

# Highlights from the 2015 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Data Release

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Every year the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives conducts the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. Results from the survey can be used to answer some key questions about occupational employment in Michigan, for instance:

1. Which occupations provide the most jobs in Michigan?
2. What is the pay range for different job titles in Michigan?
3. How do jobs and wages vary among the Prosperity Regions in Michigan?

This brief article answers these questions by highlighting some of the 2015 data which was released in March of 2016.

## **(1) Which occupations provide the most jobs in Michigan?**

In 2015, Michigan establishments provided 4,146,600 jobs by occupation in the state. This was an increase of almost 73,000 jobs since 2014. The ten largest occupations by employment in the state remained the same from the prior year, with the only ranking change was *Food preparation and serving workers* surpassing *Team assemblers*. (Table 1) The top ten occupations accounted for 21,000 of the over the year increase in jobs, or almost 30 percent. However, these jobs, with the exception of *Registered nurses*, had a lower average wage than Michigan's overall average wage.

The occupations in Michigan with the most employees in 2015 were *Retail salespersons* and *Office clerks*. These two occupations made up over 6 percent of total jobs in Michigan and have been the top job titles since 2009.

**Table 1: Largest Occupations in Michigan**

| Occupation   | Total Employment | Average Hourly Wage |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Retail Salespersons                                    | 144,300          | \$12.50             |
| Office Clerks, General                                 | 109,640          | \$15.91             |
| Food Preparation and Serving Workers                   | 109,150          | \$9.58              |
| Team Assemblers  | 104,210          | \$17.07             |
| Cashiers   | 94,520           | \$10.32             |
| Registered Nurses                                      | 91,130           | \$32.80             |
| Customer Service Representatives                       | 86,440           | \$16.64             |
| Waiters and Waitresses                                 | 77,740           | \$10.41             |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 68,320           | \$13.70             |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping   | 63,150           | \$12.58             |

Source: DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

**(2) What is the pay range for occupations in Michigan?**

In 2015 the average wage in Michigan was \$22.26 per hour or \$46,310 annually, which was a 2.6 percent increase over 2014. The median wage was \$17.02 or \$35,400, which was a 2.0 percent gain over the prior year.

The national average wage was slightly above Michigan’s at \$23.23 per hour or \$48,320 annually. Despite this, Michigan still ranked in the upper half of states for average wage, ranking 21<sup>st</sup> highest among states, unchanged from last year.

The charts at the right show the highest wage occupations in Michigan in a few different ways. Figure 1 shows the highest wages for occupations that have an educational requirement of less than a bachelor’s degree. These occupations all have low employment levels in Michigan, with *Detectives and criminal investigators* having the highest employment level of the five jobs listed with only about 2,000 workers in Michigan.

Figure 2 shows the highest wage non-management occupations that require a bachelor’s degree. Three of the top five jobs are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) positions, demonstrating the wage potential of many jobs in the STEM field.

The last chart displays the highest wage occupations in the state, regardless of education requirements. It is dominated mostly by medical occupations, with *Surgeons* being the occupation in Michigan with the highest average wage of almost \$250,000 annually.

**In 2015, Michigan’s average wage was \$22.26 per hour, an increase of 2.6 percent over last year. This ranked 21<sup>st</sup> highest among states despite being slightly below the national average of \$23.23 per hour.**

Figure 1. Less than Bachelor’s, Non-Managers

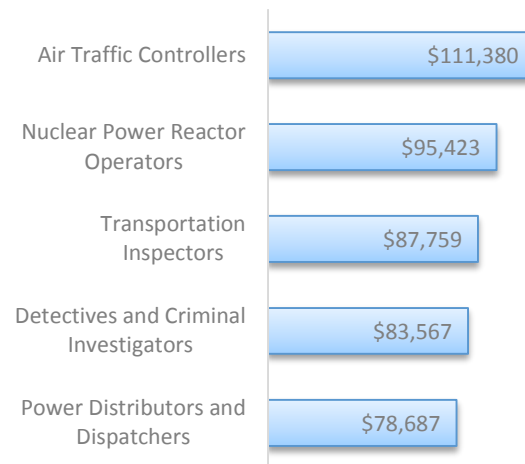


Figure 2. Bachelor’s Degree, Non-Managers

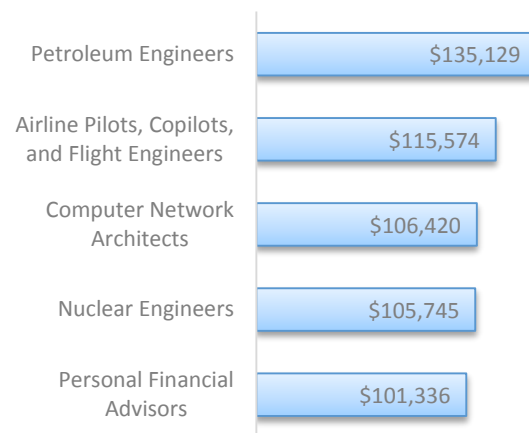
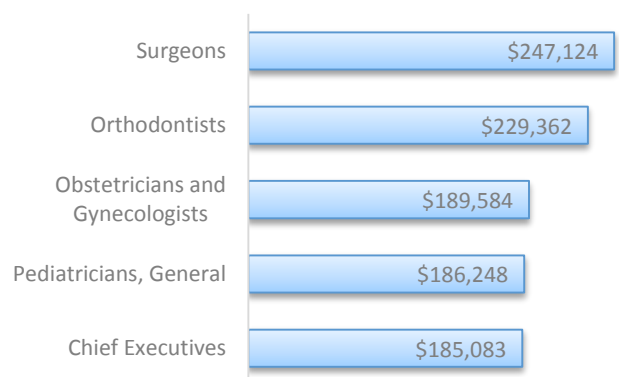


Figure 3. All Occupations



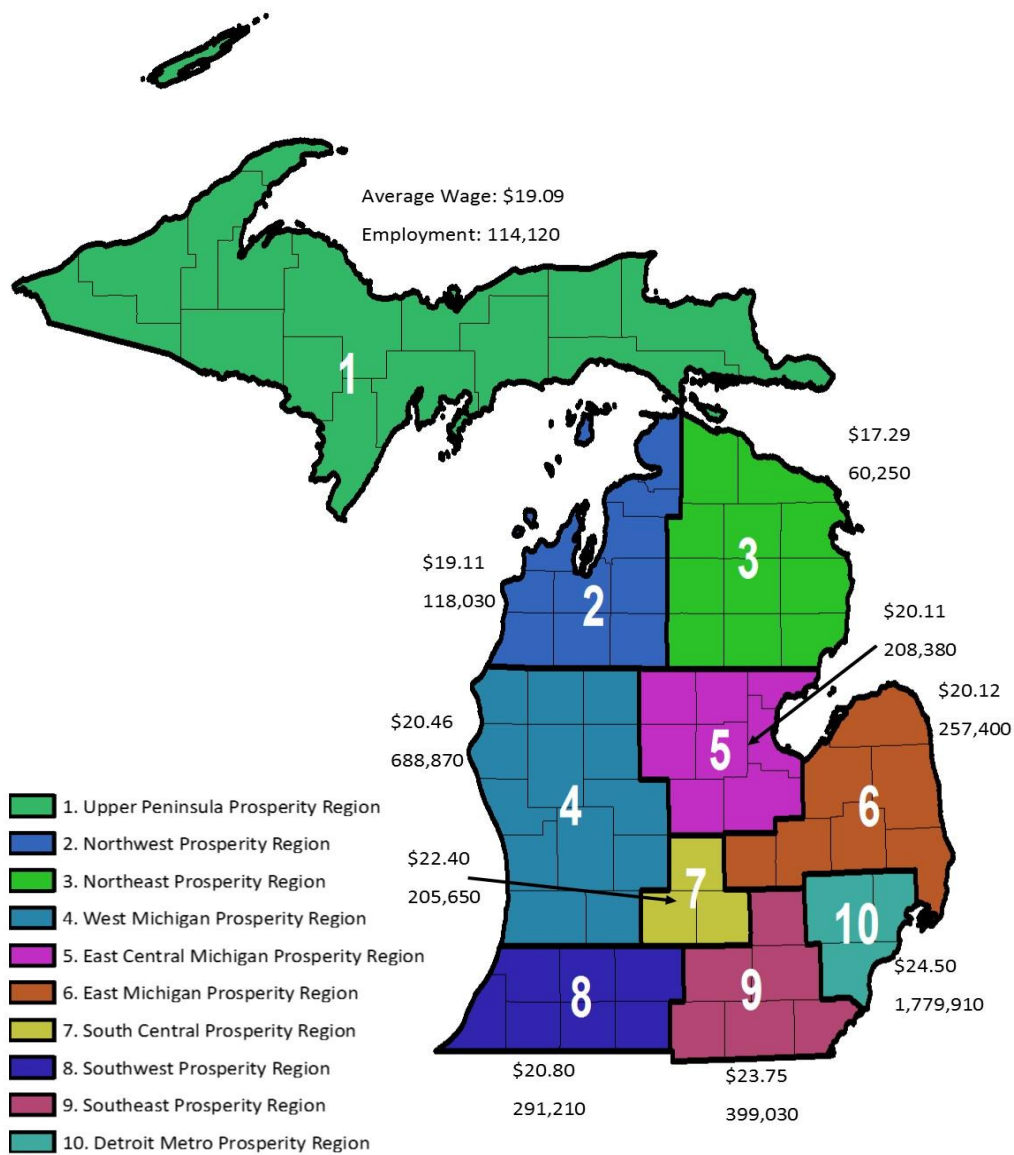
Source: DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

**(3) How do jobs and wages vary among the Prosperity Regions in Michigan?**

The state of Michigan is broken up into ten Prosperity Regions (shown below), which are used to conduct economic analysis based on geographical regions in the state.

The Detroit Metro Region had the highest employment at 1,779,910, which was about 43 percent of all employment in the state. On the other end of the spectrum, the Northeast Region had employment of only 60,250, which was less than 2 percent of statewide employment.

The Detroit Metro Region also had the highest average wage of \$24.50 per hour, outpacing the state average by over \$2 per hour. The Southeast Region (\$23.75), which includes Ann Arbor, and the South Central Region (\$22.40), which includes Lansing, were the only other two areas with higher wages than the statewide average. The Northeast Region (\$17.29) had the lowest average wage by a large amount. The next lowest wage was the Upper Peninsula Region at \$19.09 per hour, almost \$2 higher, and the Detroit Metro region was over \$7 more than the Northeast Region.



***Want more Information?***

The Occupational Employment Statistics survey produces occupation, employment and wage data for over 800 occupations in over 600 metro areas, every state, and the nation. More data and program information can be found on the Bureau of Labor statistics website at [www.bls.gov/oes/#data](http://www.bls.gov/oes/#data) or on the Bureau of

Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives website at [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi).

For a complete listing of occupations and wages in Michigan and its areas go to [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi) and click on the occupations & wages link to download the Excel files.<sup>1</sup>

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