

NEW Occupational Employment and Wage Data

Every year the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics releases wage and employment estimates for over 800 detailed occupations.

Occupational wage estimates are some of the most widely used labor market statistics. In particular, average wage data enable businesses to compare the wage rates they pay by occupation with national and regional averages. Wage rates inform business decisions with regard to workforce retention and recruitment. Workers

and job seekers use these same averages to gauge their own financial expectations surrounding current or desired future employment.

These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states and for metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. For example, there are five metro areas and four non-metropolitan areas in Utah. Each of Utah's 29 counties fall within one of these nine regions.

Figure 1: Employment and Median Hourly Wages Estimated for Selected New Occupations May 2012



2010 SOC Code	Occupational Title	United States		Utah	
		Employment Estimate	Median Hourly Wage	Employment Estimate	Median Hourly Wage
	Total – All Occupations	130,287,700	\$16.71	1,200,850	\$15.75
13-1131	Fundraisers	48,530	\$24.37	280	\$20.77
15-1122	Information security analysts	72,670	\$41.43	700	\$37.06
15-1134	Web developers	102,940	\$30.05	1,700	\$25.45
15-1143	Computer network architects	137,890	\$43.75	550	\$39.79
15-1152	Computer network support specialists	167,980	\$28.41	1,500	\$27.72
21-1094	Community health workers	38,020	\$16.64	480	\$20.18
29-1151	Nurse anesthetists	34,180	\$71.23	160	\$75.80
29-1171	Nurse practitioners	105,780	\$43.25	1,670	\$39.69
29-2035	Magnetic resonance imaging technologists	29,560	\$31.42	140	\$27.63
29-2092	Hearing aid specialists	4,980	\$19.92	50	\$13.21
31-1015	Orderlies	53,920	\$11.53	450	\$10.28
31-9097	Phlebotomists	100,380	\$14.29	930	\$12.58
33-9093	Transportation security screeners	47,200	\$17.71	520	\$16.89
39-4031	Morticians, undertakers, and funeral directors	23,070	\$22.52	130	\$22.26

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Classification Revisions

Periodically, the classification system (Standard Occupation Classification or SOC) is revised to better reflect changes in structure and the emergence of new occupations. The SOC system was re-evaluated and updated in 2010, with the first release under the revised system containing May 2012 estimates.

The May 2012 job counts and wage estimates include information for 24 newly defined or substantially revised detailed occupations. Figure 1 lists 14 of the new occupations with publishable Utah employment counts and median hourly wages as well as national data for comparison.

Of these 14 “new” occupations, four are related to information technology and seven to health care. Information technology and health care are among the fastest growing and most dynamic areas of the economy. Adjustments to their occupational mix and definitions are necessary to reflect the changing structure

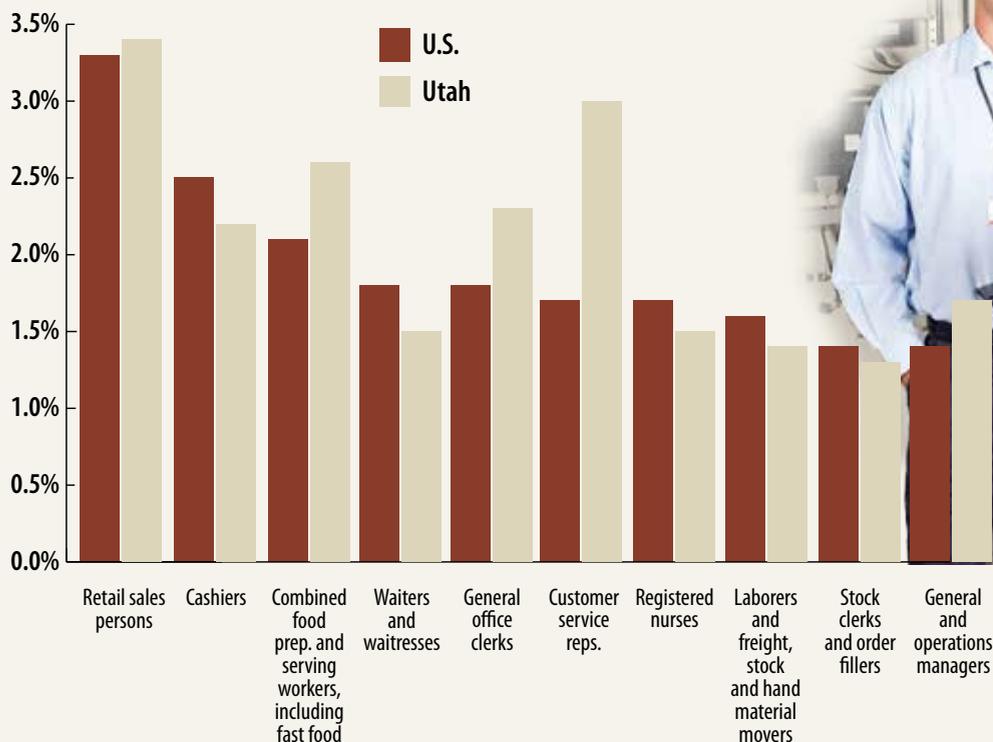
of the economy. Nationally, the 14 occupations in Figure 1 comprise 0.7 percent of the 130 million total estimated jobs and 0.8 percent of Utah’s estimated 1.2 million jobs.

Largest Occupations

Among the 800 occupations defined, just 10 account for about one in five workers in the U.S. and in Utah (Figure 2). The top four occupations are predominately found in retail trade and food services. The fifth and sixth most common occupations, general office clerks and customer service representatives, are found in offices throughout all industry sectors. The seventh occupation in the top ten is the most common health care occupation: registered nurse.

Wage and employment counts by occupation can be examined in many ways, and the information is available online to assist anyone in their particular labor market needs. Visit bls.gov/oes/home.htm for Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational employment statistics and jobs.utah.gov for Utah labor market information. ●

Figure 2: Ten Largest U.S. Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment with a Utah Comparison
May 2012



Sum of ten largest U.S. occupations is 19.2 percent and for Utah 21.0 percent. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics