Dave Senf

Metro Occupational Mixes

Occupational concentrations vary from one region of the country to the next. Here's a look at how the job mix in Minnesota metros stacks up with the rest of the U.S.

Anybody who has visited the Elkhart-Goshen metro area in Indiana probably noticed a lot of manufacturing companies. Because of the high concentration of manufacturers, 35 percent of that area's workers are employed in production occupations like machining, tool and die making, and assembling. That's the highest share of production jobs of any metro area in the country and almost six times the national average for metros.

The San Jose-Santa Clara metro area, also known as California's Silicon Valley, enjoys a disproportionately high share of employment in computer and mathematical jobs. Employment in that field accounts for nearly 12 percent of all jobs in the San Jose-Santa Clara area, almost four times higher than the U.S. metro average.

The metro area with the highest percent of employment in food preparation and serving

occupations isn't in New York or Las Vegas, as some might expect. That distinction belongs to Myrtle Beach, S.C., where 18 percent of all jobs are in food preparation and serving. That's twice the U.S. metro average.

Minnesota is home to a metro area (Rochester) with the nation's highest proportion of health care practitioners and technical jobs. Rochester's health care practitioners and technical workers account for 15.9 percent of the area's workforce, which is almost three times the U.S. metro average of 5.8 percent.[1]

The abundance of high-earning jobs in Rochester's health care industry — physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists and pharmacists — helped to boost the area's average annual paycheck to $48,600, which was slightly higher than the U.S. metro average of $47,230 and 60th highest among 395 metro areas last year. (See Table 1 for average annual wages of other Minnesota metro areas, as well as the top and bottom nationally ranked metro area average annual wages.)

Table 2 on page 15 shows how the occupational mix of Minnesota's five metro areas (as well as nonmetro Minnesota)

TABLE 1

May 2014 Metropolitan Area Average Annual Wage and Salary Estimates

1	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	75,770
2	San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA	69,350
3	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	65,890
4	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA	64,010
5	Framingham, MA NECTA Division	62,520
6	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	61,650
7	New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ	61,640
8	Bethesda-Rockville-Frederick, MD	60,910
9	Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA	60,370
10	Trenton-Ewing, NJ	60,020
30	**Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI**	**52,080**
60	**Rochester, MN**	**48,600**
	Minnesota Statewide Average	**48,310**
	U.S. Metro Average	48,575
	U.S. Average	47,230
179	**Fargo, ND-MN**	**42,180**
208	**St. Cloud, MN**	**41,620**
218	**Duluth, MN-WI**	**41,400**
222	**Mankato-North Mankato, MN**	**41,340**
280	**Grand Forks, ND-MN**	**39,980**
290	**La Crosse, WI-MN**	**39,570**
	U.S. Nonmetro Average	38,762
	Minnesota Nonmetro Average	**38,260**
338	**Elkhart-Goshen, IN**	**37,680**
391	Gadsden, AL	34,690
392	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	33,260
393	Hot Springs, AR	32,880
394	**Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway, SC**	**32,820**
395	Brownsville-Harlingen, TX	32,640

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014

The relative wage column compares each metro area's average occupational wage to the corresponding average U.S. occupational wage. The average management wage in Duluth-Superior is 78 percent of the average U.S. metro management wage, while the average wage for construction and extraction workers in the area is 14 percentage points higher than the average wage in this occupational group for all U.S. metro areas.

The shaded values in Table 2 highlight Minnesota's metro area occupational groups that either have a higher share of employment compared with the average U.S. metro area or have wages higher than the average U.S. metro area.

The occupational groups are listed from the highest- to lowest-paying based on average U.S. metro wages in Table 2. The Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area average annual wage of $52,080 in 2014 was 30th highest in 2014, due in part to MSP having a higher concentration of employment in higher-paying occupational groups and in part to higher-than-average wages in middle- or lower-paying occupational groups. **T**

differ from the average U.S. metro mix and how occupational group wages in each area compare to U.S. wages.[2]

In the occupational mix column, a value above 100 percent indicates metro employment concentration in that occupational group is higher than the national norm. For example, the 130 percent value for health care practitioners and

technicians in Duluth-Superior means this metro area has a 30 percent higher concentration in this occupational group relative to the average U.S. metro area. The share of Duluth-Superior jobs in production occupations, on the other hand, is lower than the average U.S. metro area, as indicated by the 70 percent value. The area has 70 percent of the production jobs relative to the average U.S. metro area.

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[1]Occupational data used here is available for 395 metro areas from the May 2014 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) dataset available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

[2]In addition to estimating occupational employment and wages for Minnesota metro areas, the OES program estimates occupational employment and wages for four nonmetro balance of the state areas. The four balance of the state estimates have been aggregated into one nonmetro Minnesota, which is basically all counties in Minnesota not included in a metropolitan statistical area.

TABLE 2

	Occupation Mix	Relative Wage	Occupation Mix	Relative Wage	Occupation Mix	Relative Wage
	Duluth, MN-WI		**Mankato-North Mankato, MN**		**Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI**	
Management (High)	89%	78%	94%	82%	136%	104%
Legal (High)	56%	81%	50%	73%	107%	102%
Computer and Mathematical (High)	58%	79%	58%	70%	147%	98%
Architecture and Engineering (High)	90%	84%	68%	77%	121%	95%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (High)	130%	92%	122%	92%	91%	108%
Business and Financial Operations (High)	71%	81%	74%	84%	140%	97%
Life, Physical, and Social Science (High)	145%	84%	94%	82%	110%	104%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media (High)	69%	70%	104%	72%	115%	92%
Education, Training, and Library (Middle)	95%	92%	110%	109%	86%	107%
Construction and Extraction (Middle)	110%	114%	73%	95%	75%	123%
Community and Social Service (Middle)	217%	88%	252%	102%	115%	103%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair (Middle)	123%	104%	97%	94%	79%	106%
Protective Service (Middle)	80%	100%	42%	104%	66%	107%
Sales and Related (Middle)	94%	73%	99%	79%	96%	113%
Office and Administrative Support (Low)	94%	93%	95%	91%	96%	109%
Production (Low)	70%	113%	133%	103%	108%	105%
Transportation and Material Moving (Low)	90%	103%	82%	86%	82%	112%
Healthcare Support (Low)	149%	97%	133%	94%	96%	110%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance (Low)	103%	92%	118%	98%	85%	105%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry (Low)	22%	139%	49%	130%	15%	130%
Personal Care and Service (Low)	160%	90%	91%	97%	152%	100%
Food Preparation and Serving Related (Low)	110%	91%	113%	93%	90%	97%
	Rochester, MN		**St. Cloud, MN**		**Nonmetro Minnesota**	
Management (High)	90%	89%	94%	81%	90%	74%
Legal (High)	49%	77%	53%	78%	42%	65%
Computer and Mathematical (High)	168%	100%	61%	76%	35%	78%
Architecture and Engineering (High)	72%	88%	42%	77%	72%	81%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (High)	273%	96%	122%	105%	94%	85%
Business and Financial Operations (High)	84%	84%	72%	80%	61%	77%
Life, Physical, and Social Science (High)	178%	87%	42%	96%	77%	79%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media (High)	77%	93%	83%	73%	62%	72%
Education, Training, and Library (Middle)	77%	91%	98%	90%	110%	85%
Construction and Extraction (Middle)	83%	108%	115%	104%	105%	93%
Community and Social Service (Middle)	118%	107%	99%	105%	133%	88%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair (Middle)	78%	98%	109%	93%	112%	94%
Protective Service (Middle)	52%	103%	36%	105%	71%	90%
Sales and Related (Middle)	74%	84%	94%	83%	93%	78%
Office and Administrative Support (Low)	86%	102%	99%	92%	87%	90%
Production (Low)	76%	103%	169%	95%	181%	96%
Transportation and Material Moving (Low)	81%	96%	106%	98%	107%	95%
Healthcare Support (Low)	199%	115%	112%	101%	139%	90%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance (Low)	90%	106%	102%	104%	109%	98%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry (Low)	35%	114%	63%	142%	123%	124%
Personal Care and Service (Low)	117%	97%	130%	94%	124%	93%
Food Preparation and Serving Related (Low)	84%	96%	90%	92%	101%	90%