Employment Growth and Wages in Miami-Dade County

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released updated data covering employment and wages for all counties in the US. The following summarizes and provides context for the Miami-Dade County Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.¹

The chart below shows the annual private payroll employment growth and average annual rates of growth, compounded, by sector of the Miami-Dade County economy. The length of each bar shows the total payroll jobs added in that sector between 2010 and 2015, while the label value for each bar shows the average annual growth rate of each sector over the period. Between 2010 and 2015, total private payroll employment for all industries grew by 142,000 jobs, an annual rate of 3.3% per year. The only sector to experience a decline in private employment over this period, minus 4.8% per year, was utilities. However, with fewer than 2,400 private utility employees in 2015, the impact on the overall economy was small. One-third of all private jobs added during this period were in the retail and accommodation and food service sectors, adding 24,000 and 25,800 jobs, respectively. Administration and waste management services added 12,900 private jobs; health care and social assistance was up 12,500 jobs; transportation and warehousing was up 11,700 jobs; and professional and technical services added 11,400 jobs.

Another dimension of the chart is the color of the bars, which illustrate the relationship between the average private annual pay in each sector and the average annual pay for all County payroll workers. The orange bars highlight the sectors paying a below-average wage. The chart shows that the three sectors adding the greatest number of payroll jobs between 2010 and 2015 all paid an annual wage below the countywide average. The countywide average annual pay in 2015 was $49,385 per job, a 1.8% increase over 2010 after adjusting for inflation. The average annual pay in accommodation and food services in 2015, $25,609, was 48% less than the countywide average. In the retail sector, the average annual pay of $30,400 was 39% less than countywide. And the average for administration and waste services, $32,000, was 35% less than the countywide pay. More than 60% of all payroll jobs created between 2010 and 2015 paid less than the County average annual pay.

The next three sectors by the level of job growth all had average annual pay above the County average. The average in health care and social assistance, $51,000, was 3% higher. In transportation and warehousing the average of $59,600 was 21% higher. And in professional and technical services the average annual pay of $80,600 was 63% higher than the countywide average annual pay for private payroll jobs.

¹ The wage comparison is with the average Miami-Dade County wage for all combined sectors. The values shown for the bar labels are the annual growth rates (CAGR) for the sectors.

The following bubble chart summarizes this payroll employment and wage picture for Miami-Dade County in order to make inter-sector comparison easier.

1. A larger bubble indicates a larger growth in employment by industry, 2010 to 2015.

2. The vertical line down the middle of the chart represents average private payroll growth for all sectors in Miami-Dade County between 2010 and 2015, 17.7%. Bubbles to the right of this line are growing faster than the County average, while bubbles to the left of this line are growing at a slower pace.

3. The horizontal line across the middle of the chart represents the countywide average annual pay. Bubbles above this line pay higher than the countywide average, while bubbles below pay less.

Therefore, bubbles representing sectors in the top-right quadrant of the chart, like professional and technical services, are high-wage and high-growth sectors. Sectors in the bottom-left quadrant, like other services, are low-pay, low-growth sectors. The other quadrants are combinations, either high pay-low growth or low pay-high growth.

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1 Note: The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage data (QCEW) pertain to payroll, or filled, jobs. A person may be included more than once if they hold more than one job and the self-employed and unpaid family workers are not included. The QCEW is a report of all the payroll data versus the data for the Labor Market Report (Current Employment Statistics – CES) which is estimated based on a sample of the payroll data.