100	11.1	18.47	38,420
Refuse and recyclable material collectors.....	70	0.9	10.46	21,750

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Laredo MSA, see [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_29700.htm](http://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.