

Kansas Wage Survey

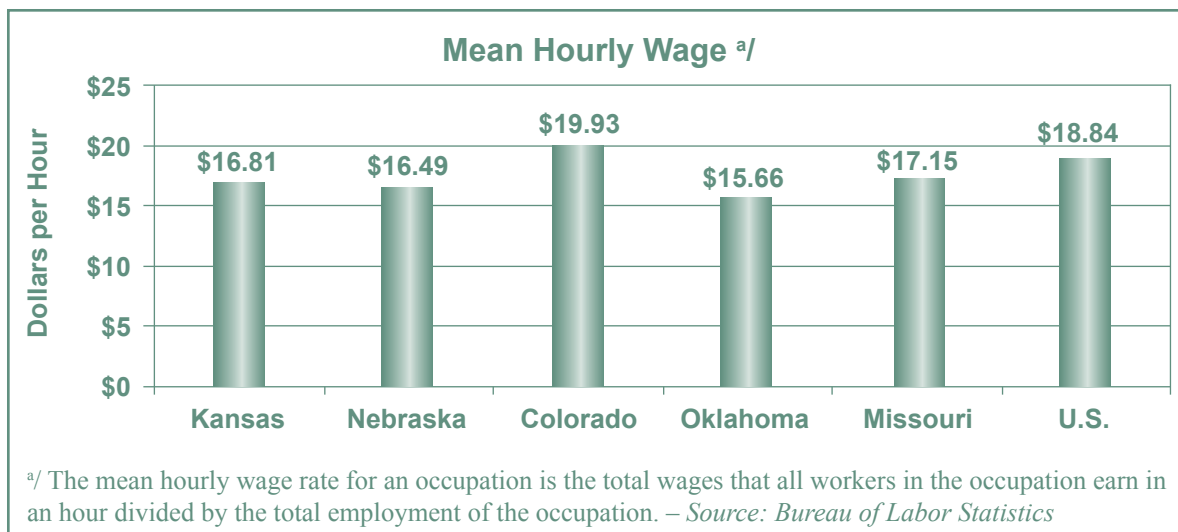
2007 Edition

Executive Summary

The Kansas Occupational Employment Statistics program collects occupation and wage data in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This data assists employers engaged in hiring and training workforces and helps to set comparable wages. Educators and government agencies also use this data to design education and training programs to provide employers with the skilled workers they need.

Kansas Statewide Summary

Kansas' mean hourly wage was estimated at \$16.81 ^{1/} in May 2006, less than the national mean wage of \$18.84 ^{1/}. These estimates are calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using data collected from employers in all industry sectors in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas in Kansas. When comparing the Kansas mean wage with the four surrounding states, Kansas falls in the middle, paying a higher average hourly wage than Nebraska and Oklahoma, but less than Missouri and Colorado.



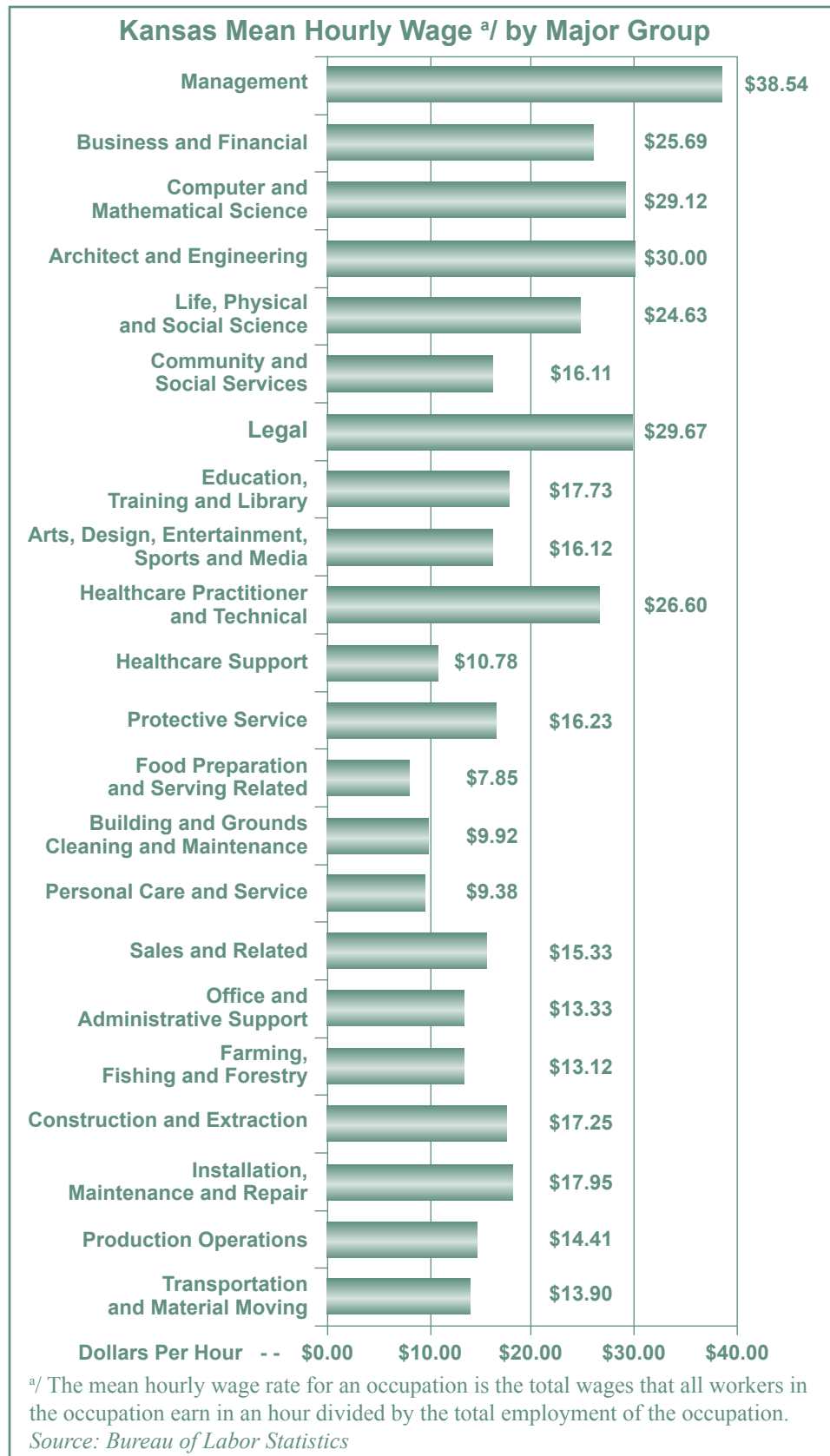
^{1/} The mean hourly wage for Statewide Kansas can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/>

Major Occupational Groups

Occupations are grouped into 23 major groups in the *Kansas Wage Survey*. Management, a major occupational group, reported the highest mean hourly wage in Kansas, at \$38.54. The national average for this same group was \$44.20 an hour, almost 15 percent higher than the Kansas average. Architecture and engineering has the second highest average hourly wage of all the major occupational groups, paying \$30.00. Legal occupations rank third among the major occupational groups, with an average hourly wage of \$29.67. Farming, fishing and forestry occupations is the only major occupational group in Kansas that recorded a higher mean hourly wage than the national average. The average hourly wage for these occupations is \$13.12 in Kansas, compared to \$10.49 nationally.

Another major occupational group, office and administrative support workers, recorded mean hourly wages of \$13.33 and accounted for 17.4 ^{2/} percent of all Kansas employment.

The sales and related occupational group accounted for more than 10 ^{2/} percent of the estimated employment in Kansas. This major occupational group recorded mean hourly wages of \$15.33.



^{2/} The estimated Kansas employment can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/>

Five Highest Paying Occupations

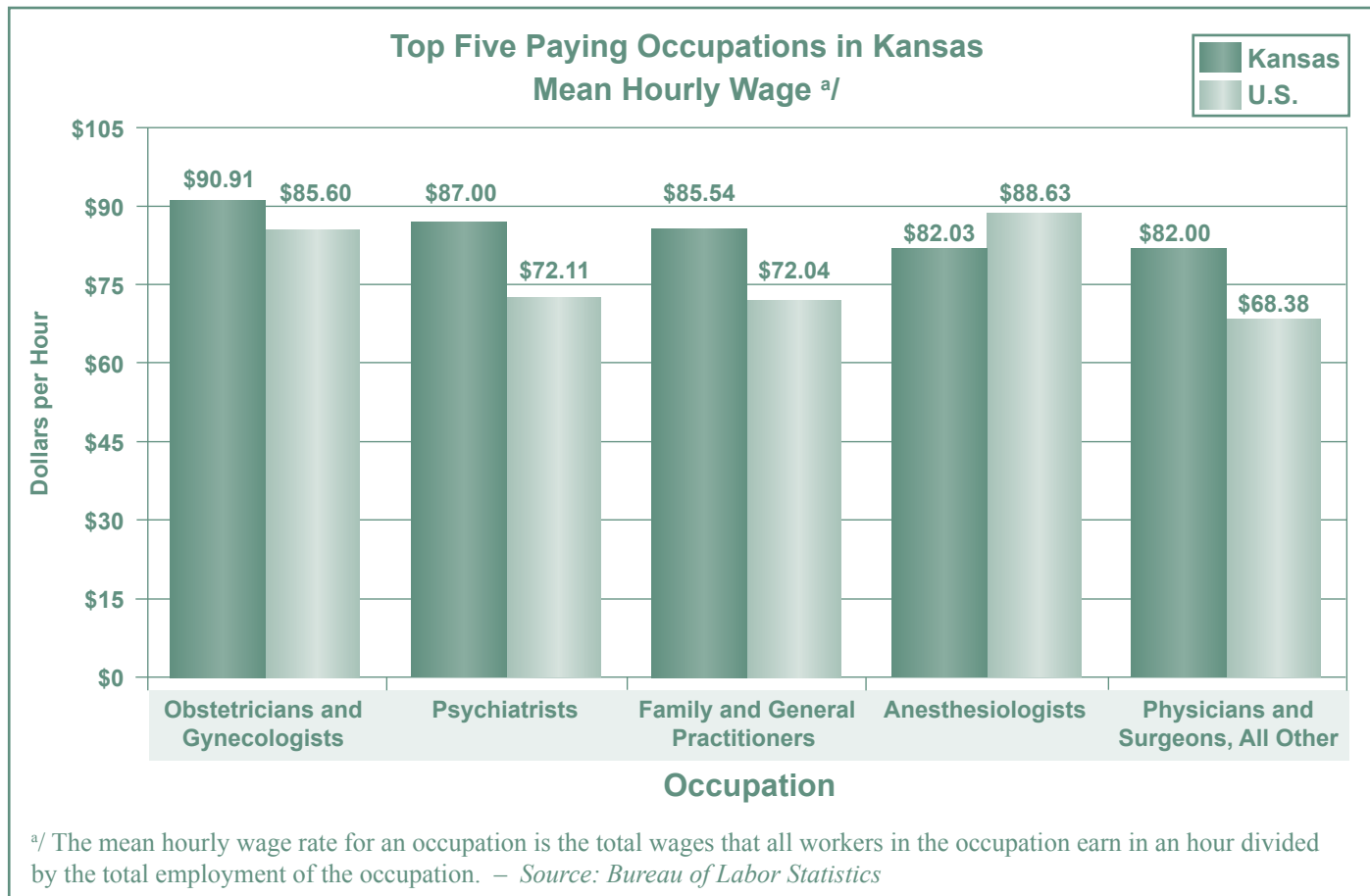
When examining the rankings of the five highest paying occupations in Kansas, it is important to note that the *Kansas Wage Survey* does not include self-employed individuals.

Obstetricians and gynecologists are the highest paid occupations in Kansas with a mean hourly wage of \$90.91, \$5.31 higher than the national average. The next highest paid occupation is psychiatrists who are paid \$87.00 an hour, also more than the national average of \$72.11.

Kansas has higher wages than the surrounding states for these occupations. Obstetricians and gynecologists in Missouri receive an average hourly wage of \$85.27, while Colorado pays \$87.09 and Oklahoma pays \$83.32. Similarly, Kansas paid psychiatrists \$23.37 an hour more than Nebraska and \$12.18 an hour more than Missouri. As shown in the table below, four of the top five highest paying occupations in Kansas pay more than the national average.

Among the top five occupations in terms of wages, there seems to be a substantial variation in wages among different areas in the state. For example, a general dentist in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) makes \$81.10 per hour, while a general dentist in the Lawrence MSA earns \$50.36, a 61 percent difference. Similarly, physicians and surgeons in the Balance of State were paid \$89.53 an hour while the same occupation recorded average hourly wages of \$75.54 in the Kansas City MSA.

The determinants of wages for these occupations are complex and are driven by market demand and supply, experience, educational obtainment, population density and specialization. When considering population

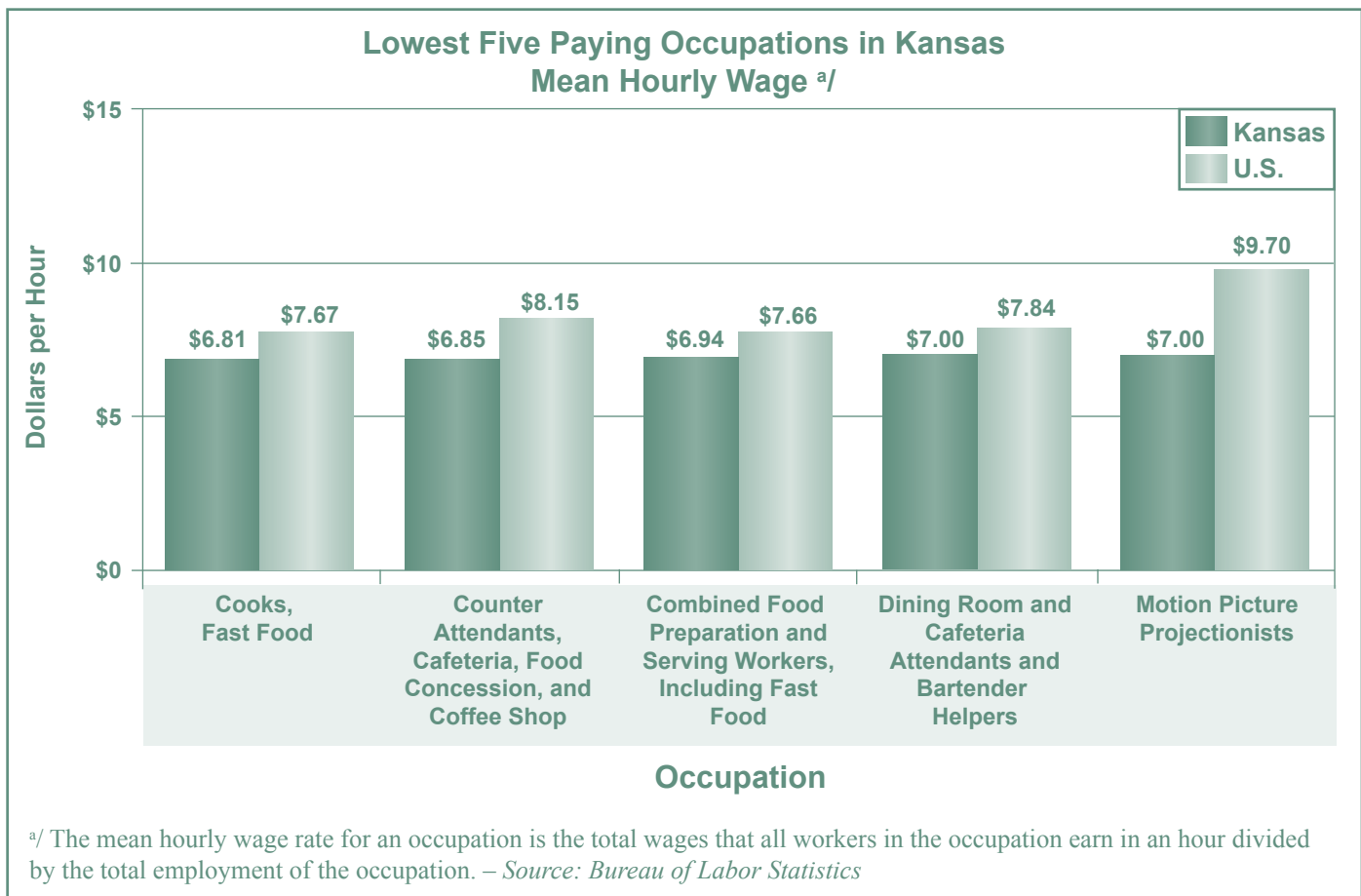


density for example, in the Balance of State, there is one physician or surgeon for every 4,391 ^{3/} people in the area. In the Kansas City MSA, there is one physician or surgeon for every 1,984 ^{3/} people. This means that physicians and surgeons in the Balance of State provide service to more people than those in the Kansas City MSA; therefore, a higher wage is paid to those physicians and surgeons in the Balance of State.

However, some occupations do not follow this pattern. For example, family and general practitioners in the Wichita MSA received mean hourly wages of \$91.72. In the Wichita MSA, there were about 1,600 ^{3/} people for every family or general practitioner. In contrast, the same occupation received mean hourly wages of \$80.12 in the Balance of State while the ratio was much higher, 3,366 ^{3/} people for each family and general practitioner. Despite serving more people, family and general practitioners in the Balance of State are paid a lower average hourly wage than those in the Wichita MSA.

Five Lowest Paying Occupations

Four of the five lowest paid occupations in Kansas were in the food preparation and serving related major occupational group. This group had the lowest average hourly wage for Kansas, at \$7.85. Fast food cooks were the lowest paid occupation in the state, with an average hourly wage of \$6.81. When compared to the four surrounding states, Kansas pays the least for this occupation. Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and Oklahoma all pay well over \$7.00 an hour. As shown in the graph below, Kansas consistently paid a lower wage than the U.S. average for all of the five lowest paying occupations.



^{3/} The Kansas population numbers come from the U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/>