

Occupational Employment Statistics

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Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2016

27-3043 Writers and Authors

Originate and prepare written material, such as scripts, stories, advertisements, and other material. Excludes "Public Relations Specialists" (27-3031) and "Technical Writers" (27-3042).

[National estimates for this occupation](#)
[Industry profile for this occupation](#)
[Geographic profile for this occupation](#)

National estimates for this occupation: Top

Employment estimate and mean wage estimates for this occupation:

Employment (1)	Employment RSE (3)	Mean hourly wage	Mean annual wage (2)	Wage RSE (3)
44,690	1.9 %	\$34.58	\$71,920	1.5 %

Percentile wage estimates for this occupation:

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$14.12	\$20.73	\$29.44	\$40.15	\$57.04
Annual Wage (2)	\$29,380	\$43,130	\$61,240	\$83,500	\$118,640

Industry profile for this occupation: Top

Industries with the highest published employment and wages for this occupation are provided. For a list of all industries with employment in this occupation, see the [Create Customized Tables](#) function.

Industries with the highest levels of employment in this occupation:

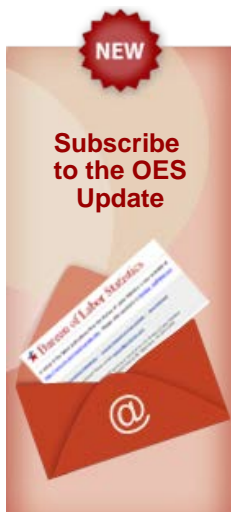
Industry	Employment (1)	Percent of industry employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Advertising, Public Relations, and Related Services	7,000	1.44	\$36.71	\$76,360
Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers	4,970	1.31	\$27.79	\$57,800
Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers	3,640	6.76	\$48.27	\$100,400
Motion Picture and Video Industries	3,460	0.82	(8)	(8)
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	2,370	0.18	\$33.37	\$69,410

Industries with the highest concentration of employment in this occupation:

Industry	Employment (1)	Percent of industry employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers	3,640	6.76	\$48.27	\$100,400
Advertising, Public Relations, and Related Services	7,000	1.44	\$36.71	\$76,360
Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers	4,970	1.31	\$27.79	\$57,800
Motion Picture and Video Industries	3,460	0.82	(8)	(8)
Other Information Services	2,030	0.79	\$29.08	\$60,490

Top paying industries for this occupation:

Industry	Employment (1)	Percent of industry	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
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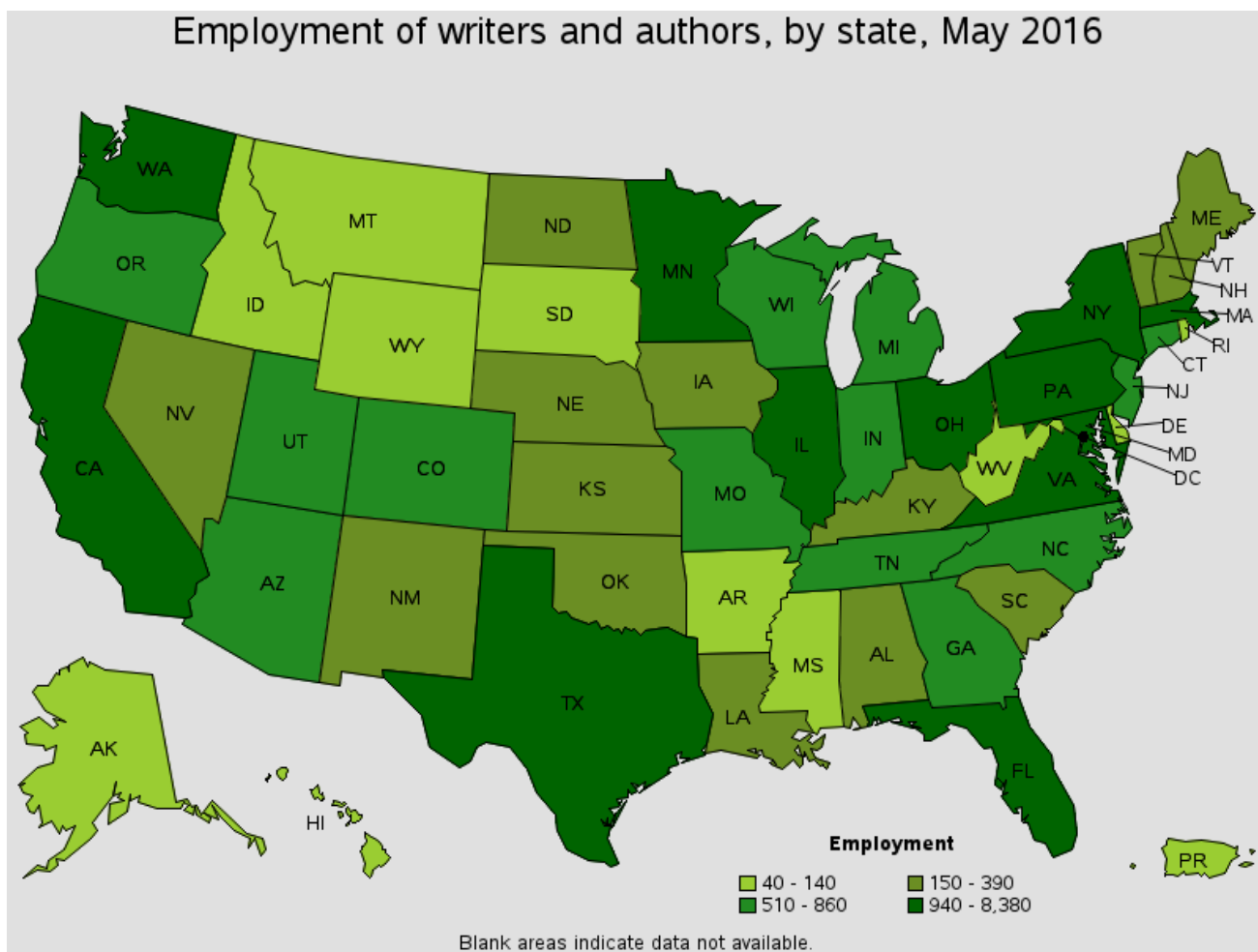


[Read more](#)

		employment		
Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers	3,640	6.76	\$48.27	\$100,400
Legal Services	240	0.02	\$45.24	\$94,090
Travel Arrangement and Reservation Services	70	0.03	\$45.22	\$94,050
Federal Executive Branch (OES Designation)	1,110	0.05	\$44.52	\$92,600
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Services	160	0.02	\$40.22	\$83,660

Geographic profile for this occupation: Top

States and areas with the highest published employment, location quotients, and wages for this occupation are provided. For a list of all areas with employment in this occupation, see the [Create Customized Tables](#) function.

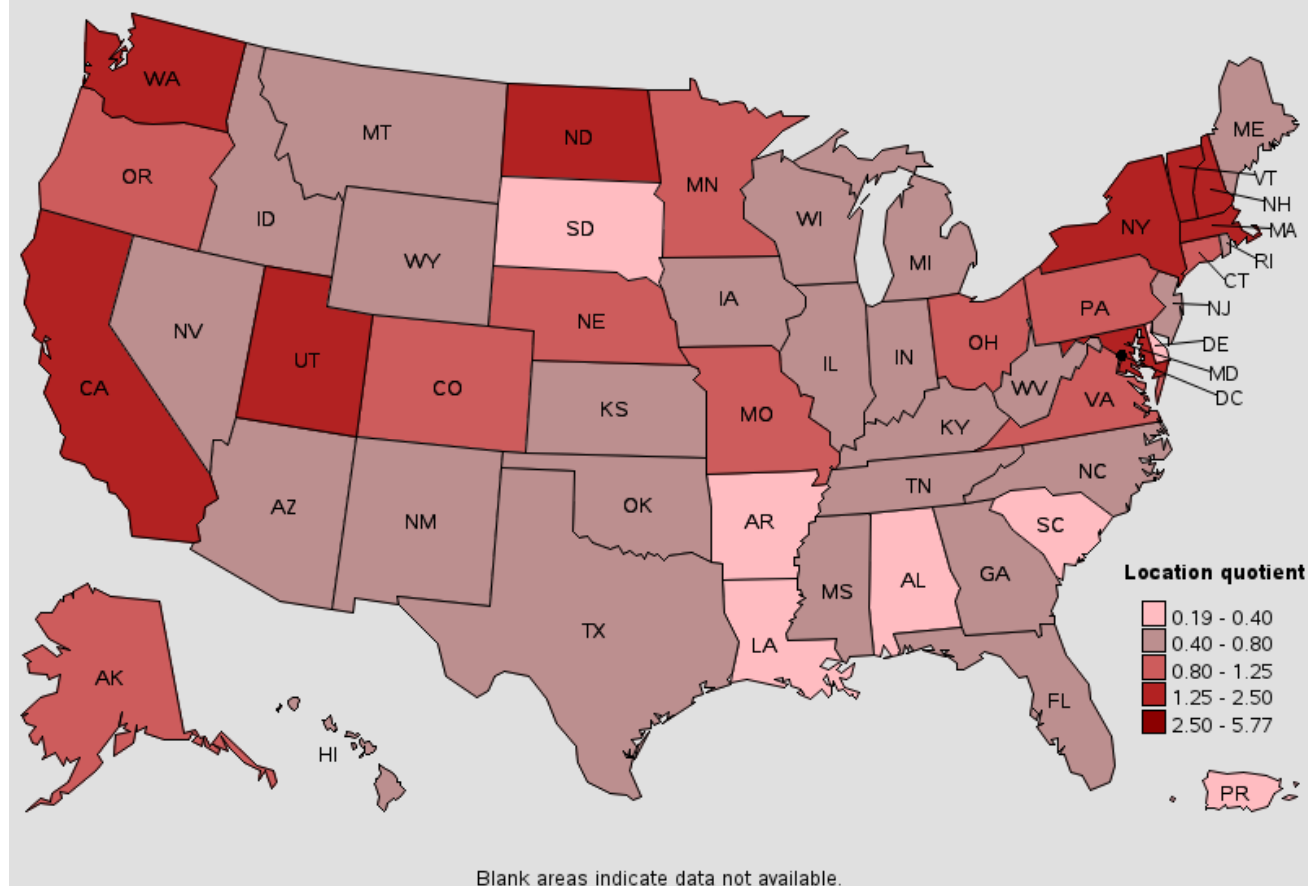


States with the highest employment level in this occupation:

State	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
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		jobs			
California	8,380	0.52	1.65	\$46.11	\$95,920
New York	6,790	0.75	2.35	\$39.93	\$83,060
Texas	2,060	0.18	0.55	\$26.01	\$54,100
Florida	1,830	0.22	0.70	\$26.35	\$54,810
Massachusetts	1,580	0.46	1.43	\$34.99	\$72,790

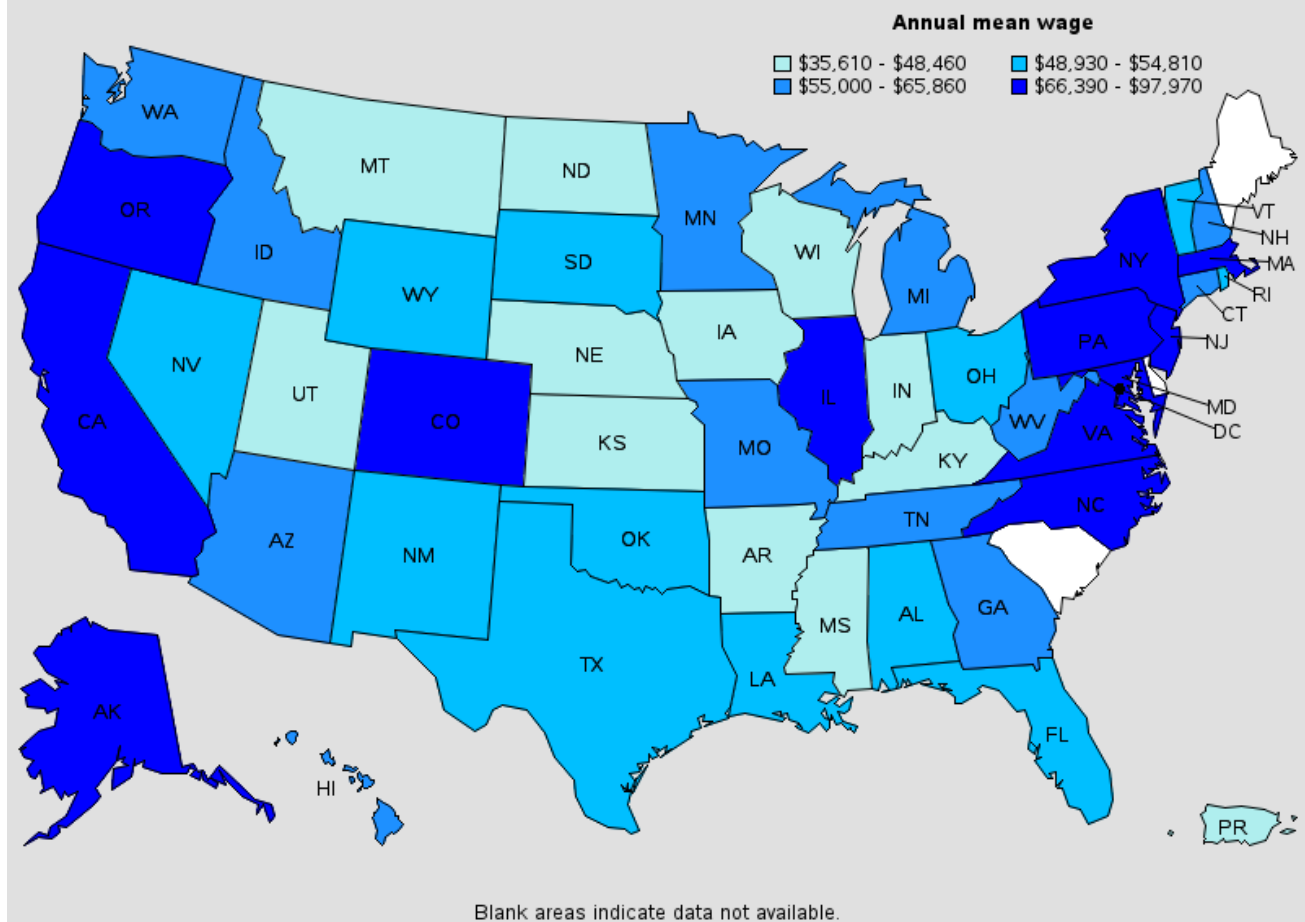
Location quotient of writers and authors, by state, May 2016



States with the highest concentration of jobs and location quotients in this occupation:

State	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
District of Columbia	1,290	1.84	5.77	\$47.10	\$97,970
New York	6,790	0.75	2.35	\$39.93	\$83,060
New Hampshire	380	0.59	1.85	\$27.74	\$57,700
California	8,380	0.52	1.65	\$46.11	\$95,920
Vermont	150	0.51	1.59	\$25.42	\$52,870

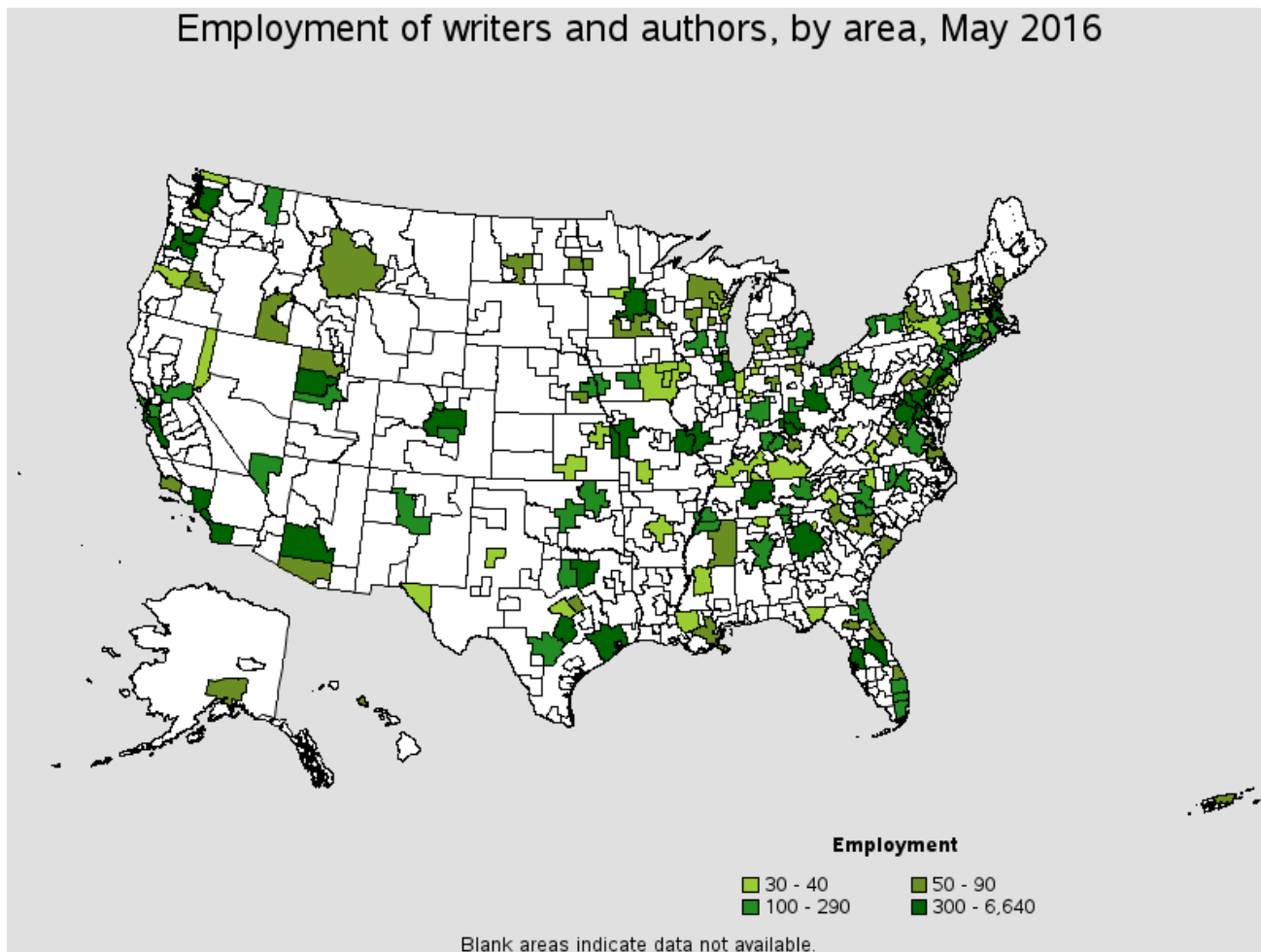
Annual mean wage of writers and authors, by state, May 2016



Top paying States for this occupation:

State	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
District of Columbia	1,290	1.84	5.77	\$47.10	\$97,970
California	8,380	0.52	1.65	\$46.11	\$95,920
New York	6,790	0.75	2.35	\$39.93	\$83,060
Maryland	1,110	0.42	1.32	\$38.51	\$80,110
Colorado	640	0.26	0.81	\$35.90	\$74,660

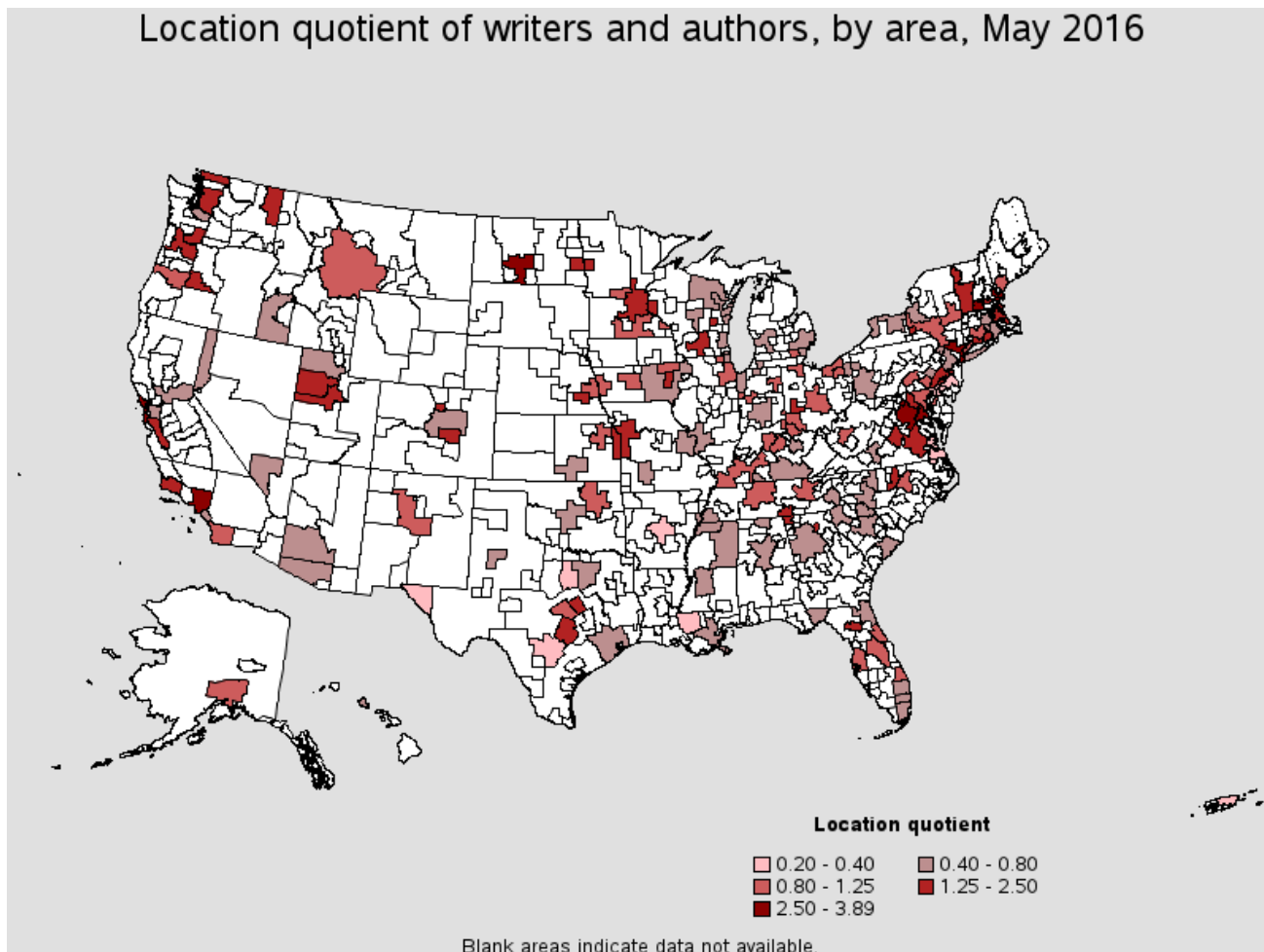
Employment of writers and authors, by area, May 2016



Metropolitan areas with the highest employment level in this occupation:

Metropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	6,010	0.91	2.87	\$40.38	\$83,990
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division	4,910	1.16	3.65	\$53.78	\$111,870
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division	2,070	0.83	2.61	\$43.40	\$90,270
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA NECTA Division	1,330	0.74	2.32	\$35.35	\$73,520
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metropolitan Division	1,240	0.34	1.07	\$34.40	\$71,550
San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA Metropolitan Division	960	0.90	2.83	\$35.50	\$73,840
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA Metropolitan Division	950	0.60	1.89	\$33.60	\$69,890
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	770	0.40	1.26	\$31.45	\$65,410
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	570	0.22	0.70	\$30.96	\$64,400
Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX Metropolitan Division	560	0.23	0.73	\$28.42	\$59,110

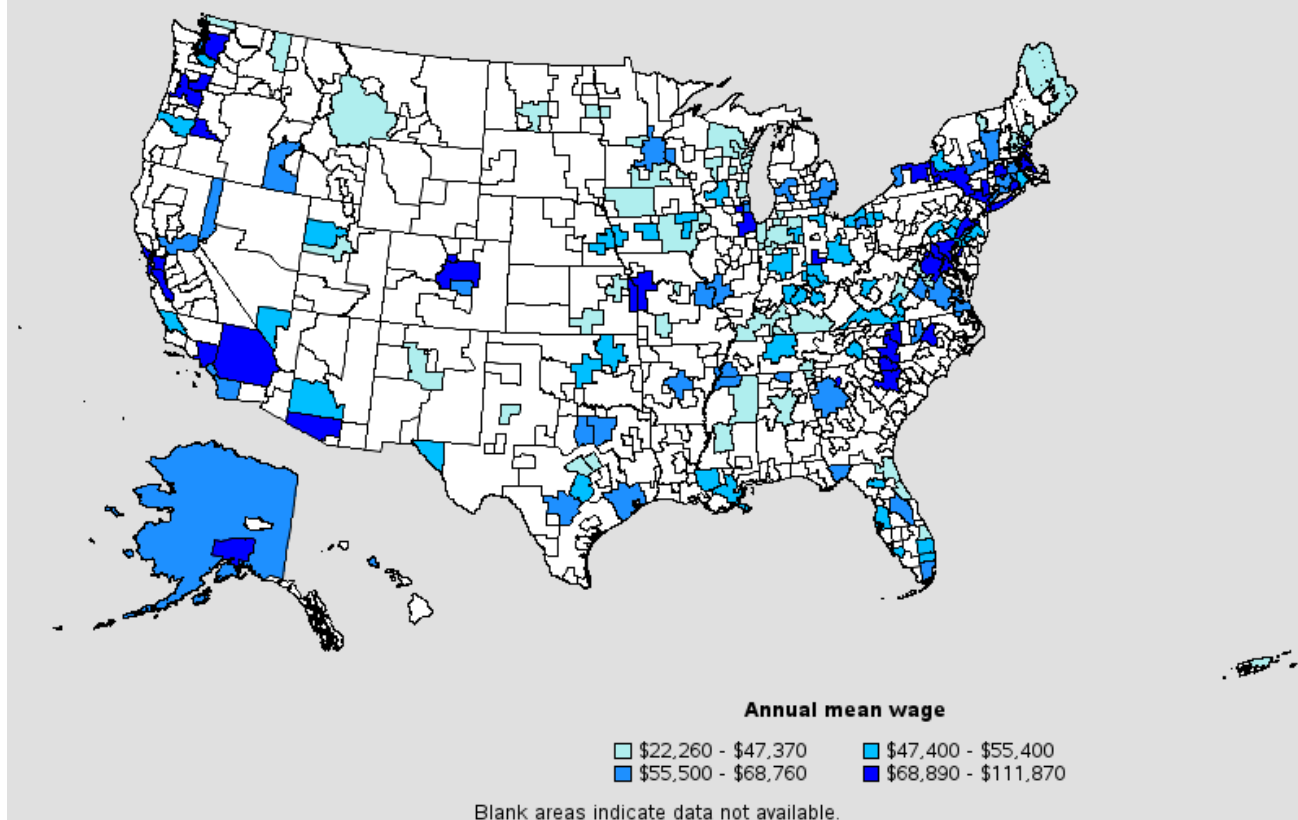
Location quotient of writers and authors, by area, May 2016



Metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of jobs and location quotients in this occupation:

Metropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Bismarck, ND	90	1.24	3.89	\$20.52	\$42,680
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division	4,910	1.16	3.65	\$53.78	\$111,870
San Rafael, CA Metropolitan Division	130	1.14	3.58	\$35.69	\$74,230
Dover-Durham, NH-ME	50	1.02	3.21	\$22.19	\$46,150
New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	6,010	0.91	2.87	\$40.38	\$83,990
San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA Metropolitan Division	960	0.90	2.83	\$35.50	\$73,840
Portsmouth, NH-ME	80	0.89	2.80	\$39.49	\$82,130
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division	2,070	0.83	2.61	\$43.40	\$90,270
Provo-Orem, UT	170	0.78	2.44	\$21.10	\$43,890
Silver Spring-Frederick-Rockville, MD Metropolitan Division	440	0.75	2.37	\$42.43	\$88,260

Annual mean wage of writers and authors, by area, May 2016



Top paying metropolitan areas for this occupation:

Metropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division	4,910	1.16	3.65	\$53.78	\$111,870
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division	2,070	0.83	2.61	\$43.40	\$90,270
Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA Metropolitan Division	240	0.22	0.71	\$43.18	\$89,810
Silver Spring-Frederick-Rockville, MD Metropolitan Division	440	0.75	2.37	\$42.43	\$88,260
Boulder, CO	100	0.56	1.75	\$42.10	\$87,560
Winston-Salem, NC	30	0.13	0.42	\$40.92	\$85,110
Dutchess County-Putnam County, NY Metropolitan Division	(8)	(8)	(8)	\$40.44	\$84,110
New York-Jersey City-White Plains, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	6,010	0.91	2.87	\$40.38	\$83,990
Nassau County-Suffolk County, NY Metropolitan Division	310	0.24	0.77	\$40.19	\$83,590
Portsmouth, NH-ME	80	0.89	2.80	\$39.49	\$82,130

Nonmetropolitan areas with the highest employment in this occupation:

Nonmetropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Southeast Minnesota nonmetropolitan area	60	0.39	1.22	\$18.81	\$39,120

Northeast Mississippi nonmetropolitan area	50	0.22	0.70	\$16.56	\$34,450
Southern Vermont nonmetropolitan area	50	0.47	1.47	\$31.70	\$65,940
Southwest Montana nonmetropolitan area	50	0.37	1.15	\$16.60	\$34,520
Northeastern Wisconsin nonmetropolitan area	50	0.22	0.70	\$20.30	\$42,230

Nonmetropolitan areas with the highest concentration of jobs and location quotients in this occupation:

Nonmetropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Southwest New Hampshire nonmetropolitan area	40	1.14	3.59	(8)	(8)
Southern Vermont nonmetropolitan area	50	0.47	1.47	\$31.70	\$65,940
Southeast Minnesota nonmetropolitan area	60	0.39	1.22	\$18.81	\$39,120
Southwest Montana nonmetropolitan area	50	0.37	1.15	\$16.60	\$34,520
Central New York nonmetropolitan area	40	0.30	0.94	\$37.00	\$76,960

Top paying nonmetropolitan areas for this occupation:

Nonmetropolitan area	Employment (1)	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Central New York nonmetropolitan area	40	0.30	0.94	\$37.00	\$76,960
Southern Vermont nonmetropolitan area	50	0.47	1.47	\$31.70	\$65,940
Balance of Alaska nonmetropolitan area	(8)	(8)	(8)	\$31.23	\$64,950
Southwest Virginia nonmetropolitan area	(8)	(8)	(8)	\$26.36	\$54,820
Southeast Iowa nonmetropolitan area	40	0.16	0.50	\$22.37	\$46,520

[About May 2016 National, State, Metropolitan, and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

These estimates are calculated with data collected from employers in all industry sectors, all metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, and all states and the District of Columbia. The top employment and wage figures are provided above. The complete list is available in the [downloadable XLS files](#).

The percentile wage estimate is the value of a wage below which a certain percent of workers fall. The median wage is the 50th percentile wage estimate--50 percent of workers earn less than the median and 50 percent of workers earn more than the median. [More about percentile wages](#).

(1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(2) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(3) The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the reliability of a survey statistic. The smaller the relative standard error, the more precise the estimate.

(8) Estimate not released.

(9) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

Other OES estimates and related information:

[May 2016 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2016 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2016 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2016 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2016 Occupation Profiles](#)

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