



# 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
<b>Registered nurses*</b>	<b>2,655,020</b>	<b>32.56</b>	<b>67,720</b>	<b>31.10</b>
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**

<b>Occupation: Registered Nurses* (SOC code 291111)</b>					
<b>Period: May 2010</b>					
<b>Area name</b>	<b>Employment(1)</b>	<b>Annual mean wage(2)</b>	<b>Area name</b>	<b>Employment(1)</b>	<b>Annual mean wage(2)</b>
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
<b>Footnotes:</b>					
(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 <a href="http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm">http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm</a>					
Data extracted on May 17 2011					

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

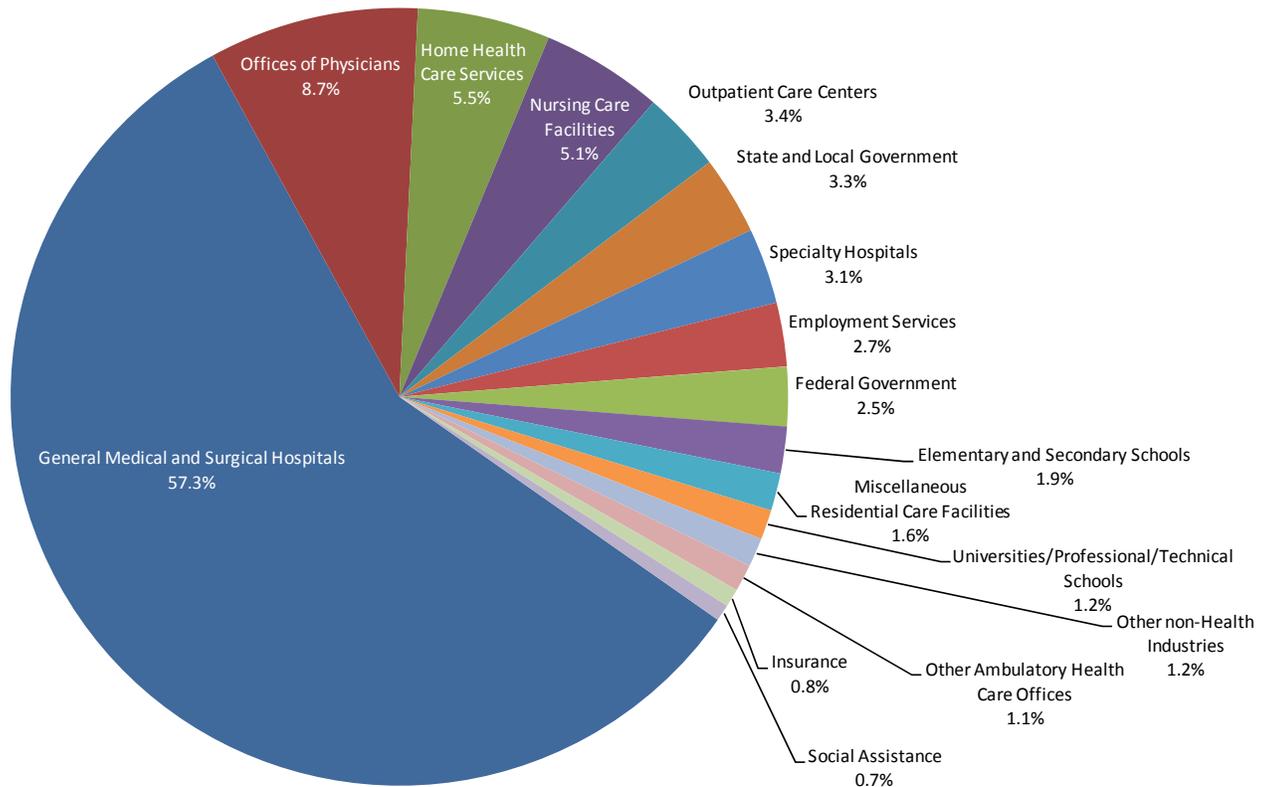


## Employment and Earnings, Registered Nurses, May 2010

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



For more information contact Peter McMenamin, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow in the Department of Nursing Practice and Policy, ANA at [peter.mcmenamin@ana.org](mailto:peter.mcmenamin@ana.org).