

Connecticut Occupational Employment and Wages in 2012

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The recently released statistics by the Office of Research in the Connecticut Department of Labor showed that retail salespersons (50,190) and cashiers (39,640) were the occupations with the highest employment in Connecticut. These two occupations combined made up nearly 6 percent of total Connecticut employment.

The 10 largest occupations accounted for 20 percent of total employment. In addition to retail salespersons and cashiers, the largest occupations included registered nurses; secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive; general and operations managers; janitors and cleaners (except maids and housekeeping cleaners); and customer service representatives. The smallest occupational group in the state was farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, making up less than 1 percent of total employment. Among the 10 largest occupations overall, over 91 percent of employment was in the private sector, with the share of private sector employment ranging from 75 percent of janitors to nearly 100 percent of retail salespersons and customer service representatives.

The highest paying occupational groups in Connecticut were management, legal, computer and mathematical, healthcare practitioners and technical, and business and financial operations occupations (see chart). The annual pay of the top five individual occupations within these groups ranged from \$72,299 (judicial law clerks) to \$253,012 (surgeons), well above the state's average wage of \$53,526 for all occupations.

The lowest paying occupational groups were food preparation and serving-related; personal care and service; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; farming, fishing, and forestry; and healthcare support occupations. The annual average wage of the lowest paying occupations within these groups ranged from \$20,008 (graders and sorters of agricultural products) to \$32,488 (building cleaning workers, all other).

The Connecticut Occupational Employment and Wage data provides employment and wage data by occupation and is based on the results of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. The OES program conducts a bi-annual mail survey designed to

produce estimates of employment and wages for over 800 occupations. These estimates are generated at the national, state, and metropolitan area levels. National estimates are derived from responses from 1,200,000 business establishments, while state estimates are based on approximately 21,000 sampled establishments.

OES provides accurate and meaningful wage information to employers, job seekers, counselors, students, planners of vocational education programs, economic developers, Regional Workforce Development Boards, and others. Employers may find the data useful as a guide in analyzing pay scales; job seekers and students could utilize the information in making employment and career decisions; and program planners should be aware of employment and wage levels in determining training programs to be offered.

For a complete list of the latest occupational employment and wages, visit Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research website: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/wages/oesmain.asp>. ■

Average Annual Salaries for the Highest and Lowest Paying Occupational Groups, First Quarter 2012

