



Employment and Earnings of Registered Nurses in 2010

Thursday, May 25, 2011

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released 2010 occupational employment data on May 17, 2011. This document provides several summaries with respect to registered nurses and other nursing or related occupations. These RN data relate to RNs working in jobs classified as RNs. It does not include the self-employed or those working as owners, managers, or supervisors. Nursing instructors are not counted as RNs but as nursing instructors. (And their average wage is lower.)

In 2010 there were an estimated 2,655,020 RNs working in RN jobs. This is an increase of nearly 3% in estimated employment or 71,250 more jobs. The estimated average wage for RNs in 2010 was \$67,720, an increase of \$1,190 over 2009. That increase was 1.8% over the prior year.

RN jobs represented 2% of all employment in the U.S. in 2010 and 36% of all employment in the category “Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.”

| Nursing Related National employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey by occupation, May 2010 | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Occupation | Employment | Mean Wages | | Median Hourly |
| | | Hourly | Annual | |
| All occupations | 127,097,160 | \$21.35 | \$44,410 | \$16.27 |
| Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations | 7,346,580 | 34.27 | 71,280 | 28.12 |
| Registered nurses* | 2,655,020 | 32.56 | 67,720 | 31.10 |
| Nursing instructors and teachers, postsecondary | 54,050 | (?) | 66,010 | (?) |
| Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses | 730,290 | 19.88 | 41,360 | 19.42 |
| Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants* | 1,451,090 | 12.09 | 25,140 | 11.54 |
| * Occupation titles followed by an asterisk (*) have similar titles, but not necessarily the same content as 2010 SOC occupations. | | | | |
| (?) Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year-round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries depending on how they are typically paid. | | | | |

Comparing the BLS Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) and the NSSRN

The RN data from BLS OES differs from the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN) conducted by the Health Resources and Services Administration. In particular, the sample frames are different. The NSSRN is based on people with active nursing licenses; the BLS numbers are based on firms that report they have Registered Nurse workers performing RN functions. What BLS doesn't include in their estimates are self-employed RNs, nursing instructors (there is a separate estimate for that), RN owners/managers/supervisors who are included in the management estimates. The BLS numbers are updated annually, and they are available for individual metropolitan and non-metro areas. The NSSRN numbers provide the demographic and educational details not available to BLS.

BLS State Estimates of 2010 RN Employment and Earnings

The table below presents the 2010 Occupational Employment Statistics survey data on registered nurses for 2010 at the level of the individual states and territories. These data were collected at the firm level and thus are based on places of employment rather than residence. These are estimates for earnings of registered nurses employed as registered nurses. They do not include supervisors, educators, military nurses, or the self-employed. Earnings estimates are based on straight-time gross pay and do not include any fringe benefits or shift differentials. A description of the source survey and additional caveats regarding the data collection are available at <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/HealthcareandPolicyIssues/Issue-Briefs/RN-Employment-Earnings.aspx>.

Without substantially more disaggregation work these data include too many variations for other than soft comparisons. In particular, they include information from hospitals, physicians' offices, clinics, employment services, other health sectors, and RNs working in non-health sectors. The mix of those industries in any state will influence the estimated annual wage estimates. These data also include federal workers (mainly those employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs) who have above average earnings nationally and that may influence the state level average annual wages in some states.

At 240,030 the State with the highest number of RN jobs in 2010 was California, which also exhibited the highest average annual wage, \$87,480. The average wage in Iowa was \$51,970, the lowest State. Wyoming had the fewest number of RN jobs at 4,790.

The URL for the BLS website is included. These data are also available from BLS at the level of individual metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) where sufficient observations allowed computation of those statistics. The estimates for many MSAs are not reported for that reason. MSA level data are even more subject to variations due to the local industrial mix.

Earnings and Employment of registered nurses, 2010
Estimates from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Occupational Employment Statistics

| Occupation: Registered Nurses* (SOC code 291111) | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Period: May 2010 | | | | | |
| Area name | Employment(1) | Annual mean wage(2) | Area name | Employment(1) | Annual mean wage(2) |
| USA | 2,655,020 | \$67,720 | Missouri | 66,810 | \$59,140 |
| Alabama | 44,300 | \$57,850 | Montana | 8,500 | \$57,860 |
| Alaska | 5,150 | \$79,350 | Nebraska | 18,780 | \$56,480 |
| Arizona | 41,730 | \$70,220 | Nevada | 16,780 | \$75,320 |
| Arkansas | 23,730 | \$56,500 | New Hampshire | 13,850 | \$63,340 |
| California | 240,030 | \$87,480 | New Jersey | 76,680 | \$75,440 |
| Colorado | 41,960 | \$67,280 | New Mexico | 13,780 | \$66,090 |
| Connecticut | 35,310 | \$73,860 | New York | 169,710 | \$74,000 |
| Delaware | 9,900 | \$70,920 | North Carolina | 90,730 | \$60,260 |
| District of Columbia | 9,510 | \$76,210 | North Dakota | 6,880 | \$57,020 |
| Florida | 158,390 | \$63,010 | Ohio | 122,300 | \$60,590 |
| Georgia | 65,390 | \$61,670 | Oklahoma | 28,260 | \$54,340 |
| Hawaii | 9,390 | \$82,130 | Oregon | 31,950 | \$75,350 |
| Idaho | 10,820 | \$62,720 | Pennsylvania | 130,930 | \$65,070 |
| Illinois | 120,810 | \$66,660 | Rhode Island | 12,430 | \$70,640 |
| Indiana | 60,300 | \$57,820 | South Carolina | 40,520 | \$60,040 |
| Iowa | 32,090 | \$51,970 | South Dakota | 10,690 | \$54,730 |
| Kansas | 28,070 | \$57,470 | Tennessee | 61,890 | \$60,480 |
| Kentucky | 44,920 | \$58,130 | Texas | 176,330 | \$66,180 |
| Louisiana | 40,780 | \$62,060 | Utah | 18,230 | \$60,530 |
| Maine | 14,730 | \$64,650 | Vermont | 5,980 | \$63,210 |
| Maryland | 50,480 | \$76,450 | Virginia | 62,020 | \$65,020 |
| Massachusetts | 85,120 | \$84,990 | Washington | 52,490 | \$73,680 |
| Michigan | 86,040 | \$63,970 | West Virginia | 17,650 | \$54,300 |
| Minnesota | 56,010 | \$73,770 | Wisconsin | 52,880 | \$64,280 |
| Mississippi | 28,200 | \$57,940 | Wyoming | 4,790 | \$58,750 |
| Footnotes: | | | | | |
| (1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers. | | | | | |
| (2) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by 2080 hours; where an hourly mean wage is not published the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data. | | | | | |
| SOC code: Standard Occupational Classification code -- see http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm | | | | | |
| Data extracted on May 17 2011 | | | | | |

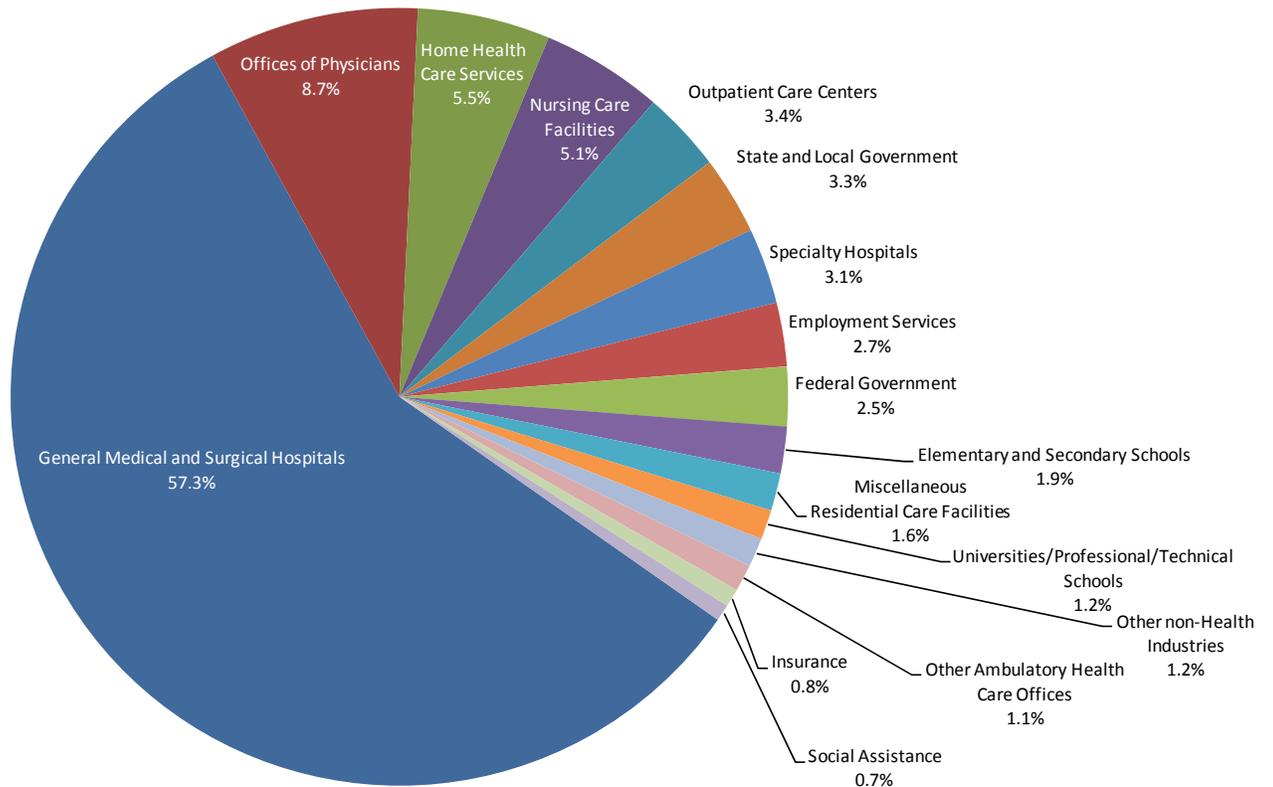
<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291111.htm>

Employment and Earnings, Registered Nurses, May 2010

| Industry | Employment | Annual mean wage | Percent |
|---|------------|------------------|---------|
| All Sectors | 2,655,020 | \$67,720 | 100.0% |
| General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 1,521,400 | \$68,610 | 57.3% |
| Offices of Physicians | 232,000 | \$70,530 | 8.7% |
| Home Health Care Services | 146,380 | \$63,850 | 5.5% |
| Nursing Care Facilities | 134,460 | \$59,990 | 5.1% |
| Outpatient Care Centers | 89,090 | \$67,550 | 3.4% |
| State and Local Government | 86,540 | \$63,537 | 3.3% |
| Specialty Hospitals | 83,570 | \$70,201 | 3.1% |
| Employment Services | 70,400 | \$69,760 | 2.7% |
| Federal Government | 65,610 | \$79,530 | 2.5% |
| Elementary and Secondary Schools | 51,520 | \$53,210 | 1.9% |
| Miscellaneous Residential Care Facilities | 41,360 | \$57,862 | 1.6% |
| Universities/Professional/Technical Schools | 32,810 | \$73,559 | 1.2% |
| Other non-Health Industries | 31,840 | \$67,316 | 1.2% |
| Other Ambulatory Health Care Offices | 29,790 | \$68,563 | 1.1% |
| Insurance | 20,230 | \$65,250 | 0.8% |
| Social Assistance | 18,020 | \$59,460 | 0.7% |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, accessed May 17, 2011, <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291111.htm>

Distribution of Employment, RNs, 2010



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