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WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# **Professional Occupation Employment**

## **Wichita Kansas Metropolitan Area**

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Professional occupation employment in the Wichita metropolitan area has varied significantly across the occupations for which data is available.<sup>1</sup> Although these occupations account for a very small fraction of the local labor force, they provide valuable services to the community. To understand how employment in these important occupations has changed over time, employment, location quotient, and average annual wages have been analyzed. For comparison, data is also provided for metropolitan areas in Kansas, the Midwest region, and a group of four metropolitan areas that most closely resemble Wichita in population, demographics and industrial mix. These include Akron, Ohio; Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.; Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S. C.; and Lancaster, Penn.

A location quotient is the ratio between the level of employment in a regional economy and the national economy. It is calculated to determine whether the regional economy has a greater share of an occupation than expected. Values less than one indicate an occupation may not be meeting the local demand for the services of that occupation. Values greater than one indicate an occupation provides enough goods and services to meet local demand and excess production is consumed outside the region. Values greater than 1.20 indicate an industry of specialization in the region.

The Wichita area has a lower than expected concentration of all four of the professional occupations analyzed. With a location quotient of 0.98, the concentration of accountants and auditors in Wichita is close to the national level. However, the local concentration has been decreasing relative to the national concentration over the last five years. The local concentration of lawyers and dentists has improved over the last five years, but is still well below the national level. The concentration of general practice physicians is lower than the national level and declining.

### Wichita, KS

	Employment		Location Quotient		Average Annual Wages		
	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% of National	Chg. In % of Nat. 2006-2011
Accountants and Auditors	2,320	▼ -9.4%	0.98	▼ -0.10	\$61,150	87.2%	▲ 1.4%
Lawyers	810	▲ 65.3%	0.65	▲ 0.24	\$97,140	74.4%	▲ 9.4%
Dentists	170	▲ 70.0%	0.86	▲ 0.32	\$149,170	92.2%	▼ -27.5%
Physicians - General Practitioners	170	▼ -54.1%	0.77	▼ -0.79	\$180,600	101.8%	▼ -25.5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011

The average annual wage of accountants and auditors, and lawyers, in Wichita, has increased relative to the national wage over the last five years, but is still below the national average wage. The average annual wages of dentists and general practitioners, in the Wichita area, are closer to the national average wage, but have been declining relative to the national average wage over the last five years.

<sup>1</sup> The data used in this analysis is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). The OES survey covers all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The survey does not cover the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms. The self-employed can account for a significant number of the workers employed in professional occupations. However, even given the exclusion of self-employed workers, the OES provides the most timely and accurate count of workers in these occupations available.

## Accountants and Auditors

Accountants and auditors examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others. They install or advise on systems of recording costs or other financial and budgetary data. This data does not include tax examiners, tax collectors, and revenue agents.

### Accountants and Auditors

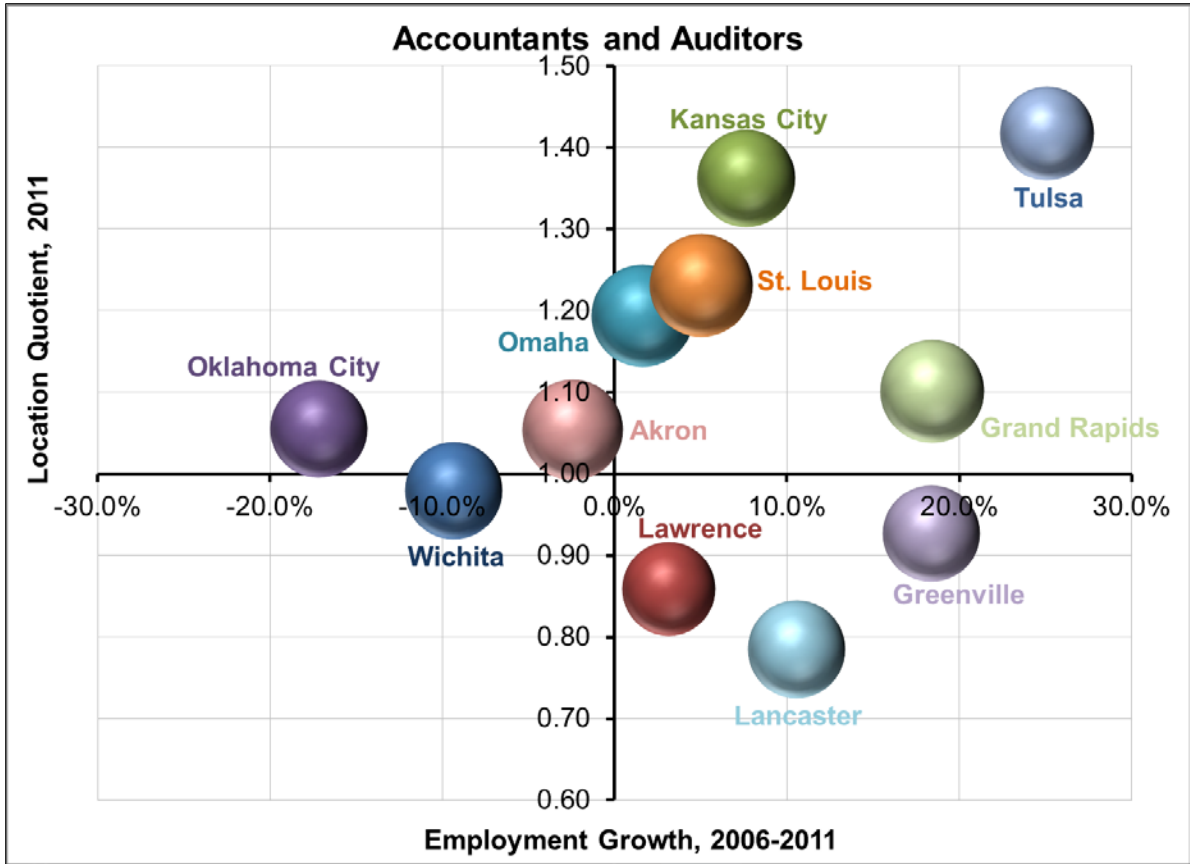
	Employment		Location Quotient		Average Annual Wages		
	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% of National	Chg. In % of Nat. 2006-2011
Wichita, KS	2,320	▼ -9.4%	0.98	▼ -0.10	\$61,150	87.2%	▲ 1.4%
Lawrence, KS	330	▲ 3.1%	0.86	▲ 0.06	\$56,310	80.3%	▼ -7.7%
Kansas City, MO-KS	11,030	▲ 7.6%	1.36	▲ 0.09	\$61,710	88.0%	▼ -2.4%
Oklahoma City, OK	5,060	▼ -17.2%	1.06	▼ -0.27	\$61,020	87.0%	▲ 6.8%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	4,500	▲ 1.6%	1.19	▼ -0.03	\$67,920	96.8%	▼ -1.6%
St. Louis, MO-IL	13,220	▲ 5.0%	1.23	▲ 0.08	\$69,080	98.5%	▼ -5.0%
Tulsa, OK	4,890	▲ 25.1%	1.42	▲ 0.27	\$57,640	82.2%	▼ -0.1%
Akron, OH	2,780	▼ -2.5%	1.05	▬ 0.01	\$66,010	94.1%	▲ 2.5%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	3,410	▲ 18.4%	1.10	▲ 0.21	\$69,630	99.3%	▲ 6.2%
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	2,320	▲ 18.4%	0.93	▲ 0.12	\$61,120	87.2%	▲ 3.8%
Lancaster, PA	1,470	▲ 10.5%	0.79	▲ 0.08	\$61,700	88.0%	▼ -5.9%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011

Nationally, employment of accountants and auditors grew by 2.5 percent between 2006 and 2011. However, over that same time period, Wichita area employment in this occupation contracted by 9.4 percent. This contraction in employment has, generally, not been experienced by other peer metropolitan areas. The exceptions to this are Oklahoma City, which saw a decrease in the employment of accountants and auditors of 17.2 percent and Akron, which decreased by 2.5 percent.

The concentration of accountants and auditors in the Wichita area is slightly below the national level, with a location quotient of 0.98. This level of concentration is well below the peer communities in the region, but not significantly different than the communities that Wichita is most similar to in population, demography and industrial mix. However, of the four communities with concentrations below 1.0 Wichita is the only one to have declining concentration over the last five years.

At 87.2 percent of the national wage, average annual wages of accountants and auditors in Wichita is moderately low compared to other peer communities. However, average annual wages in Wichita have increased relative to the national wage over the last five years. Wages in peer communities in Kansas and the region have declined. The exception to this, within the region, is Oklahoma City, where employment has declined and wages have increased relative to the national average wage.



## Lawyers

Lawyers represent clients in criminal and civil litigation and other legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, or manage or advise clients on legal transactions. They may specialize in a single area or may practice broadly in many areas of law.

### Lawyers

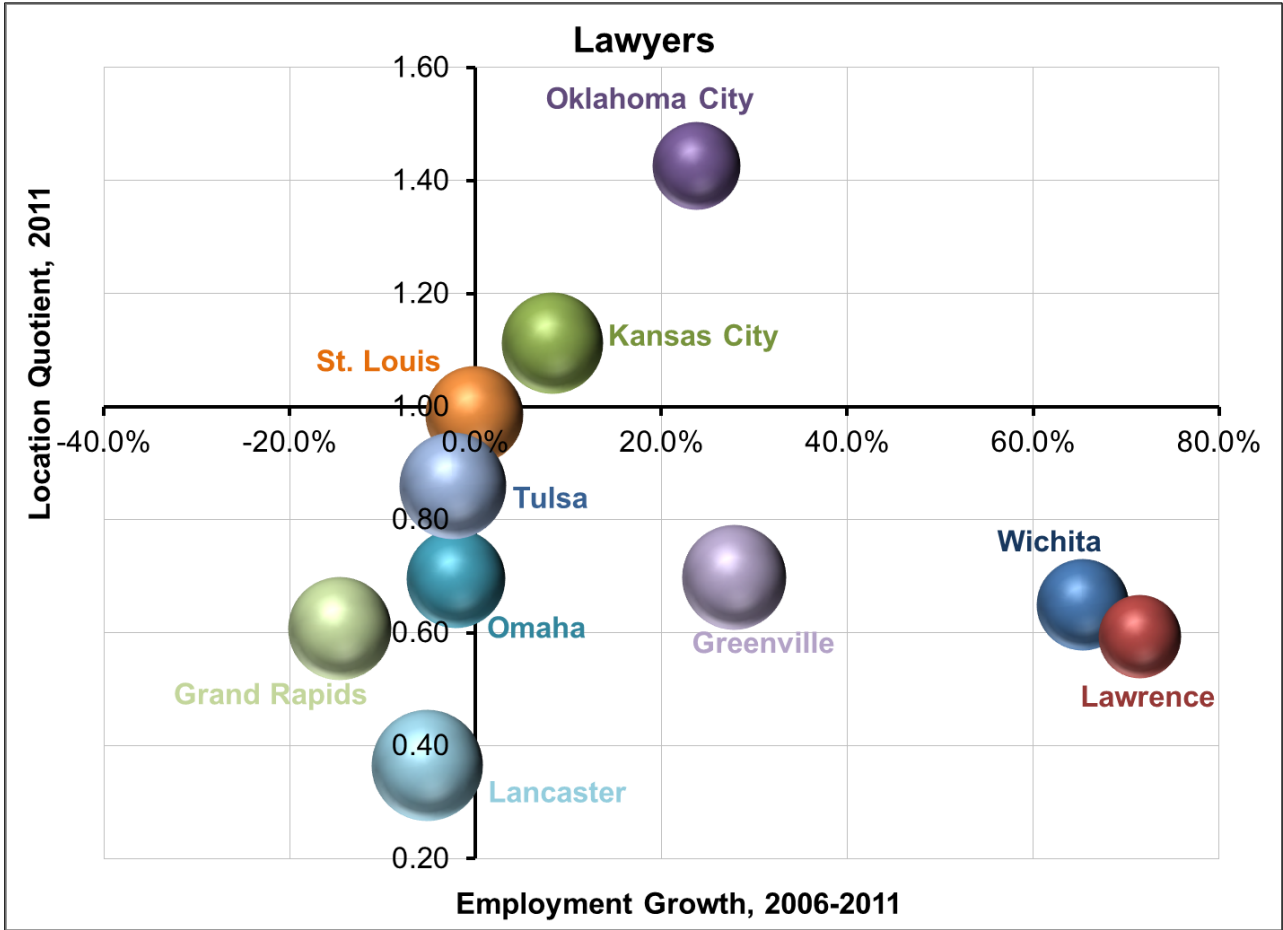
	Employment		Location Quotient		Average Annual Wages		
	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% of National	Chg. In % of Nat. 2006-2011
Wichita, KS	810	▲ 65.3%	0.65	▲ 0.24	\$97,140	74.4%	▲ 9.4%
Lawrence, KS	120	▲ 71.4%	0.59	▲ 0.24	\$79,150	60.7%	▬ 0.3%
Kansas City, MO-KS	4,740	▲ 8.2%	1.11	▲ 0.03	\$118,480	90.8%	▲ 3.2%
Oklahoma City, OK	3,600	▲ 23.7%	1.43	▲ 0.16	\$88,490	67.8%	▼ -14.2%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,380	▼ -2.1%	0.70	▼ -0.08	\$112,370	86.1%	▼ -7.6%
St. Louis, MO-IL	5,570	▼ -0.2%	0.99	▼ -0.03	\$109,470	83.9%	▼ -15.0%
Tulsa, OK	1,560	▼ -2.5%	0.86	▼ -0.07	\$131,290	100.6%	▲ 2.9%
Akron, OH	930	**	0.67	**	\$100,170	76.8%	▲ 3.5%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	990	▼ -14.7%	0.61	▼ -0.11	\$120,930	92.7%	▼ -1.9%
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	920	▲ 27.8%	0.70	▲ 0.11	\$126,200	96.7%	▼ -0.7%
Lancaster, PA	360	▼ -5.3%	0.37	▼ -0.04	\$144,090	110.4%	▲ 26.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011, \*\* Data not available

Nationally, employment in this occupation grew by 7.5 percent between 2006 and 2011. Over that same time period, the number of lawyers in the Wichita area grew by 65.3 percent. This employment growth was also experienced in Lawrence and Kansas City, but generally not in peer metropolitan areas outside of the state. The exceptions are Oklahoma City and Greenville, which have had growth rates of 23.7 and 27.8 percent, respectively.

The concentration of lawyers in Wichita and the majority of peer communities are generally low, well below the national concentration. Kansas City and Oklahoma City are the only peer communities with concentration levels above 1.0. However, although the concentration of lawyers in Wichita is low, it has increased over the past five years. In general, peer communities outside of the state have become less concentrated, or had very small improvement since 2006.

The average annual wage of a lawyer in the Wichita area is low when compared to the peer communities. Only Lawrence and Oklahoma City have lower average annual wages. However, wages in Wichita have increased relative to the national wage, whereas Lawrence is essentially unchanged. The average annual wage in Wichita is well below the peer cities that are most similar in population, geography and industrial mix.



## Dentists

Dentists examine, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums. They may treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth and fit dental appliances or provide preventive care. This data does not include prosthodontists, orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, or any other specialists in the field of dentistry.

### Dentists

	Employment		Location Quotient		Average Annual Wages		
	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% of National	Chg. In % of Nat. 2006-2011
Wichita, KS	170	▲ 70.0%	0.86	▲ 0.32	\$149,170	92.2%	▼ -27.5%
Lawrence, KS	30	▼ -25.0%	0.93	▼ -0.34	\$185,290	114.6%	▲ 40.2%
Kansas City, MO-KS	500	▼ -5.7%	0.74	▼ -0.10	\$123,620	76.4%	▼ -11.0%
Oklahoma City, OK	400	▲ 17.6%	1.00	▲ 0.06	\$136,500	84.4%	▼ -1.2%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	310	▲ 14.8%	0.98	▲ 0.04	\$182,080	112.6%	▼ -2.4%
St. Louis, MO-IL	890	▬ 0.0%	0.99	▼ -0.05	\$150,170	92.8%	▼ -27.0%
Tulsa, OK	300	▼ -14.3%	1.04	▼ -0.26	\$188,310	116.4%	▲ 22.0%
Akron, OH	180	▼ -21.7%	0.81	▼ -0.26	\$168,980	104.5%	▼ -7.4%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	320	▼ -11.1%	1.23	▼ -0.19	\$187,030	115.6%	▼ -7.9%
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	190	▲ 171.4%	0.91	▲ 0.54	\$134,450	83.1%	▼ -3.1%
Lancaster, PA	160	▲ 100.0%	1.02	▲ 0.48	\$158,610	98.1%	▲ 18.4%

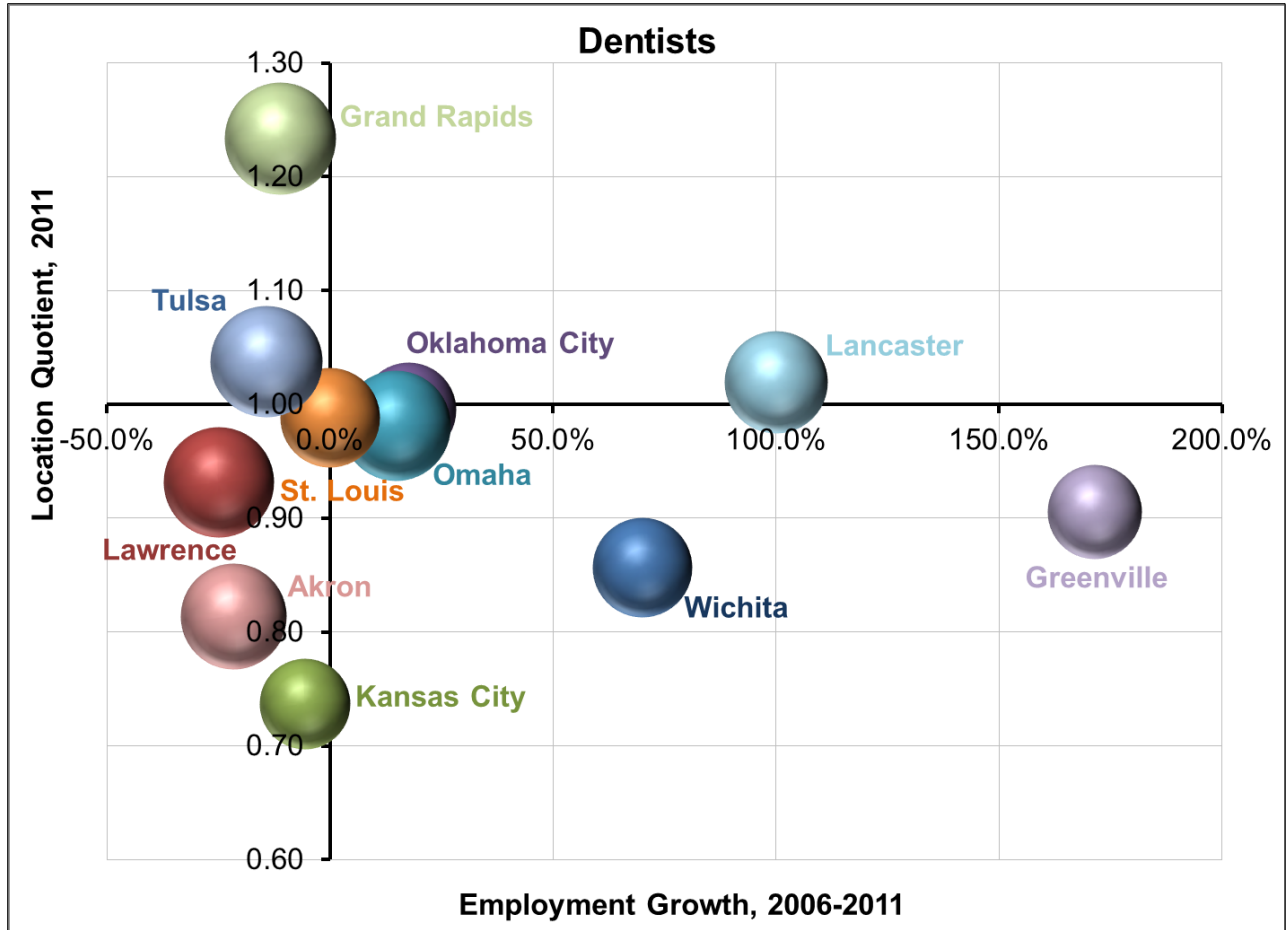
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011

Nationally, employment of Dentists grew by 8.9 percent between 2006 and 2011. However, employment growth within the metropolitan areas analyzed has been mixed. Employment in dentistry in the Wichita area has grown by 70 percent since 2006, a significantly higher increase than other metropolitan areas in the state. Lawrence and Kansas City have both experience decreased employment.

Although employment in dentistry has increased in Wichita, the concentration of dentists in Wichita, and other Kansas metropolitan areas, is below that of peer communities in the region. When compared to the four peer communities that are most similar to Wichita, the Wichita metropolitan area has the second lowest concentration of dentists. Although the concentration of dentists has increased over the past five years, it has not increased in Wichita as strongly as in Greenville and Lancaster.

Generally, the average annual wage of all peer communities decreased from 2006 to 2011, with the exception of Lawrence, Tulsa, and Lancaster. Although most peer communities did experience a reduction in wages in this occupation, Wichita had the most significant decrease at 27.5 percent.





## Physicians – General Practitioners

General practice physicians diagnose, treat, and help prevent diseases and injuries that commonly occur in the general population. General practitioners may refer patients to specialists when needed for further diagnosis or treatment.

### Physicians - General Practitioners

	Employment		Location Quotient		Average Annual Wages		
	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% Chg. 2006-2011	2011	% of National	Chg. In % of Nat. 2006-2011
Wichita, KS	170	▼ -54.1%	0.77	▼ -0.79	\$180,600	101.8%	▼ -25.5%
Lawrence, KS	60	**	1.67	**	\$192,980	108.8%	▲ 19.4%
Kansas City, MO-KS	1,380	▲ 76.9%	1.82	▲ 0.85	\$207,610	117.1%	▬ 0.1%
Oklahoma City, OK	630	▼ -11.3%	1.40	▼ -0.14	\$171,210	96.5%	▼ -8.8%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	540	▼ -46.5%	1.53	▼ -1.25	\$215,570	121.6%	▬ 0.4%
St. Louis, MO-IL	1,150	▲ 30.7%	1.14	▲ 0.34	\$194,360	109.6%	▲ 11.1%
Tulsa, OK	670	▲ 26.4%	2.07	▲ 0.52	\$210,660	118.8%	▲ 17.8%
Akron, OH	240	▼ -4.0%	0.97	▲ 0.05	\$161,490	91.1%	▲ 4.6%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	290	▲ 31.8%	1.00	▲ 0.32	\$200,920	113.3%	▲ 18.5%
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	200	▲ 53.8%	0.85	▲ 0.32	\$185,640	104.7%	▼ -5.7%
Lancaster, PA	90	▼ -81.6%	0.51	▼ -2.09	\$145,140	81.8%	▬ 0.2%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011, \*\* Data not available

Nationally, employment in this occupation has decreased by 3.7 percent between 2006 and 2011. It was the only professional occupation analyzed to experience a national decrease in employment during this time. Although national employment decreased slightly, within the peer metropolitan areas there were both large decreases and large increases in employment.

The concentration of general practice physicians in the Wichita area is significantly lower than other metropolitan areas in the state and region. However, it is not dissimilar to the concentration levels of the metropolitan areas that are similar to Wichita in population, demographics and industrial mix. This peer group has concentration levels that are closer to Wichita, but generally increasing, whereas Wichita's concentration is low and decreasing.

The average annual wage of general practice physicians in Wichita is above the national average wage, but moderately low compared to the selected metropolitan areas. Wichita has the lowest average wage of the three Kansas metropolitan areas. Within the region, only Oklahoma City has a lower average annual wage for general practice physicians.

