

# Why Outpatient Care Centers Matter to BLS



The recent growth in outpatient care centers differs from the overall U.S. economy, making this industry very important to the Bureau of Labor Statistics! These care centers are likely to remain important because “The greater availability of insurance, increased pressure to reduce costs, and technological changes continue to shift services from inpatient to outpatient services.”

Source: *Industry Employment and Output Projections to 2024*  
[bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/industry-employment-and-output-projections-to-2024.htm](https://bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/industry-employment-and-output-projections-to-2024.htm)

## Private Sector Industry Growth: 2008-2018



**OUTPATIENT  
CARE CENTERS**

**ALL  
INDUSTRIES**

### NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

**+75%**

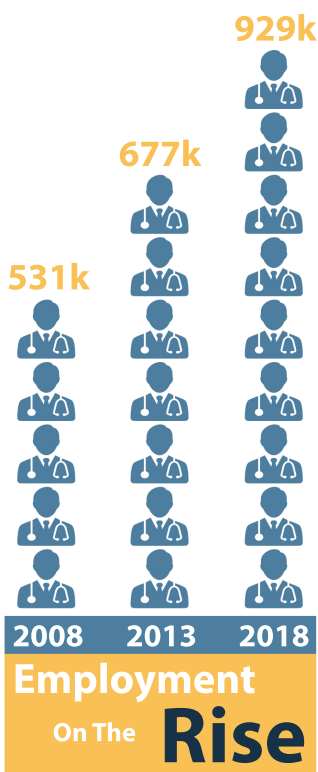
**+11%**

### EMPLOYMENT

**+75%**

**+10%**

Growth in outpatient care centers **OUTPACED** that of overall U.S. industry growth in both the number of establishments and employment from 2008 through 2018.



**WOMEN** account for about half of total employment in the U.S., but they hold nearly 4 out of every 5 jobs in outpatient care centers.

## Average Weekly Wages: 2008-2018

**\$1,272**  
average weekly wage for outpatient care center workers in 2018

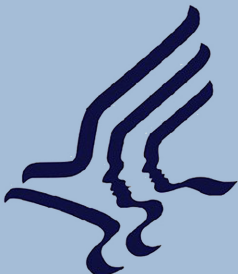
**\$362**  
increase in the average weekly wage for outpatient care center workers

**40%**  
increase from 2008 to 2018 compared to 26% for all industries

# Why BLS Matters to Outpatient Care Centers

*BLS data affect outpatient care centers, and all of us, in a number of ways*

## DID YOU KNOW ?

**1**  Medicare reimbursement rates are adjusted for changing labor costs and prices using BLS outputs: the Employment Cost Index and the Consumer Price Index.

If you accept Medicare,  
this affects

**YOU.**

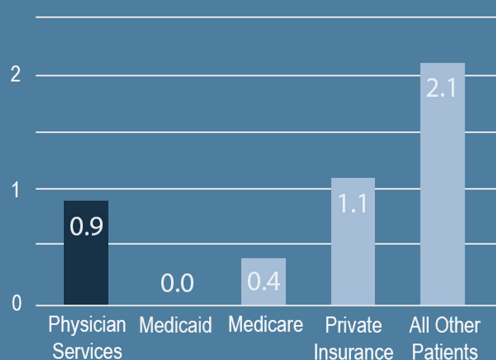
**2** The Social Security Administration plans to use the Occupational Requirements Survey (BLS) for disability benefit decisions.

Some of your patients may apply for disability benefits to use for income and/or medical insurance.



**3** The Producer Price Index (PPI) now publishes changes in the prices physicians receive for the care they deliver by payer type.

Percent Change in Prices Received for Outpatient Care Physician Services by Payer Type, 2018-2019



These PPI data show that while the prices physicians received for their services increased by 0.9% from 2018 to 2019, the increase differed by payer type. Prices received from Medicaid patients were unchanged, but those from Medicare patients increased by 0.4%; private insurance patients rose by 1.1%; and prices received from all other patients were 2.1% higher over the year.

**4**  Keeping workers safe: BLS data for occupational injury rates and days away from work can inform safety analysis.

Outpatient care center workers injured on the job missed a median of

**10 DAYS**

due to their injury. Overall, private industry workers missed a median of 8 days.

Workers in outpatient care centers were more likely than those in the overall private industry to be injured by another person.