



For Release: Thursday, July 18, 2013

13-1364-CHI

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Occupational Employment and Wages For Nurses In Illinois' Metropolitan Areas – May 2012

Among Illinois' 12 metropolitan areas, Chicago-Joliet-Naperville was the only area to have wages significantly above the national average for both registered nurses and for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that in contrast, Cape Girardeau-Jackson, Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, St. Louis, and Springfield all had wages significantly below those of the nation for both nursing occupations. Nationwide, the average (mean) wage for registered nurses was \$67,930, and for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, \$42,400. (See [table A](#). For comprehensive definitions of metropolitan areas in Illinois, please see Technical Note.)

Table A. Average (mean) annual wages for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the United States and metropolitan areas in Illinois, May 2012

Area	Registered Nurses	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
United States.....	\$67,930	\$42,400
Illinois	66,260	42,680
Bloomington-Normal.....	60,190 *	41,880
Cape Girardeau-Jackson	50,600 *	34,620 *
Champaign-Urbana	69,010	50,200 *
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	70,120 *	45,750 *
Danville.....	64,220 *	43,550
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island	51,190 *	35,690 *
Decatur	(1)	41,130
Kankakee-Bradley	65,480	36,000 *
Peoria	57,350 *	44,450
Rockford	59,170 *	44,370 *
St. Louis	58,530 *	40,320 *
Springfield	58,540 *	38,640 *

Footnotes:

(1) Estimate not released.

* The mean annual wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

Of the 12 metropolitan areas located entirely or partially in the state, the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville area had the largest number of registered nurses (85,380) and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (13,330). The St. Louis metropolitan area, which includes eight counties in Illinois, employed 33,580 registered nurses. Peoria and Rockford were the only other areas where employment exceeded 4,000 for registered nurses. St. Louis employed 7,130 licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses; no other area in the state had more than 1,000 jobs in this occupation. (See [table B](#).)

Table B. Employment for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the United States and metropolitan areas in Illinois, May 2012

Area	Registered Nurses	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
United States	2,633,980	718,800
Illinois	114,730	22,810
Bloomington-Normal.....	1,230	220
Cape Girardeau-Jackson	1,860	300
Champaign-Urbana	2,180	(1)
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	85,380	13,330
Danville.....	650	220
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island	3,930	820
Decatur	1,640	270
Kankakee-Bradley	1,130	460
Peoria	4,750	970
Rockford	4,180	680
St. Louis	33,580	7,130
Springfield	3,000	880

Footnotes:

(1) Estimate not released.

Wages for registered nurses in metropolitan areas in Illinois

Chicago-Joliet-Naperville was the only metropolitan area in the state with significantly higher wages for registered nurses (\$70,120 per year) compared to the U.S. average. In contrast, 8 of the 12 metropolitan areas had significantly lower wages for registered nurses, of which 3—Cape Girardeau-Jackson, Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, and Peoria—averaged more than \$10,000 below that of the nation. (See [table A.](#))

Wages for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in metropolitan areas in Illinois

Annual mean wages for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses were significantly higher than the nationwide average of \$42,400 in three of Illinois' metropolitan areas—Champaign-Urbana (\$50,200), Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (\$45,750), and Rockford (\$44,370). In contrast, five metropolitan areas had wages significantly lower than the U.S. average, with Cape Girardeau-Jackson (\$34,620) and Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (\$35,690) among the lowest-paid. (See [table A.](#))

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Indiana and Wisconsin Departments of Workforce Development, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

OES wage and employment data for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the state and metropolitan areas were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

Note: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, forms are mailed to two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 establishments in May and the other in November. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 76.6 percent based on establishments and 72.9 percent based on employment. May 2012 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2012, November 2011, May 2011, November 2010, May 2010, and November 2009. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

With the release of the May 2012 estimates, OES data are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system for the first time. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and more than 800 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data for the first time. Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS www.bls.gov/soc. The May 2012 OES estimates are the first to be produced using the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2012 NAICS is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Bloomington-Normal, Ill. MSA consists of McLean County.

Cape Girardeau-Jackson, Mo.-Ill. MSA consists of Alexander County in Illinois; and Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties in Missouri.

Champaign-Urbana, Ill. MSA consists of Champaign, Ford, and Piatt Counties.

Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, Ill. MSA consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Danville, Ill. MSA consists of Vermilion County.

Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Ill.-Iowa MSA consists of Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties in Illinois; and Scott County in Iowa.

Decatur, Ill. MSA consists of Macon County.

Kankakee-Bradley, Ill. MSA consists of Kankakee County.

Peoria, Ill. MSA consists of Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

Rockford, Ill. MSA consists of Boone and Winnebago Counties.

St. Louis, Mo.-Ill. MSA consists of Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties in Illinois; and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington Counties and St. Louis City in Missouri.

Springfield, Ill. MSA consists of Menard County Sangamon Counties.