

# What's your LOCATION Quotient?

The release of the 2010 occupational employment estimates for the nation, state of Utah, and Utah's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), presents a fresh opportunity for analyzing our state's occupational composition. An interesting occupational statistic that is worthy of evaluation is the location quotient. A location quotient is the ratio of one area's employment concentration to the concentration of employment in a given reference area. This article considers Utah's state and area occupational employment with respect to the national employment mix.

In the analysis below, a location quotient larger than one reflects a greater than average occupational presence, whereas a location quotient of less than one indicates the occupation is less represented in an area than it is nationally.

As can be seen in the accompanying tables, some of Utah's most represented occupations are above the \$21.35 national average wage and \$16.27 national median wage for all occupations. High location quotients are generally driven by clusters of like business activities that require many of the same occupation, and may also be reflected in an area's industrial make-up. For example, the Salt Lake City MSA has a relatively large healthcare, and professional, technical and scientific influence, thus spawning occupations like medical appliance technicians and biomedical engineers. Manufacturing is a predominant industry in northern Utah, demanding employment in occupations such as aircraft mechanics, electrical equipment repairers, and food batchmakers. While construction projects in St. George are not near what they used to be, lingering employment

in construction occupations such as masons, drywall installers and bench carpenters contribute to the high occupational location quotients in the area. Meanwhile, two of the Provo-Orem MSA's top five occupations stem from strong post-secondary education employment in the region.

Occupations in Utah with some of the lowest location quotients are music directors and meat cutters and trimmers. It is likely that employment opportunities exist in occupations with high location quotients; however, location quotients do not take into account the supply of labor. Consequently, an occupation could witness large employment numbers in a given geography, but if qualified jobseekers outweigh occupational demand, then opportunities in the field could be fewer than expected. ●

## Utah's Greatest Occupational Location Quotients, by Area, 2010

STATEWIDE				
Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	5,090	4.642	\$13.12	\$12.22
Forest and Conservation Technicians	1,290	4.436	\$15.67	\$13.46
Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents	2,240	3.624	\$21.98	\$21.14
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Metal and Plastic	2,040	3.256	\$14.70	\$14.00
Telemarketers	7,220	2.768	\$11.81	\$11.20

SALT LAKE CITY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA				
Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Medical Appliance Technicians	640	10.305	\$15.80	\$15.68
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	4,970	8.797	\$13.12	\$12.22
Biomedical Engineers	380	5.349	\$35.30	\$34.81
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Metal and Plastic	1,210	3.738	\$15.04	\$14.09
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	150	3.217	\$22.87	\$22.38



## Utah's Greatest Occupational Location Quotients Cont.

### PROVO-OREM METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Tile and Marble Setters	300	7.172	\$23.34	\$23.06
Residential Advisors	460	5.271	\$12.61	\$10.60
Law Teachers, Postsecondary	100	4.983	\$127,170 (Annual)	\$112,050 (Annual)
Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	170	3.938	\$87,590 (Annual)	\$85,530 (Annual)
Helpers--Masons, and Tile and Marble Setters	160	3.933	\$16.46	\$16.71

### OGDEN-CLEARFIELD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Audio-Visual and Multimedia Collections Specialists	100	8.587	\$16.82	\$15.49
Logisticians	980	6.277	\$34.55	\$34.19
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	970	5.488	\$25.47	\$25.79
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial Equipment	550	5.470	\$27.11	\$27.02
Plasterers and Stucco Masons	210	5.329	\$13.42	\$12.99

### LOGAN METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Food Batchmakers	340	9.401	\$13.46	\$13.78
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	490	7.239	\$14.42	\$11.89
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	920	7.140	\$14.18	\$14.36
Helpers--Carpenters	120	6.573	\$10.26	\$9.52
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	150	4.894	\$16.73	\$17.02

### ST. GEORGE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Occupation	Employment	Location Quotient	Mean Wage	Median Wage
Plasterers and Stucco Masons	140	14.563	\$15.01	\$15.39
Brickmasons and Blockmasons	110	4.366	\$24.18	\$26.48
Social and Human Service Assistants	530	4.188	\$10.61	\$10.46
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	110	3.653	\$14.74	\$13.70
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	110	3.628	\$13.66	\$13.05

Note: Statewide location quotients are for occupations with a minimum employment of 1,000 and publishable wage data. MSA location quotients are for occupations with a minimum employment of 100 and publishable wage data.