

Table 111. 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
	Number of employees <sup>1</sup>				AAPC <sup>2</sup>	Mean hourly wage <sup>3</sup>			AAPC <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Health care practitioner and technical occupations</b>										
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
<b>Health care support occupations</b>										
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 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).