

**Table 110. Health care employees and wages, by selected occupations: United States, selected years 2001–2009**

[Data are based on a semiannual mail survey of nonfarm establishments]

| Occupation title  | 2001                             | 2003      | 2006      | 2009      | 2001–2009         | 2001                          | 2003    | 2006    | 2009    | 2001–2009         |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Health care practitioner and technical occupations          | Number of employees <sup>1</sup> |           |           |           | AAPC <sup>2</sup> | Mean hourly wage <sup>3</sup> |         |         |         | AAPC <sup>2</sup> |
| Audiologists . . . . .                                      | 11,040                           | 10,030    | 10,910    | 12,590    | 1.7               | \$23.89                       | \$25.23 | \$29.38 | \$32.14 | 3.8               |
| Cardiovascular technologists and technicians . . . . .      | 40,990                           | 43,300    | 43,870    | 48,070    | 2.0               | 17.55                         | 18.44   | 21.15   | 23.91   | 3.9               |
| Dental hygienists . . . . .                                 | 149,880                          | 146,360   | 166,380   | 173,900   | 1.9               | 27.30                         | 28.13   | 30.01   | 32.63   | 2.3               |
| Diagnostic medical sonographers . . . . .                   | 32,990                           | 37,240    | 44,340    | 51,630    | 5.8               | 23.08                         | 24.39   | 27.94   | 30.60   | 3.6               |
| Dietetic technicians . . . . .                              | 28,940                           | 26,870    | 24,450    | 24,510    | -2.1              | 11.23                         | 11.64   | 12.55   | 13.72   | 2.5               |
| Dietitians and nutritionists . . . . .                      | 43,200                           | 46,190    | 51,230    | 53,220    | 2.6               | 19.74                         | 20.68   | 23.02   | 25.59   | 3.3               |
| Emergency medical technicians and paramedics . . . . .      | 170,690                          | 181,750   | 196,190   | 217,920   | 3.1               | 12.24                         | 12.95   | 14.13   | 15.88   | 3.3               |
| Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses . . . . . | 683,790                          | 682,590   | 720,380   | 728,670   | 0.8               | 15.14                         | 15.97   | 18.05   | 19.66   | 3.3               |
| Nuclear medicine technologists . . . . .                    | 17,360                           | 17,550    | 19,270    | 21,670    | 2.8               | 24.65                         | 26.57   | 30.29   | 32.91   | 3.7               |
| Occupational therapists . . . . .                           | 77,080                           | 81,380    | 88,570    | 97,840    | 3.0               | 25.10                         | 25.87   | 30.05   | 33.98   | 3.9               |
| Opticians, dispensing . . . . .                             | 63,120                           | 63,780    | 65,190    | 60,840    | -0.5              | 13.49                         | 13.74   | 15.49   | 16.73   | 2.7               |
| Pharmacists . . . . .                                       | 223,630                          | 215,030   | 239,920   | 267,860   | 2.3               | 35.02                         | 37.80   | 44.95   | 51.27   | 4.9               |
| Pharmacy technicians . . . . .                              | 207,140                          | 211,270   | 282,450   | 331,890   | 6.1               | 10.82                         | 11.47   | 12.75   | 13.92   | 3.2               |
| Physical therapists . . . . .                               | 126,450                          | 134,970   | 156,100   | 174,490   | 4.1               | 28.43                         | 29.02   | 32.72   | 36.64   | 3.2               |
| Physician assistants . . . . .                              | 56,200                           | 60,030    | 62,960    | 76,900    | 4.0               | 30.00                         | 31.15   | 35.71   | 40.78   | 3.9               |
| Psychiatric technicians . . . . .                           | 59,750                           | 56,000    | 58,940    | 70,730    | 2.1               | 12.94                         | 13.60   | 14.64   | 14.77   | 1.7               |
| Radiation therapists . . . . .                              | 13,460                           | 13,990    | 14,290    | 15,570    | 1.8               | 25.71                         | 30.83   | 32.49   | 37.18   | 4.7               |
| Radiologic technologists and technicians . . . . .          | 168,240                          | 173,030   | 190,180   | 213,560   | 3.0               | 18.68                         | 20.03   | 23.71   | 26.05   | 4.2               |
| Recreational therapists . . . . .                           | 26,830                           | 22,860    | 24,130    | 21,960    | -2.5              | 14.92                         | 15.82   | 17.55   | 19.84   | 3.6               |
| Registered nurses . . . . .                                 | 2,217,990                        | 2,246,430 | 2,417,150 | 2,583,770 | 1.9               | 23.19                         | 24.63   | 28.71   | 31.99   | 4.1               |
| Respiratory therapists . . . . .                            | 82,930                           | 87,180    | 99,330    | 107,270   | 3.3               | 19.17                         | 20.07   | 23.37   | 26.06   | 3.9               |
| Respiratory therapy technicians . . . . .                   | 28,700                           | 25,470    | 18,710    | 15,100    | -7.7              | 16.93                         | 17.11   | 19.17   | 21.96   | 3.3               |
| Speech-language pathologists . . . . .                      | 83,110                           | 86,640    | 98,690    | 111,640   | 3.8               | 24.20                         | 25.10   | 29.25   | 32.86   | 3.9               |
| Health care support occupations                             |                                  |           |           |           |                   |                               |         |         |         |                   |
| Dental assistants . . . . .                                 | 267,840                          | 272,030   | 277,040   | 294,020   | 1.2               | 13.29                         | 13.57   | 14.83   | 16.35   | 2.6               |
| Home health aides . . . . .                                 | 560,190                          | 583,880   | 751,480   | 955,220   | 6.9               | 8.90                          | 9.22    | 9.66    | 10.39   | 2.0               |
| Massage therapists . . . . .                                | 26,440                           | 29,940    | 41,920    | 55,920    | 9.8               | 15.93                         | 16.49   | 18.93   | 19.13   | 2.3               |
| Medical assistants . . . . .                                | 345,930                          | 362,670   | 409,570   | 495,970   | 4.6               | 11.71                         | 11.99   | 13.07   | 14.16   | 2.4               |
| Medical equipment preparers . . . . .                       | 33,540                           | 37,140    | 42,740    | 47,070    | 4.3               | 11.29                         | 11.66   | 12.97   | 14.32   | 3.0               |
| Medical transcriptionists . . . . .                         | 94,090                           | 97,810    | 86,790    | 82,810    | -1.6              | 12.99                         | 13.59   | 14.74   | 16.03   | 2.7               |
| Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants . . . . .          | 1,307,600                        | 1,341,650 | 1,376,660 | 1,438,010 | 1.2               | 9.54                          | 10.12   | 11.04   | 12.01   | 2.9               |
| Occupational therapist aides . . . . .                      | 7,560                            | 6,060     | 7,780     | 8,040     | 0.8               | 11.70                         | 12.21   | 13.35   | 13.89   | 2.2               |
| Occupational therapist assistants . . . . .                 | 17,520                           | 18,940    | 23,700    | 26,680    | 5.4               | 17.39                         | 18.04   | 20.25   | 24.44   | 4.3               |
| Pharmacy aides . . . . .                                    | 58,130                           | 61,170    | 47,810    | 52,230    | -1.3              | 9.22                          | 9.42    | 10.07   | 10.74   | 1.9               |
| Physical therapist aides . . . . .                          | 35,250                           | 36,870    | 45,520    | 44,160    | 2.9               | 10.45                         | 10.71   | 11.20   | 12.01   | 1.8               |
| Physical therapist assistants . . . . .                     | 47,810                           | 52,440    | 59,350    | 63,750    | 3.7               | 17.18                         | 17.67   | 19.91   | 23.36   | 3.9               |
| Psychiatric aides . . . . .                                 | 59,640                           | 57,770    | 57,000    | 62,610    | 0.6               | 11.42                         | 11.48   | 12.01   | 13.19   | 1.8               |

<sup>1</sup>Estimates do not include self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers and were rounded to the nearest 10.<sup>2</sup>AAPC is average annual percent change. See Appendix II, Average annual rate of change (percentage change).<sup>3</sup>The mean hourly wage rate for an occupation is the total wages that all workers in the occupation earn in an hour divided by the total employment of the occupation. More information is available from: [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_tec.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.htm).

NOTES: This table includes both full-time and part-time wage and salary workers. This table excludes occupations such as dentists, physicians, and chiropractors, which have a large percentage of workers who are self-employed. Challenges in using Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data as a time series include changes in the occupational, industrial, and geographical classification systems, changes in the way data are collected, changes in the survey reference period, and changes in mean wage estimation methodology, as well as permanent features of the methodology. See Appendix I, Occupational Employment Statistics. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics. Available from: [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm#29-0000](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#29-0000).