Health Care Workforce Update
FOR THE Kansas City METRO

INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION & WORKFORCE TRENDS

138,280 Jobs

21,172
Registered Nurses

4,704
Licensed Vocational & Practical Nurses

11,417
Nursing Assistants

3,329
Physicians & Surgeons

1,837
Family & General Practitioners

1,491
Paramedics & Emergency Medical Technicians

5,271
Home Health Aides

3,397
Medical Assistants

735
Dentists

1,918
Dental Assistants

1,438
Dental Hygienists

2,394
Pharmacists

3,590
Pharmacy Technicians

1,598
Physical Therapists

1,086
Occupational Therapists
The Health Care and Social Assistance industry is an important part of the metro area’s workforce. It encompasses 11.5 percent of the region’s 1.1 million jobs in Greater Kansas City, with additional jobs in related fields such as health insurance, health information technology and manufacturing of health-related equipment.

1 in 9 workers in Greater Kansas City works in the Health Care & Social Assistance Industry.

Health care is the region’s fastest growing industry, averaging more than 3,000 new jobs each year over the last decade.

average annual earnings $54,259
TOP GROWING HEALTH CARE JOBS BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Many people assume that jobs in the health care industry require advanced degrees, but in fact most of the job openings in this field require two years or less of post-secondary education.

Jobs are available at all levels of education — on-the-job training, two-year and four-year degrees, as well as advanced education.

Jobs in the health care industry that require only on-the-job training (OJT) typically pay more than OJT jobs in other industries.

Many community colleges and other educational institutions in the Kansas City metro offer training for health care careers, from entry-level to advanced education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOP 10</strong> SKILLS in demand</th>
<th><strong>TOP 10</strong> CERTIFICATIONS in demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Oral and written communication</td>
<td>1 Certified Registered Nurse (RN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Team-oriented</td>
<td>2 Basic Life Support (BLS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Microsoft Office</td>
<td>3 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Organizational skills</td>
<td>4 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Problem solving</td>
<td>5 Physical Therapist Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Detail oriented</td>
<td>6 Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Customer service oriented</td>
<td>7 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Strong leadership skills</td>
<td>8 OSHA Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Pediatrics</td>
<td>9 American Registry of Radiologic Technologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Quality Assurance</td>
<td>10 Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOME HEALTH AIDES**
- Median wage: $10.46/hour
- 403 openings/year

**MEDICAL ASSISTANTS**
- Median wage: $15.26/hour
- 144 openings/year

**PHARMACY TECHS**
- Median wage: $14.01/hour
- 110 openings/year

**PHYSICIAN & SURGEONS**
- Median wage: $98.60/hour
- 118 openings/year

**PHARMACISTS**
- Median wage: $56.69/hour
- 95 openings/year

**PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**
- Median wage: $33.18/hour
- 68 openings/year

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES**
- Median wage: $19.58/hour
- 239 openings/year

**NURSING ASSISTANTS**
- Median wage: $11.88/hour
- 374 openings/year

**REGISTERED NURSES**
- Median wage: $29.55/hour
- 871 openings/year
Compared to other industries, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry has proven to be somewhat recession-proof. As the chart above illustrates, the health care field kept growing throughout the Great Recession, adding 30,930 jobs over the last decade. The demand for health care and social assistance is likely to continue to grow as the Baby Boom generation ages. The number of seniors over age 65 is expected to increase from 11 percent of the region’s total population in 2010 to 18 percent in 2030.
## Projected Growth

### Top 25 Occupations by Current Job Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2014 Jobs</th>
<th>Projected 2019 Jobs</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Annual Openings</th>
<th>Median Hourly Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>21,172</td>
<td>23,465</td>
<td>2,293</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>$29.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>11,417</td>
<td>12,450</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>$11.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>5,271</td>
<td>6,876</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>$10.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>4,704</td>
<td>5,219</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>$19.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Technicians</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>3,811</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$14.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>3,397</td>
<td>3,804</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>$15.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians and Surgeons</td>
<td>3,329</td>
<td>3,514</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>$98.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>2,394</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>$56.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massage Therapists</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>2,508</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants</td>
<td>1,918</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>$16.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and General Practitioners</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>1,918</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$79.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiologic Technologists</td>
<td>1,755</td>
<td>1,941</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>$26.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Records and Health Information Technicians</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>$17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapians</td>
<td>1,598</td>
<td>1,833</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$33.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>1,601</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$19.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics</td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>1,526</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$15.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienists</td>
<td>1,438</td>
<td>1,641</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>$34.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech-Language Pathologists</td>
<td>1,343</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$32.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$30.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$14.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Social Workers</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>$23.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Transcriptionists</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>1,209</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$14.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>$68.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>$31.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>1,066</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>$46.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### JOB POSTINGS


Average per month: 1,319
Emerging Trend: Community Health Workers

What are Community Health Workers?

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are people who bridge the gap between health care providers and people in need of care.

CHWs are trusted members of and/or have a close understanding of the communities they serve.

CHWs serve as a link between the patient and the health or social service agencies, striving to improve health outcomes and improve access to services and quality of care.

CHWs build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, health education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

Who hires CHWs?

- Health care facilities, such as hospitals, clinics and patient-centered medical homes.
- Government agencies, including public health departments and city/county human service programs.
- Primary and secondary schools and early childhood education programs.
- Dental offices and oral health programs.
- Senior centers.
- Social service agencies and community mental health centers.
- Faith-based programs.
- Occupational health and safety departments of businesses that employ workers with limited English proficiency and/or low literacy.

What can CHWs do?

- Help individuals and families obtain and maintain health insurance coverage.
- Increase access to and use of preventive education, screenings and treatment services.
- Reduce unnecessary use of urgent care.
- Improve self-management of chronic diseases.
- Strengthen patient health literacy and culturally competent provider practices.
- Build capacity in communities to address the underlying causes of ill health.

Unless otherwise noted, the data in this report comes from EMSI and WANTED analytics, with support from the Regional Workforce Intelligence Network (RWIN) and its members.

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