



**Therapy Occupations Employment**  
**Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area**  
**November 2014**

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Employment in the various therapy occupations in the Wichita metropolitan area has varied significantly across the occupations for which data is available.<sup>1</sup> Although these occupations account for a small fraction of the local labor force, approximately 810 workers, they provide valuable services to the community.

To understand how employment in these important occupations has changed over time, employment, location quotient, and average annual wages have been analyzed. For comparison, data is also provided for metropolitan areas in Kansas, the Midwest region, and a group of four metropolitan areas that most closely resemble Wichita in population, demographics and industrial mix. These peer communities are Akron, Ohio; Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.; Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S. C.; and Lancaster, Penn.

A location quotient is the ratio between the level of employment in a regional economy and the level in the national economy. It is calculated to determine whether the regional economy has a greater share of an occupation than expected. Values less than one indicate an occupation may not be meeting the local demand for the services of that occupation. Values greater than one indicates an occupation provides enough goods and services to meet local demand, and excess production is consumed outside the region. Values greater than 1.20 indicate an industry of specialization in the region.

In the Wichita metropolitan area the concentration of employment in the therapy occupations is below the national average, with the exception of dietitians and nutritionists. This indicates there may be a shortage of workers in these occupations.

### Wichita, KS

	Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	% Chg.		% Chg.		% of		
	2013	2008-2013	2013	2008-2013	2013	National	2008-2013
Speech-Language Pathologists	220	▼ -4.3%	0.82	▼ -0.13	\$73,590	99.5%	▲ 11.6%
Dietitians and Nutritionists	140	▲ 40.0%	1.10	▲ 0.27	\$53,330	94.7%	▼ -8.6%
Respiratory Therapists	230	▼ -11.5%	0.90	▼ -0.21	\$51,070	88.2%	▼ -1.8%
Occupational Therapists	160	▼ -23.8%	0.69	▼ -0.30	\$83,640	107.4%	▲ 9.4%
Occupational Therapy Assistants	60	▲ 100.0%	0.92	▲ 0.40	\$57,090	103.3%	▲ 16.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

<sup>1</sup>The data used in this analysis is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). The OES survey covers all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The survey does not cover the self-employed, nor owners and partners in unincorporated firms. The self-employed can account for a significant number of the workers employed in professional occupations. Despite their exclusion, the OES still provides the most timely and accurate count of workers in these occupations.

## Speech-Language Pathologists

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. They may also select alternative communication systems and teach their use. Some speech-language pathologists perform research related to speech and language problems.<sup>2</sup> Speech-language pathologists typically need a master's degree and must meet state licensing requirements.

Nationally, the number of speech-language pathologists has grown by 18.4 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 19.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>3</sup> Within the region, including Kansas, there has been strong growth in this occupation, with the exceptions of Wichita and Oklahoma City. The peer communities have had decreases in the number of speech-language pathologists, with the exception of Grand Rapids.

The concentration of speech-language pathologists in Wichita has decreased over the past five years. Wichita is the only metropolitan area in Kansas to have decreased in concentration. However, many of the peer communities have decreased in the concentration of this occupation.

### Speech-Language Pathologists

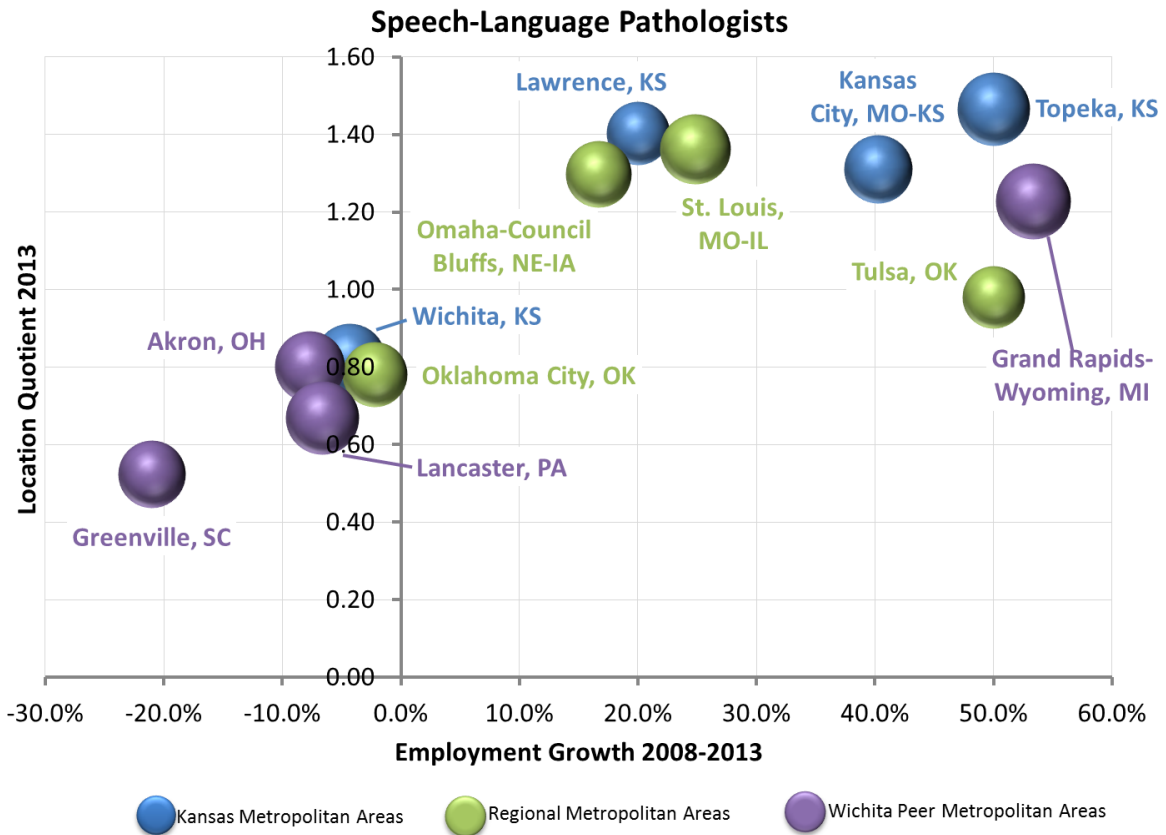
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	220	▼ -4.3%	0.82	▼ -0.13	\$73,590	99.5%	▲ 11.6%
	Lawrence, KS	60	▲ 20.0%	1.40	▲ 0.06	\$57,910	78.3%	▲ 3.1%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,220	▲ 40.2%	1.31	▲ 0.23	\$67,560	91.3%	▲ 1.3%
	Topeka, KS	150	▲ 50.0%	1.47	▲ 0.31	\$75,950	102.7%	▲ 9.8%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	440	▼ -2.2%	0.78	▼ -0.21	\$61,320	82.9%	▼ -0.8%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	560	▲ 16.7%	1.30	▼ -0.02	\$63,330	85.6%	▲ 12.3%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	1,660	▲ 24.8%	1.36	▲ 0.12	\$71,750	97.0%	▲ 5.8%
	Tulsa, OK	390	▲ 50.0%	0.98	▲ 0.22	\$56,900	76.9%	▲ 6.8%
Peer	Akron, OH	240	▼ -7.7%	0.80	▼ -0.18	\$71,300	96.4%	▼ -11.5%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	460	▲ 53.3%	1.23	▲ 0.25	\$82,340	111.3%	▲ 1.0%
	Greenville, SC	150	▼ -21.1%	0.52	▼ -0.24	\$65,220	88.2%	▲ 8.5%
	Lancaster, PA	140	▼ -6.7%	0.67	▼ -0.14	\$77,130	104.3%	▲ 7.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a speech-language pathologist was \$73,970, up 12 percent from 2008. The average wage of speech-language pathologists in Wichita was slightly below the national average in 2013 and increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

<sup>2</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

<sup>3</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook



## Dietitians and Nutritionists

Dietitians and nutritionists plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. They may supervise activities of a department providing quantity food services, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research.<sup>4</sup> Most dietitians and nutritionists have a bachelor’s degree and many states require dietitians and nutritionists to be licensed.

Nationally, the number of dietitians and nutritionists has grown by 12.9 percent between 2008 and 2013. However, this occupation is projected to grow by 21 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>5</sup> This occupation has also grown strongly in Wichita over the past five years, as well as in many of the areas examined. Within the state, the exception to strong growth in this occupation is Kansas City, which has a low and declining concentration of dietitians and nutritionists.

<sup>4</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

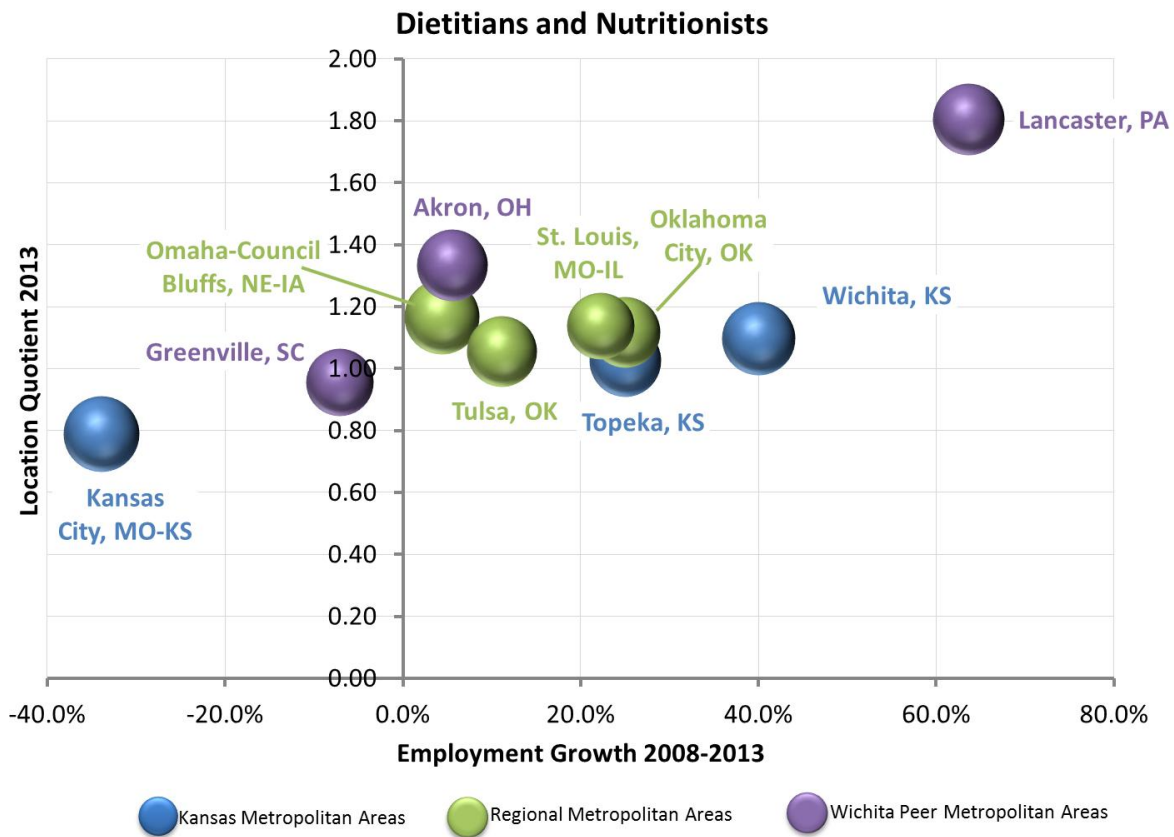
<sup>5</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Dietitians and Nutritionists

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	140	▲ 40.0%	1.10	▲ 0.27	\$53,330	94.7%	▼ -8.6%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	350	▼ -34.0%	0.79	▼ -0.53	\$56,480	100.3%	▲ 17.8%
	Topeka, KS	50	▲ 25.0%	1.03	▲ 0.10	\$51,200	90.9%	▼ -9.3%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	300	▲ 25.0%	1.12	▲ 0.06	\$49,040	87.1%	▲ 5.5%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	240	▲ 4.3%	1.17	▼ -0.10	\$55,990	99.4%	▲ 0.5%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	660	▲ 22.2%	1.14	▲ 0.13	\$44,340	78.8%	▼ -12.1%
	Tulsa, OK	200	▲ 11.1%	1.06	▲ 0.01	\$49,240	87.5%	▼ -23.8%
Peer	Akron, OH	190	▲ 5.6%	1.33	▼ -0.03	\$49,970	88.8%	▼ -2.0%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	210	**	1.18	**	\$54,090	96.1%	▲ 5.9%
	Greenville, SC	130	▼ -7.1%	0.96	▼ -0.18	\$44,870	79.7%	▼ -7.3%
	Lancaster, PA	180	▲ 63.6%	1.81	▲ 0.62	\$51,000	90.6%	▲ 9.5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a dietitian or nutritionist was \$56,300, up 5.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of a dietitian or a nutritionist in Wichita was below the national average and decreased relative to the national average, by 8.6 percent, between 2008 and 2013.



## Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. They assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Respiratory therapists initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.<sup>6</sup> Respiratory therapists typically need an associate's degree, but some have bachelor's degrees. Respiratory therapists are required to have a state license.

Nationally, the number of respiratory therapists has increased by 16.1 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 19.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>7</sup> Over the past five years, there has been a significant decrease in the number of respiratory therapists in the Wichita area, dropping by 11.5 percent. Wichita also has the lowest concentration of respiratory therapists of the areas analyzed.

### Respiratory Therapists

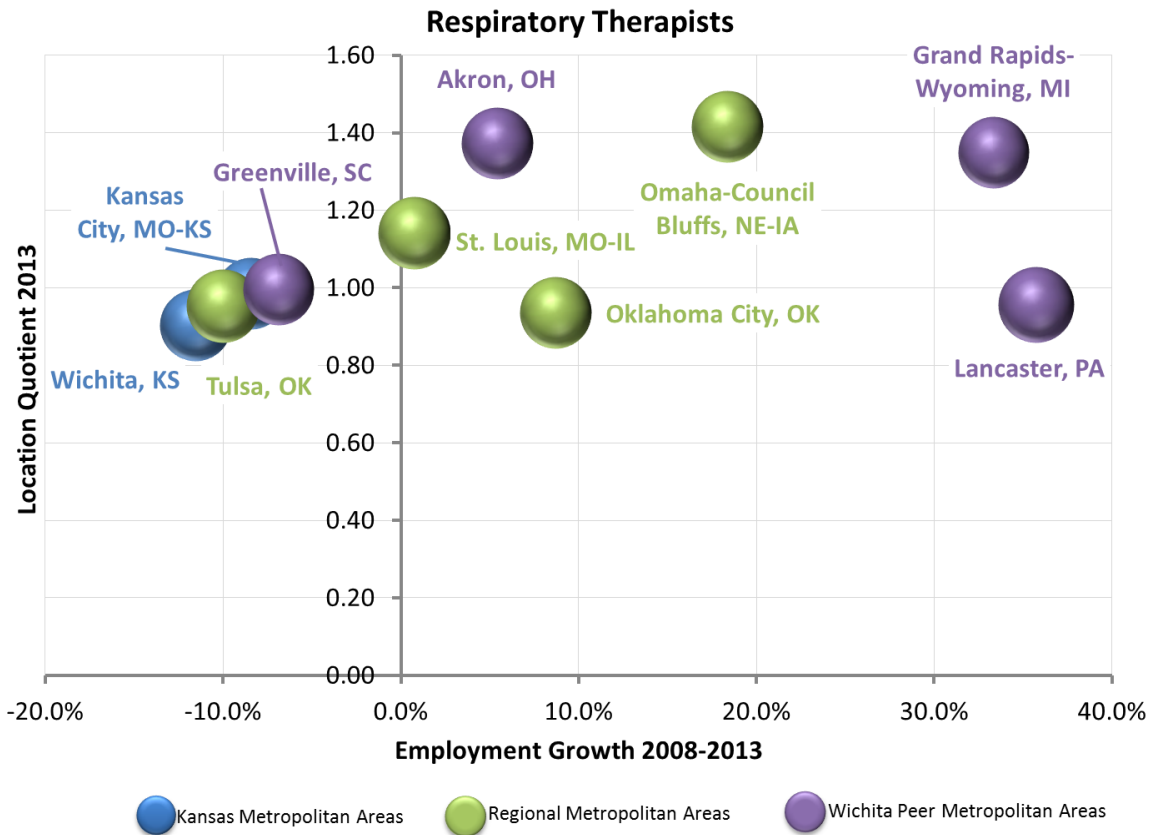
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	230	▼ -11.5%	0.90	▼ -0.21	\$51,070	88.2%	▼ -1.8%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	870	▼ -8.4%	0.99	▼ -0.23	\$50,100	86.6%	▼ -3.3%
	Topeka, KS	**	**	**	**	\$49,660	85.8%	▼ -0.4%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	500	▲ 8.7%	0.94	▼ -0.11	\$51,110	88.3%	▲ 4.2%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	580	▲ 18.4%	1.42	▲ 0.03	\$51,290	88.6%	▼ -5.7%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	1,320	▲ 0.8%	1.14	▼ -0.13	\$51,920	89.7%	▼ -3.0%
	Tulsa, OK	360	▼ -10.0%	0.95	▼ -0.25	\$53,390	92.2%	▬ 0.0%
Peer	Akron, OH	390	▲ 5.4%	1.37	▼ -0.07	\$51,150	88.4%	▲ 0.7%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	480	▲ 33.3%	1.35	▲ 0.13	\$50,450	87.2%	▼ -6.3%
	Greenville, SC	270	▼ -6.9%	1.00	▼ -0.21	\$50,710	87.6%	▲ 1.0%
	Lancaster, PA	190	▲ 35.7%	0.96	▲ 0.18	\$56,990	98.5%	▼ -4.0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of a respiratory therapist was \$57,880, up 8.9 percent from 2008. The average wage of respiratory therapists in Wichita remained below the national average and decreased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

<sup>6</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

<sup>7</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook



## Occupational Therapists

Occupational therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills, as well as general independence, to persons with disabilities or developmental delays.<sup>8</sup> Occupational therapists typically have a master’s degree in occupational therapy. All states require occupational therapists to be licensed or registered.

Nationally, the number of occupational therapists increased by 16.3 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 29.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>9</sup> Over the past five years, the number of occupational therapists in Wichita has decreased by 23.8 percent, the only metropolitan area in the state to see a decrease in employment in this occupation. Wichita has one of the lowest concentrations of occupational therapists of all of the areas analyzed.

<sup>8</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

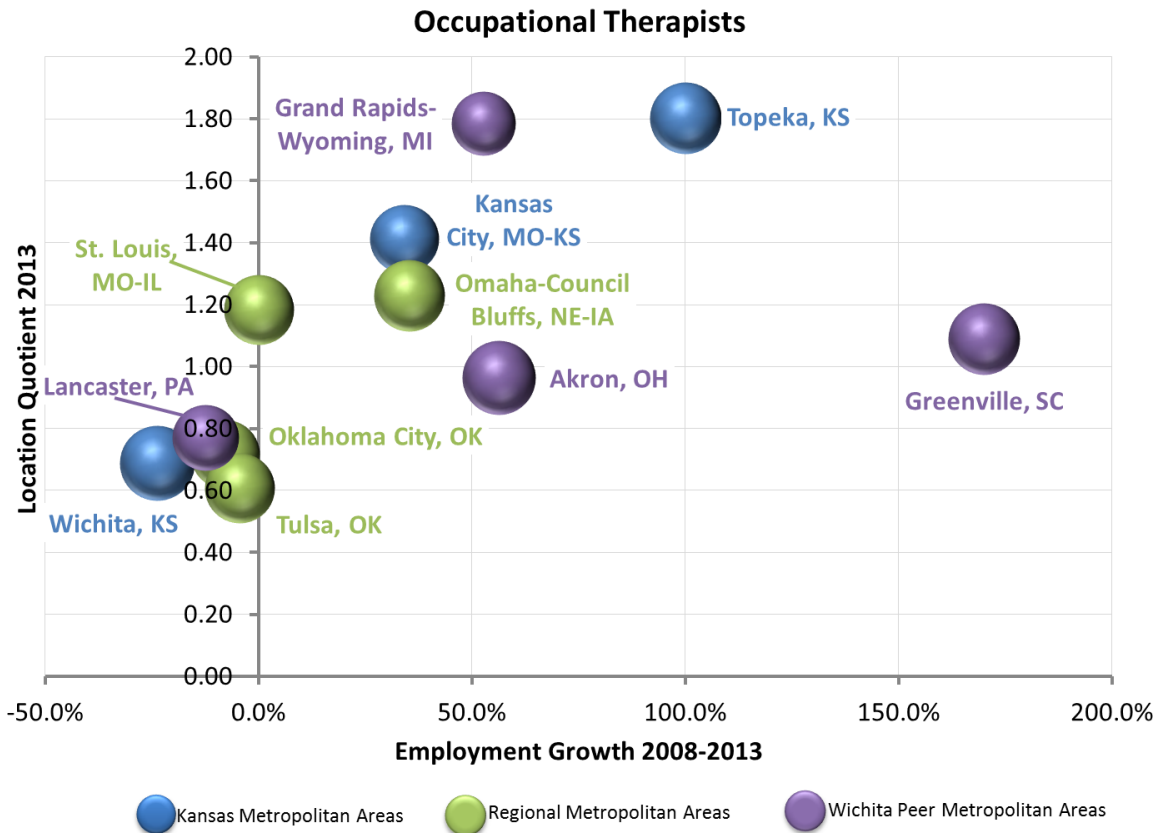
<sup>9</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Occupational Therapists

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	160	▼ -23.8%	0.69	▼ -0.30	\$83,640	107.4%	▲ 9.4%
	Lawrence, KS	40	**	1.08	▲ 1.08	\$75,500	96.9%	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,140	▲ 34.1%	1.41	▲ 0.22	\$68,740	88.3%	▼ -4.5%
	Topeka, KS	160	▲ 100.0%	1.80	▲ 0.76	\$75,480	96.9%	▲ 0.5%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	350	▼ -7.9%	0.72	▼ -0.23	\$68,850	88.4%	▼ -6.7%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	460	▲ 35.3%	1.23	▲ 0.17	\$74,040	95.1%	▲ 9.6%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	1,250	▬ 0.0%	1.18	▼ -0.14	\$71,050	91.2%	▲ 2.3%
	Tulsa, OK	210	▼ -4.5%	0.61	▼ -0.11	\$71,590	91.9%	▲ 4.9%
Peer	Akron, OH	250	▲ 56.3%	0.96	▲ 0.28	\$79,570	102.2%	▲ 0.6%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	580	▲ 52.6%	1.79	▲ 0.38	\$59,630	76.6%	▼ -14.2%
	Greenville, SC	270	▲ 170.0%	1.09	▲ 0.63	\$75,460	96.9%	▲ 1.9%
	Lancaster, PA	140	▼ -12.5%	0.77	▼ -0.21	\$63,870	82.0%	▼ -12.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of occupational therapists was \$77,890, up 14.7 percent from 2008. The average wage of an occupational therapist in Wichita was above the national average and increased 9.4 percent relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.





## Occupational Therapy Assistants

Occupational therapy assistants assist help occupational therapists provide treatments and do procedures. They may, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments. This occupation generally requires formal training.<sup>10</sup> Occupational therapy assistants need an associate's degree and in most states must be licensed.

Nationally, the number of occupational therapy assistants increased by 20.8 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 41.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>11</sup> Over the past five years, the number of occupational therapy assistants in Wichita has increased 100.0 percent, although the concentration of occupational therapy assistants in the area is still somewhat below the national average.

### Occupational Therapy Assistants

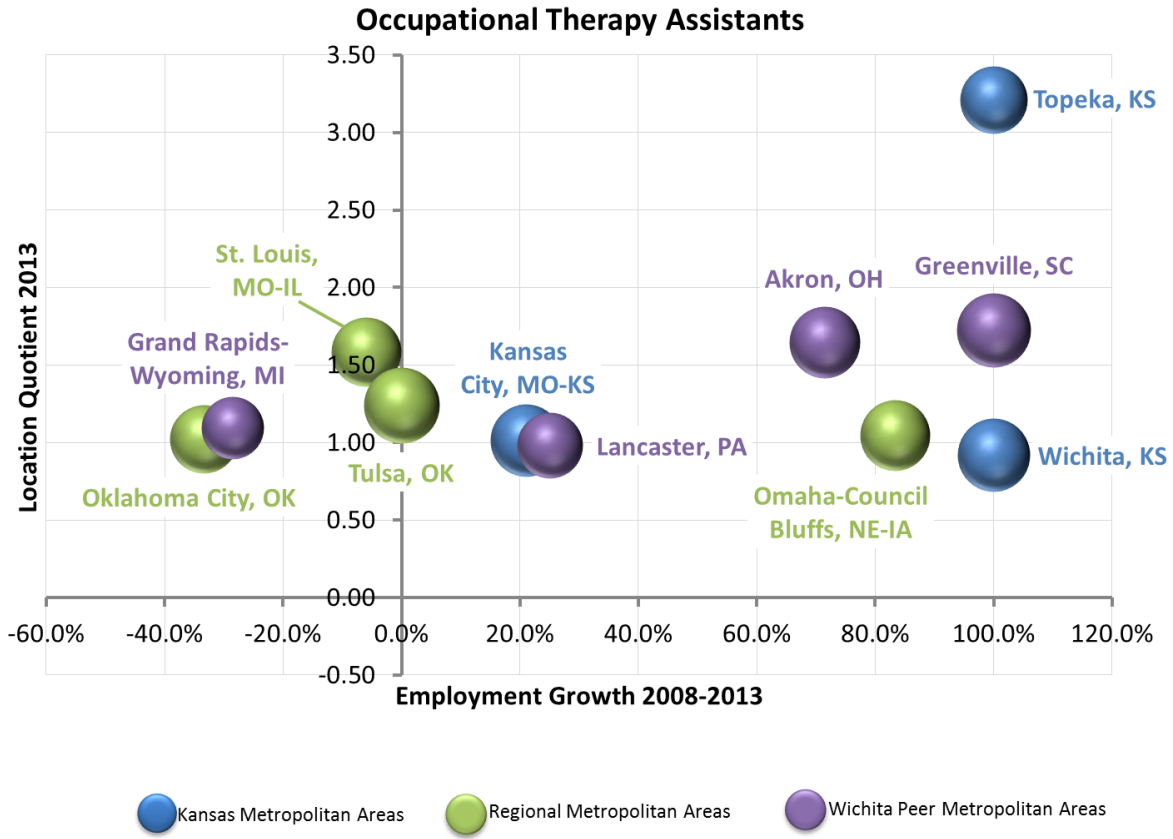
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		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	60	▲ 100.0%	0.92	▲ 0.40	\$57,090	103.3%	▲ 16.1%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	230	▲ 21.1%	1.02	▲ 0.03	\$55,510	100.5%	▲ 2.9%
	Topeka, KS	80	**	3.21	**	\$49,000	88.7%	**
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	140	▼ -33.3%	1.02	▼ -0.91	\$49,720	90.0%	▼ -18.5%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	110	▲ 83.3%	1.05	▲ 0.36	\$52,610	95.2%	▼ -0.6%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	470	▼ -6.0%	1.58	▼ -0.38	\$51,680	93.5%	▲ 0.4%
	Tulsa, OK	120	▬ 0.0%	1.24	▼ -0.22	\$61,050	110.5%	▲ 29.5%
Peer	Akron, OH	120	▲ 71.4%	1.65	▲ 0.54	\$53,850	97.5%	▬ 0.0%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	100	▼ -28.6%	1.10	▼ -0.82	\$41,110	74.4%	▼ -10.7%
	Greenville, SC	120	**	1.72	**	\$57,760	104.5%	▲ 2.0%
	Lancaster, PA	50	▲ 25.0%	0.98	▲ 0.08	\$46,470	84.1%	▲ 1.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014 - \*\*Data not available

In 2013 the national average wage of occupational therapy assistants was \$55,250, up 14.1 percent from 2008. The average wage of an occupational therapy assistant in Wichita was above the national average and increased 16.1 percent relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

<sup>10</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

<sup>11</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook



CEDBR has this occupation data available for many occupations and areas.

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