



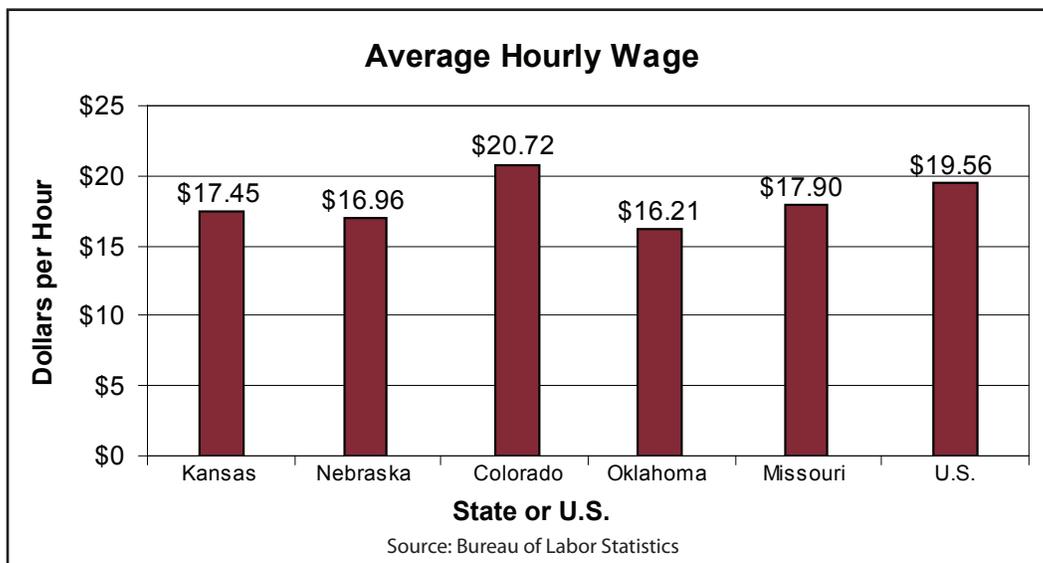
Executive Summary

The Kansas Department of Labor collects occupation and wage data in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data in this report assists Kansas employers in the hiring process 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

The average hourly wage for an occupation, also referred to as the mean hourly wage, is the total wages that all workers in the occupation earn in an hour divided by the total employment of the occupation.

Kansas' average hourly wage was estimated at \$17.45 in May 2007, \$2.11 less than the national average wage of \$19.56.¹ When compared with surrounding states, Kansas wages fall in the middle, paying a higher average hourly wage than Nebraska and Oklahoma, but less than Missouri and Colorado. 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.



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

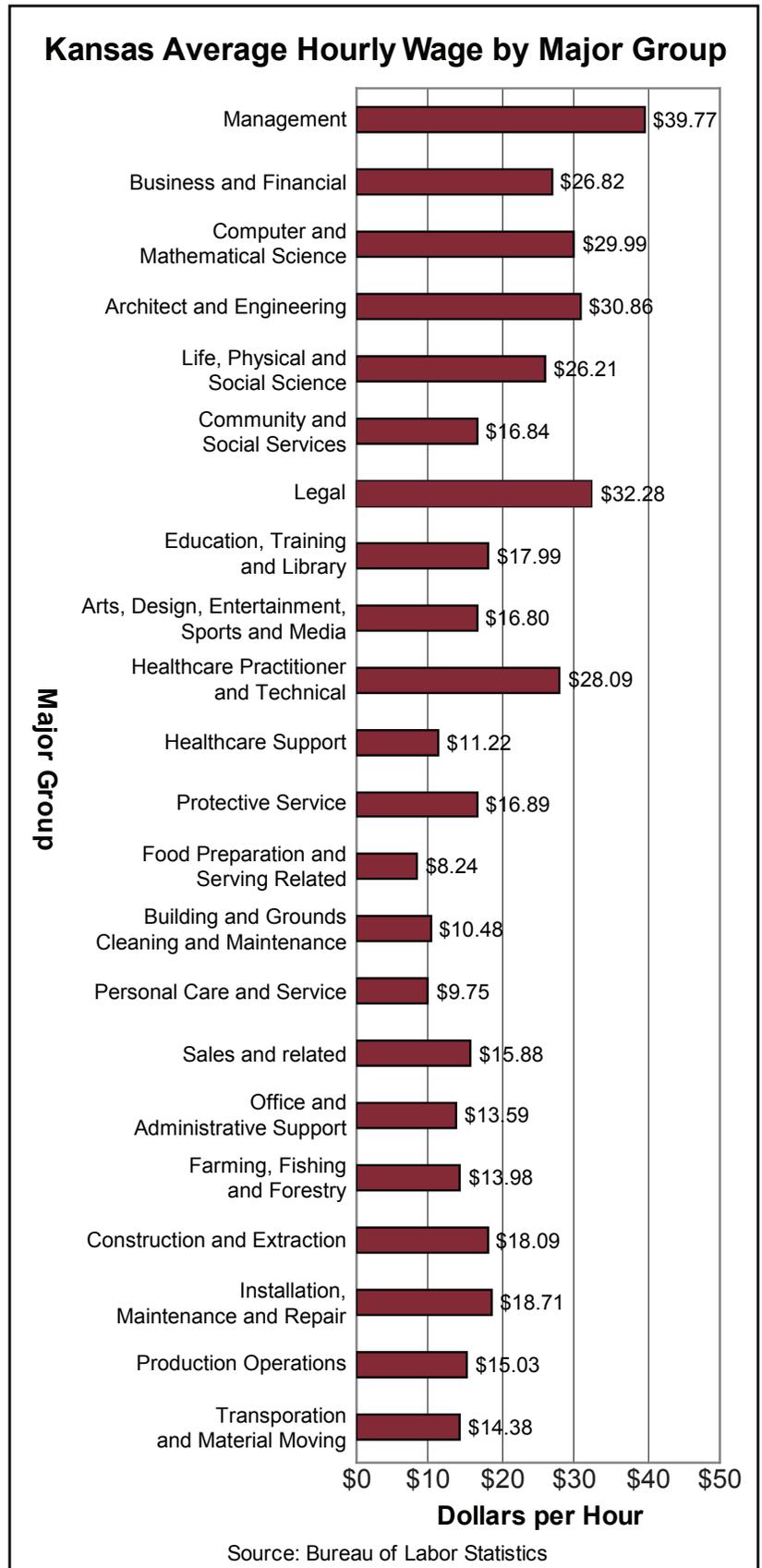
Major Occupational Groups

For the purposes of this survey occupations are organized into 22 major groups. The major occupational group in Kansas with the highest average hourly wage is Management, paying \$39.77. The national average for this group is \$46.22 an hour, which is 16.2 percent higher than the Kansas average.

Legal occupations have the second highest average hourly wage, paying \$32.28. Architecture and engineering occupations rank third with an average hourly wage of \$30.86. Farming, fishing and forestry occupations is the only major occupational group in Kansas that recorded a higher average hourly wage than the national average. The average hourly wage for these occupations is \$13.98 in Kansas, compared to \$10.89 nationally.

Office and administrative support workers recorded average hourly wages of \$13.59. The estimated 227,040 workers in this group accounted for 16.8 percent of the estimated 1,347,670 total employment in Kansas.

The sales and related occupations group recorded average hourly wages of \$15.88. The estimated 137,250 workers in this group accounted for more than 10.2 percent of the estimated employment in Kansas.



Five Highest Paying Occupations

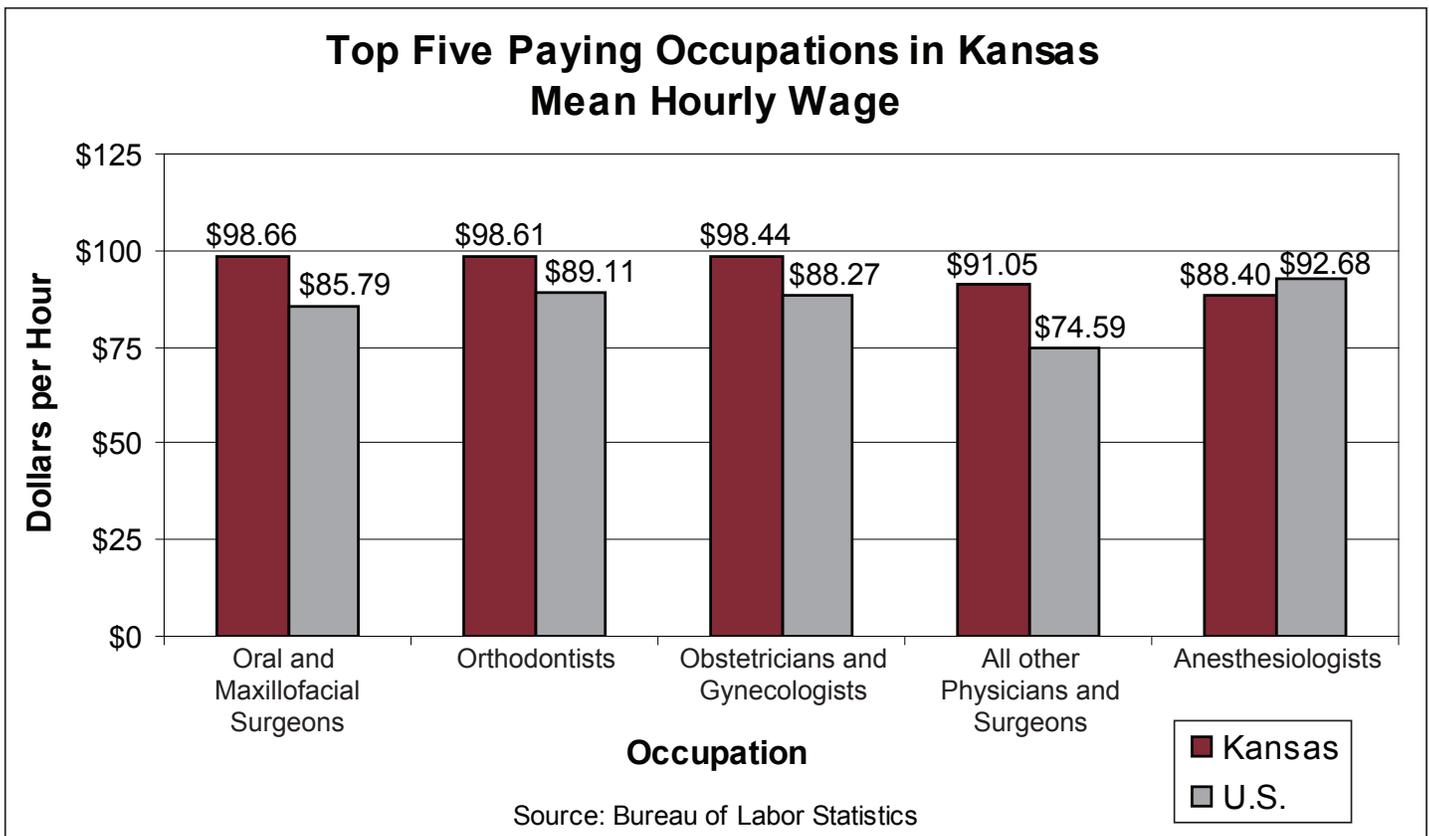
When examining the rankings of the five highest paying occupations in Kansas, it is important to note this survey does not include self-employed individuals.

Four of the top five highest paying occupations in Kansas pay more than the national average, as shown in the table below. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons make up the highest paid occupation in Kansas with an average hourly wage of \$98.66, \$12.87 higher than the national average. Compared to states surrounding Kansas, oral and maxillofacial surgeons in Missouri receive an average hourly wage of \$87.06, while Nebraska pays \$83.16.

The next highest paid occupation in Kansas is orthodontists who are paid \$98.61 an hour, also more than the national average of \$89.11. Similarly, Kansas paid orthodontists \$5.32 an hour more than Oklahoma and \$10.21 an hour more than Missouri.

Among the top five occupations there seems to be a substantial variation in wages among different areas in the state. For example, anesthesiologists in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) make \$91.80 per hour, 15.7 percent more than anesthesiologists in the Balance of State, who make \$79.31 an hour. Similarly, physicians and surgeons, all other in the Lawrence MSA make \$96.47 an hour while the same occupation recorded an average hourly wage of \$84.32 in the Topeka MSA.

The factors in determining wages for these occupations are complex and driven by market demand and supply, experience, educational obtainment, population density and specialization. For example, when considering population density in the Balance of State, there is one physician or surgeon for every 3,601 people in the area. In the Kansas City geographic area, there is one physician or surgeon

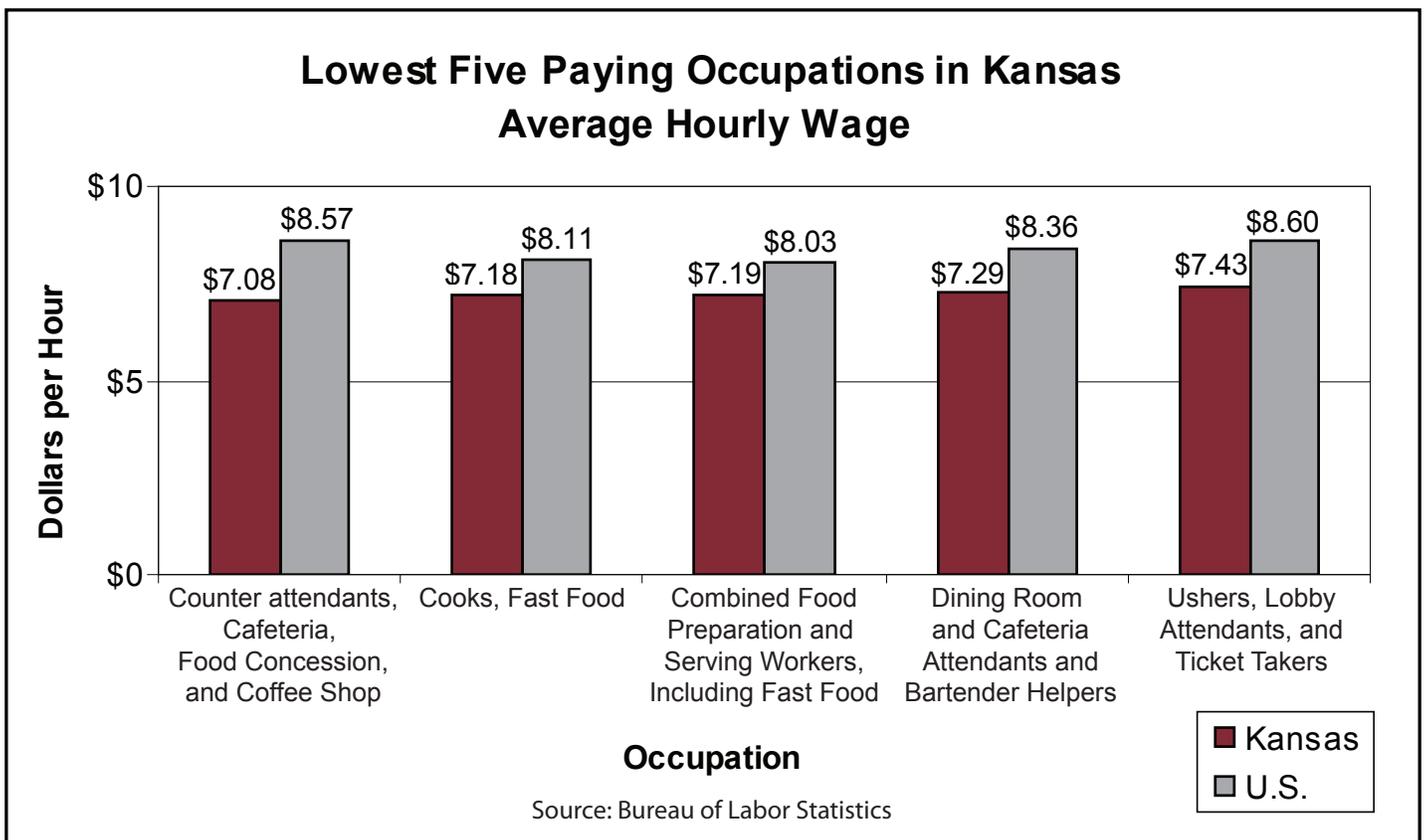


for every 2,053 people. This means that physicians and surgeons in the Balance of the State provide services to more people than those in the Kansas City geographic area. This may be one of the reasons a higher wage is paid to those physicians and surgeons in the Balance of State.²

However, some occupations do not follow this pattern. For example, family and general practitioners in the Wichita MSA received average hourly wages of \$93.55. In the Wichita MSA, there were 1,864 people for every family and general practitioner. In contrast, the same occupation in the Balance of State received average hourly wages of \$80.61, with 2,460 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.²

Five Lowest Paying Occupations

Four of the five lowest paid occupations in Kansas were in the food preparation and serving related occupational group. This group had the lowest average wage for Kansas, at \$8.24 per hour. Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop was the lowest paid occupation in the state, with an average wage of \$7.08 per hour. When compared to the four surrounding states, Kansas pays the least for this occupation. Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and Oklahoma all pay well over \$7.08 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.



² The Kansas population numbers come from the U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov>