

Table 87. Health care employment and wages, by selected occupations: United States, selected years 2000–2016

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2017.htm#087>.

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

Occupation title	2000	2010	2015	2016	2000	2010	2015	2016
Health care practitioners and technical occupations	Employment ¹				Mean hourly wage (dollars) ²			
Audiologists	11,530	12,860	12,070	12,310	22.92	33.58	37.22	38.12
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	40,080	48,720	51,400	53,760	16.81	24.38	26.97	27.45
Dental hygienists	148,460	177,520	200,550	204,990	24.99	33.02	34.96	35.31
Diagnostic medical sonographers	31,760	53,010	61,250	65,790	22.03	31.20	34.08	34.49
Dietetic technicians	28,010	23,890	28,950	32,240	10.98	13.86	14.03	14.12
Dietitians and nutritionists	43,030	53,510	59,740	61,430	18.76	26.13	28.08	28.69
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	165,530	221,760	236,890	244,960	11.89	16.01	17.04	17.36
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	679,470	730,290	697,250	702,400	14.65	19.88	21.17	21.56
Magnetic resonance imaging technologists	---	---	33,460	35,850	---	---	32.86	33.29
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	146,060	156,480	157,610	160,190	13.93	18.36	19.91	20.05
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	144,530	164,430	162,950	166,730	19.84	27.34	29.74	30.02
Medical records and health information technicians	143,870	176,090	189,930	200,140	11.74	16.83	19.44	19.93
Nuclear medicine technologists	18,030	21,600	19,740	19,650	21.56	33.20	36.06	36.52
Nurse anesthetists	---	---	39,410	39,860	---	---	77.04	78.86
Nurse midwives	---	---	7,430	6,270	---	---	45.01	49.23
Nurse practitioners	---	---	136,060	150,230	---	---	48.68	50.30
Occupational therapists	75,150	100,300	114,660	118,070	24.10	35.28	39.27	40.25
Opticians, dispensing	66,580	62,200	73,520	75,270	12.67	16.73	17.70	18.20
Pharmacists	212,660	268,030	295,620	305,510	33.39	52.59	57.34	57.82
Pharmacy technicians	190,940	333,500	379,430	398,390	10.38	14.10	15.23	15.47
Physical therapists	120,410	180,280	209,690	216,920	27.62	37.50	41.25	41.93
Physician assistants	55,490	81,420	98,470	104,050	29.17	41.89	47.73	49.08
Psychiatric technicians	53,350	72,650	58,450	61,720	12.53	15.15	17.44	17.25
Radiation therapists	13,100	16,590	16,930	17,450	25.59	37.64	40.61	40.86
Radiologic technologists ³	172,080	216,730	195,590	200,650	17.93	26.80	28.13	28.49
Recreational therapists	26,940	20,830	17,880	18,100	14.23	19.92	22.98	23.17
Registered nurses ⁴	2,189,670	2,655,020	2,745,910	2,857,180	22.31	32.56	34.14	34.70
Respiratory therapists	82,670	109,270	120,330	126,770	18.37	26.54	28.67	29.15
Respiratory therapy technicians	28,230	13,570	10,000	10,600	16.46	22.28	23.90	24.29
Speech-language pathologists	82,850	112,530	131,450	135,980	23.31	33.60	36.97	37.60

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

Occupation title	2000	2010	2015	2016	2000	2010	2015	2016
Health care support occupations	Employment ¹				Mean hourly wage (dollars) ²			
Dental assistants	250,870	294,030	323,110	327,290	12.86	16.41	17.75	18.22
Home health aides	561,120	982,840	820,630	814,300	8.71	10.46	11.00	11.35
Massage therapists	24,620	60,040	92,090	95,830	15.51	19.12	20.76	21.39
Medical assistants	330,830	523,260	601,240	623,560	11.46	14.31	15.34	15.79
Medical equipment preparers	32,760	47,310	50,330	52,500	10.68	14.59	16.80	17.29
Medical transcriptionists	97,330	78,780	57,830	54,070	12.37	16.12	17.17	17.86
Nursing assistants ⁵	1,273,460	1,451,090	1,420,570	1,443,150	9.18	12.09	12.89	13.29
Occupational therapy aides	8,890	7,180	7,570	7,210	11.21	14.95	14.95	15.31
Occupational therapy assistants	15,910	27,720	35,460	38,170	16.76	24.66	28.05	28.62
Orderlies	---	---	52,660	52,940	---	---	13.26	13.73
Pharmacy aides	59,890	49,580	38,040	36,660	9.10	10.98	13.20	13.66
Physical therapist aides	34,620	45,900	50,540	50,030	10.06	12.02	13.19	13.41
Physical therapist assistants	44,120	65,960	81,230	85,580	16.52	23.95	26.56	27.33
Psychiatric aides	57,680	64,730	69,550	67,410	10.79	12.84	13.55	13.83

--- Data not available.

¹Employment is the number of filled positions. This table includes both full-time and part-time wage and salary positions. Estimates do not include the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers. Estimates were rounded to the nearest 10.

²The 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 number of employees in the occupation. More information is available from: https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tec.htm.

³Starting with 2012 data, the radiologic technologists and technicians occupation category was split into two occupations as part of the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) revision: Radiologic technologists (29-2034) and Magnetic resonance imaging technologists (29-2035). Thus, data prior to 2012 include radiologic technologists as well as magnetic resonance imaging technologists and are not comparable with 2012–2016 data.

⁴Starting with 2012 data, the registered nurses occupation category was split into four occupations as part of the 2010 SOC revision: Registered nurses (29-1141), plus three advanced practice nursing occupations: Nurse anesthetists (29-1151), Nurse midwives (29-1161), and Nurse practitioners (29-1171). Thus, data prior to 2012 include registered nurses as well as nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners and are not comparable with 2012–2016 data.

⁵Starting with 2012 data, the nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants occupation category was split into two occupations as part of the 2010 SOC revision: Nursing assistants (31-1014) and Orderlies (31-1015). Thus, data prior to 2012 include nursing assistants as well as orderlies and are not comparable with 2012–2016 data.

NOTES: 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 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 (OES).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics. Available from: https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#29-0000. See Appendix I, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).