



Nursing Occupation Employment

Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area

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Nursing occupation employment in the Wichita metropolitan area has varied significantly across the occupations for which data is available.¹ Although these occupations account for a small fraction of the local labor force, approximately 8,900 workers, 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 are 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 level in 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.

In the Wichita metropolitan area the concentration of registered nurses and licensed nurses are below the national average with location quotients of 0.98 and 0.69, respectively. The concentration of registered nurses has improved over the past five years, while the concentration of licensed nurses has declined. The concentration of other medical support staff in the Wichita area is somewhat above the national average and has improved slightly over the past five years.

Wichita, KS

	Employment			L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Registered Nurses	5,590	▲ 1.5%		0.98	▲ 0.02	\$53,070	77.0%	▼ -5.0%
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	1,040	▼ -26.2%		0.69	▼ -0.17	\$40,110	93.5%	▲ 2.2%
Medical Assistants	1,370	▲ 45.7%		1.12	▲ 0.24	\$27,000	87.7%	▲ 1.5%
Medical Records and Health Info. Technicians	670	▲ 34.0%		1.73	▲ 0.41	\$33,130	87.9%	▲ 0.2%
Medical Transcriptionists	210	▲ 16.7%		1.43	▲ 0.50	\$32,140	91.2%	▲ 1.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

¹The 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, nor owners and partners in unincorporated firms. The self-employed can account for a significant number of the workers employed in professional occupations. Despite their exclusion, the OES still provides the most timely and accurate count of workers in these occupations.

Registered Nurses

Registered nurses (RN) assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. They also administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. RNs may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. RNs may have a bachelor's degree, an associate's degree or a diploma from an approved nursing program, in addition to licensing or registration. This category excludes nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives and nurse practitioners.²

Nationally, the number of registered nurses has grown by 6.6 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 19.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.³ The number of RNs in most of the metropolitan areas analyzed has increased in the past five years. The exceptions are Oklahoma City and Lancaster, which experienced decreases of 5.7 percent and 15.9 percent, respectively.

According to a recent study, this increase in the number of RNs, at the national level, can be attributed to two causes. First, the number of nurses completing nursing education programs in the United States increased by approximately 145 percent between 2002 and 2012. This significant increase in nursing production was implemented to address an anticipated nursing shortage. However, due to the economic downturn, nurses age 50 and over have begun staying in the work force approximately 2.5 years longer.⁴ These two factors have contributed to the growth in this occupation, thereby avoiding the anticipated shortage of registered nurses.

The growth in the number of RNs in most areas has been enough to maintain, or slightly improve, the concentration of RNs in the area. Although still slightly below the national average, the concentration of RNs in Wichita has improved over the past five years. Omaha, Neb., is the only metropolitan area analyzed where employment growth in RNs did not at least keep pace with the overall growth in employment in the area.

²Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

³Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

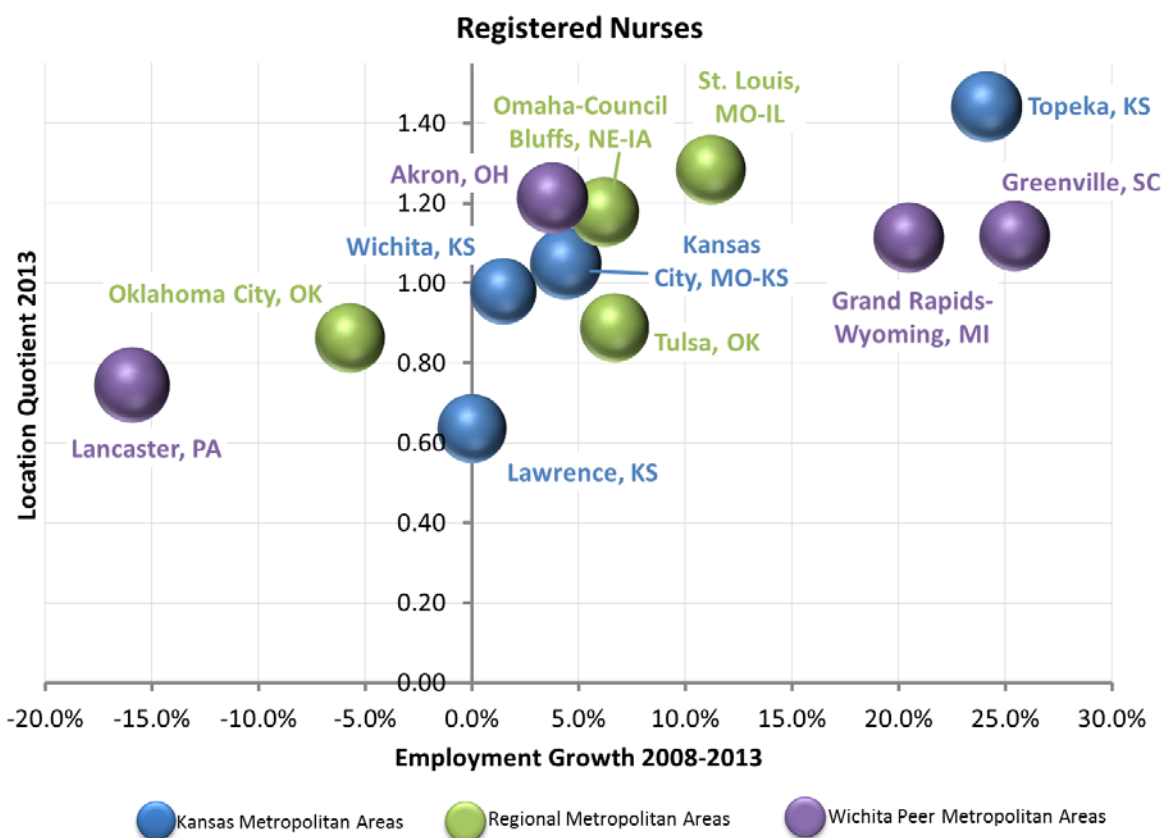
⁴Auerbach, David I., Peter I. Buerhaus, and Douglas O. Staiger. "Registered Nurses Are Delaying Retirement, A Shift That Has Contributed To Recent Growth In The Nurse Workforce." *Health Affairs* (2014): 10-1377.

Registered Nurses

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	5,590	▲ 1.5%	0.98	▲ 0.02	\$53,070	77.0%	▼ -5.0%
	Lawrence, KS	580	▬ 0.0%	0.64	▼ -0.02	\$57,320	83.2%	▲ 0.9%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	20,770	▲ 4.4%	1.05	▲ 0.01	\$62,160	90.2%	▼ -1.4%
	Topeka, KS	3,140	▲ 24.1%	1.44	▲ 0.21	\$61,080	88.6%	▲ 3.6%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	10,350	▼ -5.7%	0.86	▼ -0.15	\$58,510	84.9%	▲ 3.2%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	10,830	▲ 6.2%	1.18	▬ 0.00	\$59,140	85.8%	▼ -1.1%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	33,300	▲ 11.2%	1.28	▲ 0.10	\$59,240	86.0%	▼ -3.0%
	Tulsa, OK	7,530	▲ 6.7%	0.89	▲ 0.02	\$57,670	83.7%	▲ 5.5%
Peer	Akron, OH	7,730	▲ 3.8%	1.21	▲ 0.03	\$62,270	90.4%	▼ -0.1%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	8,890	▲ 20.5%	1.11	▲ 0.10	\$59,580	86.5%	▼ -3.9%
	Greenville, SC	6,810	▲ 25.4%	1.12	▲ 0.19	\$60,570	87.9%	▼ -1.7%
	Lancaster, PA	3,320	▼ -15.9%	0.75	▼ -0.16	\$68,920	100.0%	▲ 4.0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a registered nurse was \$68,910, up 5.8 percent from 2008. The average wage of a registered nurse in Wichita was below the national average in 2013 and declined relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In seven out of the 12 metropolitan areas analyzed, RNs experienced a decline in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Licensed practical nurses (LPN) and licensed vocational nurses (LVN) care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. LPNs and LVNs typically complete a state-approved educational program, which takes about a year to complete, in addition to licensing. They may work under the supervision of a registered nurse or doctor.⁵

Nationally, the number of LPNs and LVNs has decreased by 1.5 percent between 2008 and 2013. However, this occupation is projected to grow at a rate of 25.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.⁶ Over the past five years, the number of licensed nurses in the Wichita area declined by 26.2 percent. There has been a wide range of employment growth in this occupation across the state, region and peer communities. This may be due to different nursing regulations between states. Each state regulates the level of nursing care that can be provided by registered nurses and licensed nurses. Based on the supply and demand for a particular type of care and whether that level of care can be provided by an RN or LPN, there can be very different growth patterns between states.⁷

Metropolitan areas in Kansas, with the exception of Topeka, have a below average concentration of licensed nurses. Lawrence, although currently below the national average, is the only Kansas metropolitan area to see an increase in the number of licensed nurses over the past five years. However, within the region, not including Kansas, the metropolitan areas with concentrations above the national average have declined in concentration over the past five years, while areas with concentrations below the national average have increased in concentration over the same time period.

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	1,040	▼ -26.2%	0.69	▼ -0.17	\$40,110	93.5%	▲ 2.2%
	Lawrence, KS	170	▲ 30.8%	0.71	▲ 0.19	\$36,080	84.1%	▼ -4.7%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	4,570	▼ -15.8%	0.87	▼ -0.12	\$39,630	92.4%	▲ 0.7%
	Topeka, KS	660	▼ -35.3%	1.14	▼ -0.58	\$39,640	92.4%	▲ 2.3%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	4,170	▼ -10.3%	1.31	▼ -0.19	\$39,500	92.1%	▲ 10.1%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	2,090	▲ 10.0%	0.86	▲ 0.09	\$40,950	95.4%	▲ 0.4%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	6,310	▲ 6.1%	0.92	▲ 0.10	\$40,950	95.4%	▼ -0.3%
	Tulsa, OK	2,460	▼ -23.8%	1.10	▼ -0.28	\$39,160	91.3%	▲ 9.2%
Peer	Akron, OH	2,120	▼ -4.5%	1.26	▲ 0.02	\$40,370	94.1%	▼ -3.7%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	2,030	▼ -11.7%	0.96	▼ -0.14	\$39,620	92.3%	▼ -0.2%
	Greenville, SC	1,270	▲ 18.7%	0.79	▲ 0.15	\$36,740	85.6%	▼ -4.9%
	Lancaster, PA	1,830	▬ 0.0%	1.55	▲ 0.10	\$42,310	98.6%	▲ 1.7%

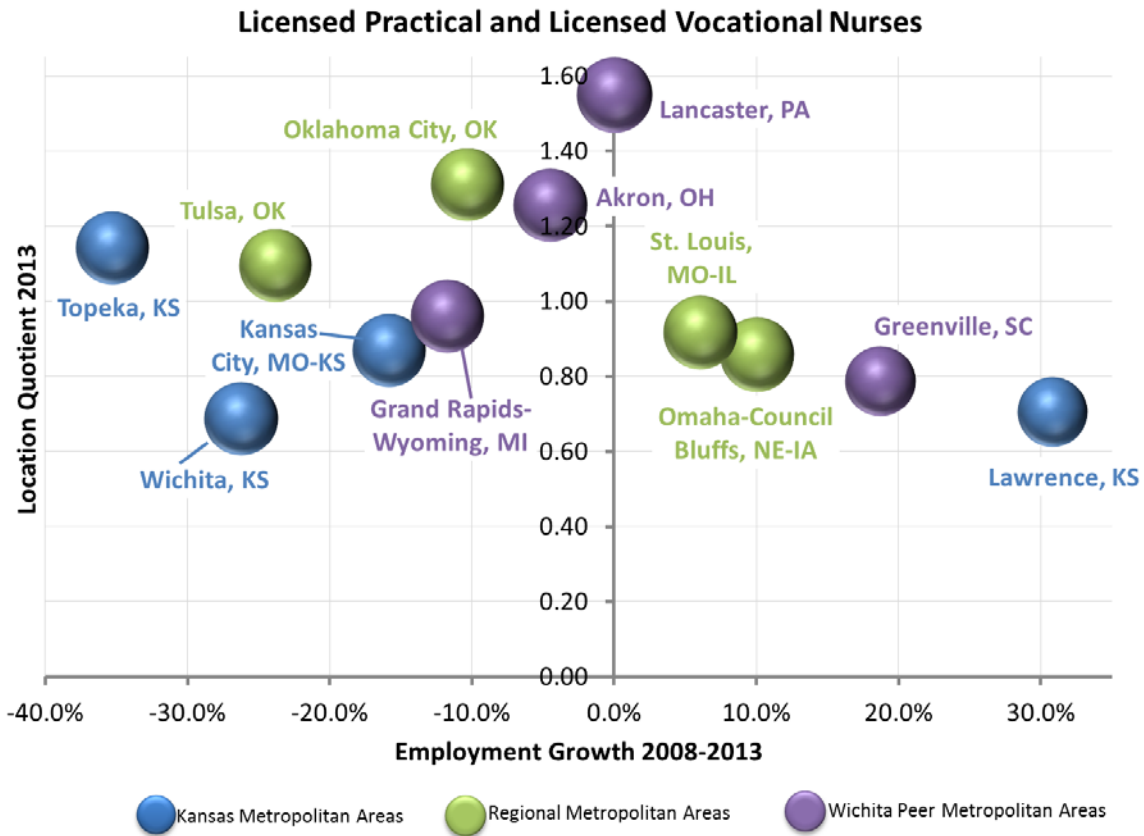
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

⁵Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

⁶Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

⁷LPN vs. RN. Retrieved August 5, 2014. From <http://www.nursinglicensure.org/articles/lpn-versus-rn.html>

In 2013 the national average wage of a licensed nurse was \$42,910, up 7.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of a licensed nurse in Wichita remained below the national average; however, increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In seven out of the 12 metropolitan areas analyzed, licensed nurses experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



Medical Assistants

Medical assistants perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by a physician. Some medical assistants have postsecondary education, others learn through on-the-job training.⁸

Nationally, the number of medical assistants has increased by 22.0 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 29.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.⁹ Over the past five years, there have been increases in the number of medical assistants in the region, including Kansas. The only metropolitan area in the region to have a decrease in the number of medical assistants was Omaha.

⁸Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

⁹Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

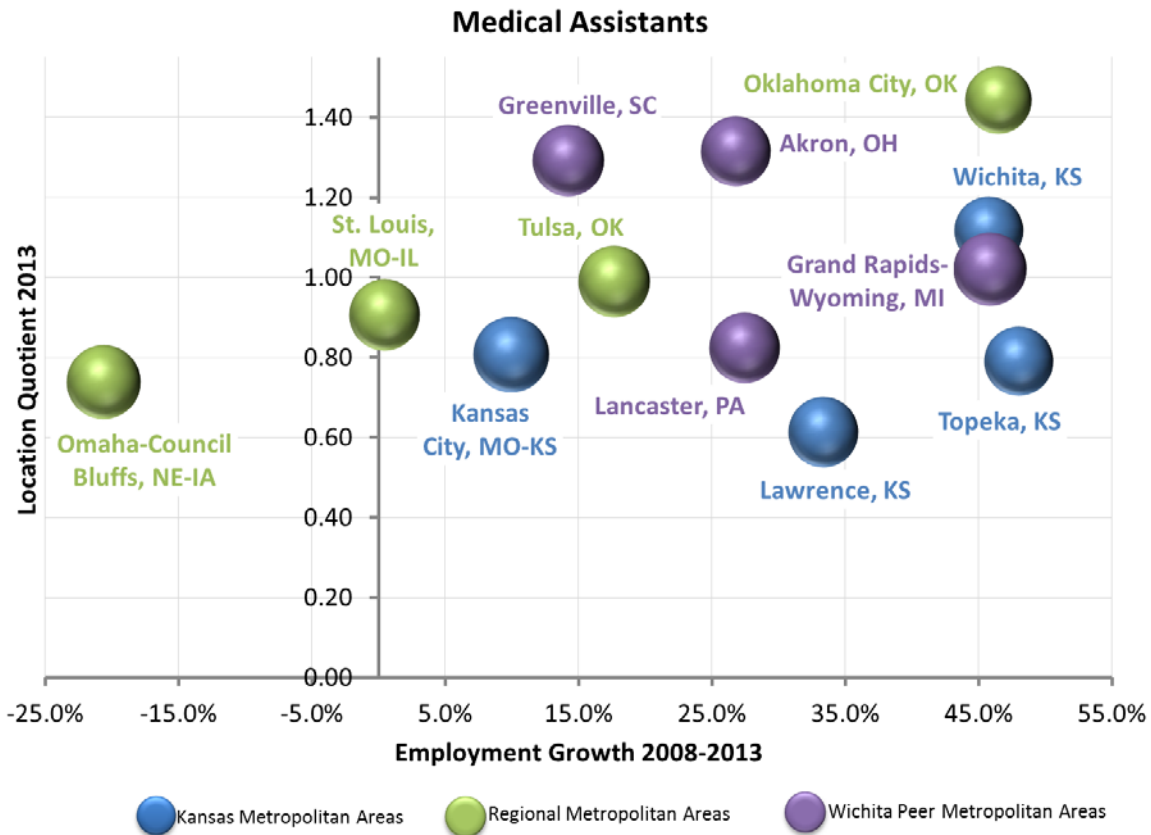
Between 2008 and 2013, Wichita and Oklahoma City experienced enough growth in the number of medical assistants to bring the concentration of medical assistants in those areas above the national average. The other metropolitan areas in the region, including Kansas, that have had growth in this occupation, have not grown enough to improve the concentration. Among Wichita's peer communities, the growth and concentration of this occupation has been somewhat similar over the past five years.

Medical Assistants

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages			
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013	
Kansas	Wichita, KS	1,370	▲ 45.7%	1.12	▲ 0.24	\$27,000	87.7%	▲ 1.5%	
	Lawrence, KS	120	▲ 33.3%	0.61	▲ 0.07	\$28,080	91.2%	▼ -0.1%	
	Kansas City, MO-KS	3,440	▲ 9.9%	0.81	▼ -0.07	\$32,590	105.9%	▲ 5.1%	
	Topeka, KS	370	▲ 48.0%	0.79	▲ 0.14	\$27,320	88.8%	▲ 4.1%	
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	3,720	▲ 46.5%	1.44	▲ 0.19	\$25,620	83.2%	▼ -3.5%	
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,460	▼ -20.7%	0.74	▼ -0.40	\$31,220	101.4%	▲ 1.3%	
	St. Louis, MO-IL	5,050	▲ 0.4%	0.91	▼ -0.16	\$28,700	93.2%	▼ -1.8%	
	Tulsa, OK	1,800	▲ 17.6%	0.99	▼ -0.01	\$29,100	94.5%	▲ 1.1%	
Peer	Akron, OH	1,800	▲ 26.8%	1.32	▲ 0.11	\$27,820	90.4%	▼ -3.9%	
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	1,750	▲ 45.8%	1.02	▲ 0.14	\$30,800	100.1%	▲ 3.6%	
	Greenville, SC	1,690	▲ 14.2%	1.29	▼ -0.05	\$29,310	95.2%	▼ -1.1%	
	Lancaster, PA	790	▲ 27.4%	0.83	▲ 0.07	\$28,480	92.5%	▼ -1.2%	

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a medical assistant was \$30,780, up 5.9 percent from 2008. The average wage of medical assistants in Wichita remained below the national average; however, the wage increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In six out of the 12 metropolitan areas analyzed, medical assistants experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

Medical records technicians and health information technicians compile, process, and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system, based on the industry’s numeric coding system. Health information technicians typically need a postsecondary certificate to enter the occupation.¹⁰

Nationally, the number of health information technicians has increased by 9.1 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 22.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.¹¹ Over the past five years, there have been increases in the number of health information technicians in the region, including Kansas. The only metropolitan area in the region to have a decrease in the number of medical assistants was Omaha.

Throughout the region, including Kansas, there are relatively high concentrations of health information technicians in the labor pool. There is a higher concentration of health information technicians in Wichita than in the peer communities.

¹⁰Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

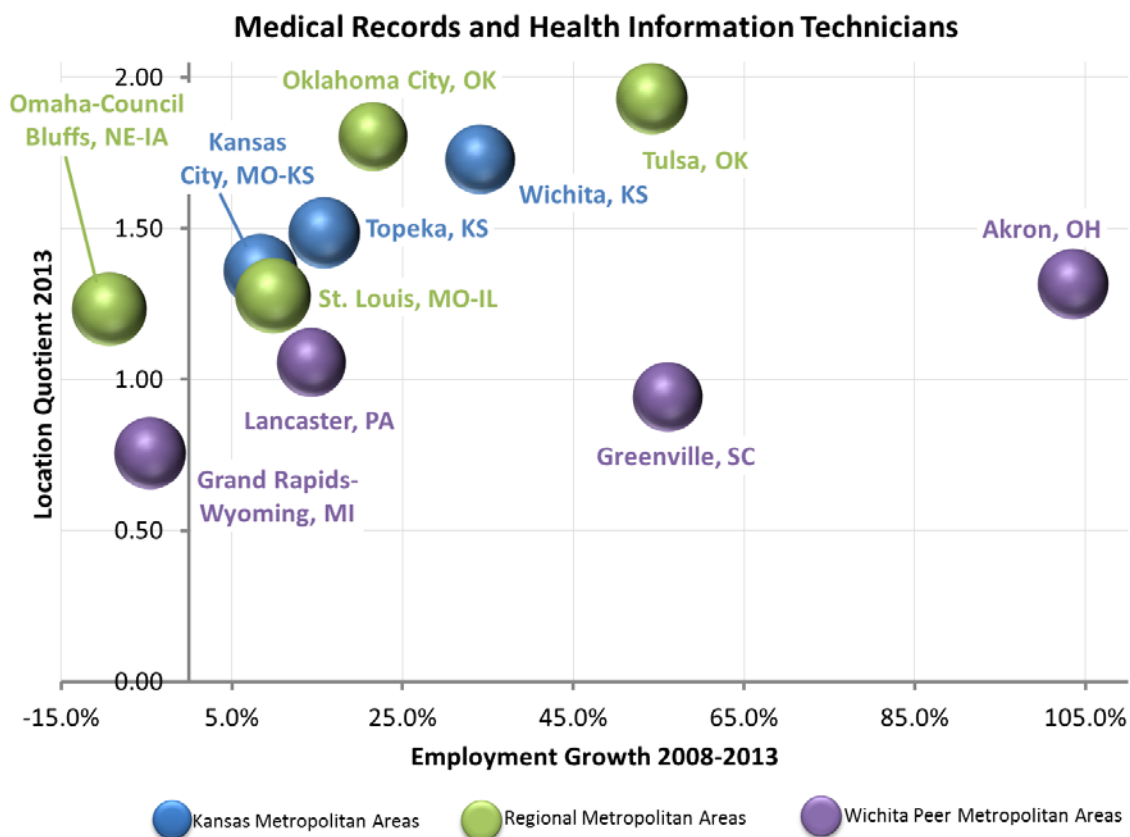
¹¹Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	670	▲ 34.0%	1.73	▲ 0.41	\$33,130	87.9%	▲ 0.2%
	Lawrence, KS	40	**	0.65	**	\$34,970	92.7%	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,830	▲ 8.3%	1.36	▲ 0.03	\$37,600	99.7%	▲ 3.6%
	Topeka, KS	220	▲ 15.8%	1.49	▲ 0.09	\$34,810	92.3%	▼ -1.9%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	1,470	▲ 21.5%	1.81	▲ 0.11	\$32,660	86.6%	▼ -7.3%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	770	▼ -9.4%	1.23	▼ -0.25	\$37,950	100.6%	▲ 0.3%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,250	▲ 9.8%	1.28	▲ 0.06	\$38,750	102.8%	▲ 8.5%
	Tulsa, OK	1,110	▲ 54.2%	1.93	▲ 0.60	\$34,620	91.8%	▲ 3.3%
Peer	Akron, OH	570	▲ 103.6%	1.32	▲ 0.64	\$33,950	90.0%	▼ -8.3%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	410	▼ -4.7%	0.76	▼ -0.14	\$35,280	93.6%	▼ -10.7%
	Greenville, SC	390	▲ 56.0%	0.94	▲ 0.30	\$33,020	87.6%	▼ -1.3%
	Lancaster, PA	320	▲ 14.3%	1.06	▲ 0.10	\$32,440	86.0%	▼ -13.0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a health information technician was \$37,710, up 14.4 percent from 2008. The average wage of health information technicians in Wichita remained below the national average; however, the wage increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In five out of the 11 metropolitan areas analyzed, health information technicians experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



Medical Transcriptionists

Medical transcriptionists create medical reports recorded by physicians and other healthcare practitioners using various electronic devices, covering office visits, emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. They transcribe dictated reports and translate abbreviations into fully understandable form, edit as necessary, and return reports for review and signature, or correction. Medical transcriptionists typically need postsecondary training.¹²

Nationally, the number of medical transcriptionists has decreased by 18.8 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow only 8.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.¹³ Over the past five years, there have been decreases in the number of medical transcriptionists in all areas analyzed, except Wichita and Omaha. This general decrease can be attributed to the transition to electronic medical records and improvements in voice recognition software.¹⁴

Although there have generally been decreases in the number of medical transcriptionists used in health care, the concentration of medical transcriptionists in Kansas has increased relative to the national labor pool.

Medical Transcriptionists

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	210	▲ 16.7%	1.43	▲ 0.50	\$32,140	91.2%	▲ 1.4%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	730	▼ -14.1%	1.44	▲ 0.12	\$33,990	96.4%	▼ -0.7%
	Topeka, KS	60	▼ -14.3%	1.07	▲ 0.07	\$32,440	92.0%	▼ -1.7%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	240	▼ -51.0%	0.78	▼ -0.56	\$30,520	86.6%	▲ 10.6%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	410	▲ 46.4%	1.74	▲ 0.78	\$34,510	97.9%	▲ 1.8%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	610	▼ -36.5%	0.92	▼ -0.20	\$35,020	99.3%	▼ -2.3%
	Tulsa, OK	220	▼ -42.1%	1.01	▼ -0.36	\$34,160	96.9%	▲ 3.3%
Peer	Akron, OH	200	▼ -52.4%	1.22	▼ -0.75	\$28,580	81.1%	▼ -20.3%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	180	▼ -48.6%	0.88	▼ -0.54	\$32,510	92.2%	▼ -11.0%
	Greenville, SC	180	▼ -5.3%	1.15	▲ 0.20	\$32,270	91.5%	▼ -1.2%
	Lancaster, PA	160	▼ -42.9%	1.40	▼ -0.48	\$34,300	97.3%	▲ 2.5%

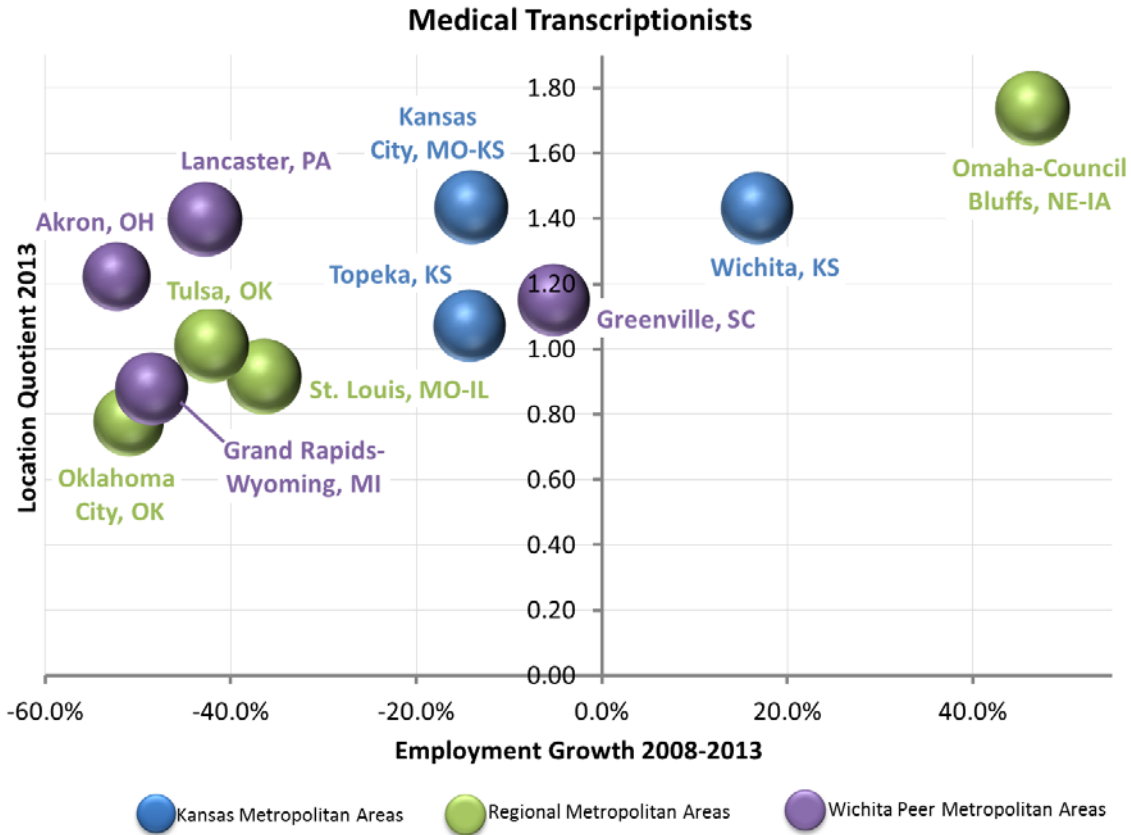
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - **Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a medical transcriptionist was \$35,260, up 7.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of medical transcriptionists in Wichita remained below the national average; however, increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In five out of the 11 metropolitan areas analyzed, medical transcriptionists experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

¹²Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

¹³Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

¹⁴The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity. New Skills for a New Era. Retrieved on 8/5/2014 from <http://www.ahdionline.org/Portals/0/downloads/AHDI-AHIMAAnnounceNewSkillsForaNewEra.pdf>



CEDBR has this occupation data available for many occupations and areas.

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