

Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2007

23-2011 Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

[National estimates for this occupation](#)

[Industry profile for this occupation](#)

[State profile for this occupation](#)

[Metropolitan area 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)
241,270	1.1 %	\$22.88	\$47,600	0.5 %

Percentile wage estimates for this occupation:

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$13.64	\$16.95	\$21.63	\$27.65	\$34.37
Annual Wage (2)	\$28,360	\$35,270	\$44,990	\$57,500	\$71,480

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	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Legal Services	176,170	\$22.17	\$46,110
Federal Executive Branch (OES Designation)	12,530	\$28.45	\$59,180
Local Government (OES designation)	12,360	\$22.30	\$46,380
State Government (OES designation)	7,940	\$20.36	\$42,350
Employment Services	5,490	\$24.90	\$51,800

Top paying industries for this occupation:

Industry	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	40	\$35.49	\$73,820
Software Publishers	290	\$32.94	\$68,510
Telecommunications Resellers	40	\$32.58	\$67,760
Internet Service Providers and Web Search Portals	80	\$32.43	\$67,450
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing	110	\$32.07	\$66,700

State profile for this occupation: Top

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

States with the highest concentration of workers in this occupation:

State	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of State employment
District of Columbia	6,580	\$27.62	\$57,450	1.060%
New York	27,750	\$26.66	\$55,450	0.326%
Delaware	1,240	\$24.09	\$50,110	0.291%
West Virginia	2,000	\$17.58	\$36,560	0.280%
Connecticut	4,390	\$23.10	\$48,050	0.261%

Top paying States for this occupation:

State	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of State employment
District of Columbia	6,580	\$27.62	\$57,450	1.060%
New York	27,750	\$26.66	\$55,450	0.326%
California	24,030	\$26.24	\$54,570	0.158%
Vermont	560	\$25.84	\$53,740	0.186%
Alaska	540	\$25.15	\$52,310	0.179%

Metropolitan area profile for this occupation: Top

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

Metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of workers in this occupation:

MSA	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of MSA employment
Charleston, WV	680	\$17.56	\$36,510	0.471%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division	10,460	\$26.81	\$55,770	0.456%
Tallahassee, FL	700	\$18.47	\$38,420	0.418%
New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	20,480	\$27.89	\$58,020	0.404%
Lynn-Peabody-Salem, MA NECTA Division	360	\$19.28	\$40,090	0.354%

Top paying Metropolitan areas for this occupation:

MSA	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of MSA employment
Stockton, CA	130	\$31.86	\$66,280	0.060%
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	1,380	\$30.80	\$64,070	0.152%
San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA Metropolitan Division	3,210	\$29.33	\$61,000	0.324%
New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ Metropolitan Division	20,480	\$27.89	\$58,020	0.404%
Salisbury, MD	(8)	\$27.53	\$57,250	(8)

[About May 2007 National, State, Metropolitan, and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

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

Percentile wage estimates show the percentage of workers in an occupation that earn less than a given wage and the percentage that earn more. 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 mean 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.

Other OES estimates and related information:

[May 2007 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2007 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2007 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2007 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[List of Occupations in SOC Code Number Order](#)

[List of Occupations in Alphabetical Order](#)

[Download May 2007 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates in Zipped Excel files](#)

[Technical notes](#)

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