

For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Tuesday, April 1, 2014

USDL-14-0528

Technical information: (202) 691-6569 • oesinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/oes
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES — MAY 2013

Retail salespersons and cashiers were the occupations with the largest employment in May 2013, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. These two occupations combined made up nearly 6 percent of total U.S. employment, with employment levels of 4.5 million and 3.3 million, respectively. National employment and wage information for all occupations is shown in table 1.

The data in this release are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, which provides employment and wage estimates by area and by industry for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups, 94 minor occupational groups, 458 broad occupations, and 821 detailed occupations.

Occupations

- The 10 largest occupations accounted for 21 percent of total employment in May 2013. In addition to retail salespersons and cashiers, the largest occupations included combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food; general office clerks; registered nurses; waiters and waitresses; and customer service representatives. (See chart 1.)
- Most of the largest occupations were relatively low paying. Of the 10 largest occupations, only registered nurses, with an annual mean wage of \$68,910, had an average wage above the U.S. all-occupations mean of \$22.33 per hour or \$46,440 annually. Annual mean wages for the rest of the 10 largest occupations ranged from \$18,880 for combined food preparation and serving workers to \$34,000 for secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive. (See chart 2.)
- Office and administrative support was the largest occupational group, making up about 16 percent of total U.S. employment. The next largest groups were sales and related occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations, which made up nearly 11 percent and 9 percent of U.S. employment, respectively. Seven of the 10 largest occupations were in one of these three groups. Legal occupations and life, physical, and social science occupations were among the smallest occupational groups, each making up less than 1 percent of total employment. (See chart 3.)
- The highest paying occupational groups were management, legal, computer and mathematical, and architecture and engineering occupations. Most detailed occupations in these groups were also high paying. For example, all 19 computer and mathematical occupations had average

Table 1. National employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey by occupation, May 2013- Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Office and administrative support occupations (Continued)				
Postal service workers.....	500,980	\$23.90	\$49,720	\$25.89
Postal service clerks.....	71,910	22.87	47,570	25.88
Postal service mail carriers.....	307,490	24.47	50,890	27.16
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators.....	121,580	23.09	48,040	25.88
Production, planning, and expediting clerks.....	281,930	22.30	46,390	21.46
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks.....	677,450	14.93	31,060	14.10
Stock clerks and order fillers.....	1,800,410	11.99	24,940	10.81
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping.....	69,990	14.59	30,340	13.64
Secretaries and administrative assistants.....	3,647,870	18.39	38,250	17.15
Secretaries and administrative assistants.....	3,647,870	18.39	38,250	17.15
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants.....	755,210	24.94	51,870	23.70
Legal secretaries.....	220,680	21.65	45,030	20.38
Medical secretaries.....	512,970	15.93	33,140	15.33
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive.....	2,159,000	16.35	34,000	15.79
Other office and administrative support workers.....	3,879,380	14.96	31,110	14.01
Computer operators.....	67,450	19.25	40,040	18.69
Data entry and information processing workers.....	295,850	15.28	31,790	14.64
Data entry keyers.....	207,660	14.27	29,670	13.69
Word processors and typists.....	88,200	17.68	36,770	17.32
Desktop publishers.....	14,360	19.77	41,130	18.20
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks.....	236,160	18.27	38,010	17.42
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service.....	99,140	13.83	28,760	13.20
Office clerks, general.....	2,832,010	14.42	29,990	13.49
Office machine operators, except computer.....	66,840	14.29	29,710	13.51
Proofreaders and copy markers.....	11,260	16.97	35,300	15.93
Statistical assistants.....	15,640	20.45	42,530	19.92
Office and administrative support workers, all other.....	240,670	16.35	34,000	15.38
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations				
Supervisors of farming, fishing, and forestry workers.....	435,250	11.70	24,330	9.32
Supervisors of farming, fishing, and forestry workers.....	18,540	22.09	45,940	20.90
First-line supervisors of farming, fishing, and forestry workers.....	18,540	22.09	45,940	20.90
Agricultural workers.....	373,350	10.61	22,080	9.16
Agricultural inspectors.....	13,740	20.96	43,600	20.52
Animal breeders.....	1,240	19.38	40,310	18.24
Graders and sorters, agricultural products.....	38,120	10.10	21,000	9.24
Miscellaneous agricultural workers.....	320,250	10.20	21,210	9.11
Agricultural equipment operators.....	22,650	13.34	27,740	12.58
Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse.....	261,720	9.65	20,080	9.00
Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals.....	31,000	11.91	24,760	10.89
Agricultural workers, all other.....	4,870	14.03	29,170	11.73
Fishing and hunting workers.....	560	17.43	36,250	16.75
Fishers and related fishing workers.....	480	17.71	36,840	16.96
Forest, conservation, and logging workers.....	42,800	16.59	34,510	15.89
Forest and conservation workers.....	6,940	13.88	28,860	12.39
Logging workers.....	35,870	17.12	35,600	16.38
Fallers.....	5,790	19.50	40,550	16.60
Logging equipment operators.....	24,490	16.69	34,700	16.39
Log graders and scalers.....	2,780	16.39	34,090	15.90
Logging workers, all other.....	2,810	16.67	34,680	16.44
Construction and extraction occupations				
Supervisors of construction and extraction workers.....	5,088,030	21.94	45,630	19.55
Supervisors of construction and extraction workers.....	467,130	30.70	63,860	29.03
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers.....	467,130	30.70	63,860	29.03
Construction trades workers.....	3,760,870	21.40	44,510	19.01
Boilermakers.....	15,950	27.85	57,920	27.74
Brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons.....	69,150	23.60	49,090	21.67
Brickmasons and blockmasons.....	58,730	24.37	50,700	22.41
Stonemasons.....	10,410	19.23	39,990	17.54
Carpenters.....	580,570	21.62	44,980	19.47
Carpet, floor, and tile installers and finishers.....	68,950	19.81	41,210	17.58
Carpet installers.....	24,640	19.39	40,330	17.19
Floor layers, except carpet, wood, and hard tiles.....	10,020	19.15	39,840	17.27
Floor sanders and finishers.....	4,200	17.70	36,810	16.94
Tile and marble setters.....	30,090	20.68	43,010	18.06
Cement masons, concrete finishers, and terrazzo workers.....	145,120	19.55	40,660	17.40
Cement masons and concrete finishers.....	141,910	19.52	40,610	17.37
Terrazzo workers and finishers.....	3,220	20.69	43,030	18.80
Construction laborers.....	824,970	16.84	35,020	14.64
Construction equipment operators.....	400,280	22.31	46,410	20.16
Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators.....	55,720	20.06	41,720	18.16
Pile-driver operators.....	3,620	27.03	56,220	23.91
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators.....	340,950	22.63	47,080	20.45
Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers.....	96,080	21.20	44,090	18.19
Drywall and ceiling tile installers.....	79,950	20.75	43,160	17.89
Tapers.....	16,120	23.41	48,690	21.10
Electricians.....	542,680	25.75	53,560	24.28
Glaziers.....	44,050	20.46	42,560	18.08

See footnotes at end of table.