

Health care workers continue to top Kansas pay scale

Doctors hold the 10 highest paying occupations according to 2010 Kansas Wage Survey

TOPEKA – Once again, surgeons top the wage charts in Kansas, earning an average of \$230,090 annually. Doctors also account for the remaining nine occupations that make up the 10 highest paying occupations in the state according to the 2010 edition of the Kansas Wage Survey produced by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL).

Average occupational wages from across Kansas are among the statistics reported in the annual Kansas Wage Survey released today, produced by the Kansas Occupational Employment Statistics program at KDOL in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 2010 survey, which contains data from the second quarter of 2009, measures occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in non-farm industries. Approximately 4,500 employers are surveyed each year through a semiannual mail survey.

Kansas' average hourly wage is up from an estimated \$18.10 an hour in May 2008 to an estimated \$18.52 an hour in May 2009. This is \$2.38 less than the 2009 national average hourly wage of \$20.90. When comparing the average wages with surrounding states, Kansas falls in the middle, having a higher average hourly wage than Nebraska and Oklahoma, but less than Missouri and Colorado.

Similar to last year's report, the lowest paying occupation in Kansas is counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession and coffee shop workers at \$7.95 per hour. Seven of the ten lowest paid occupations in Kansas are in the food preparation and serving related group.

Statewide, location plays a key role in how much a worker is paid. For instance, the survey found that registered nurses have an average hourly wage of \$25.52 per hour in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); \$29.63 per hour in the Kansas City geographic area; \$29.27 per hour in the Kansas City MSA; \$27.53 per hour in the Topeka MSA; \$26.27 per hour in the Lawrence MSA; and \$24.72 in the balance of the state.

The survey also found that retail salespersons, cashiers, registered nurses, office clerks and waiters and waitresses were among the occupations with the highest estimated employment in 2009.

More information regarding the Kansas Wage Survey can be found on the [KDOL Labor Market Information website](#). The wage survey data is available through the online Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC). Within the KLIC system, customers can create customizable reports, get county-level data free-of-charge and view wages and estimated employment for any county in Kansas.

Additional national information can be found on the at [Bureau of Labor Statistics website](#).