



Dental Occupation Employment
Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area
July 2014

Prepared by
Center for Economic Development and Business Research
W. Frank Barton School of Business
Wichita State University

Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS 67260-0121
Telephone: (316) 978-3225 Fax: (316) 978-3950 www.cedbr.org

Dental occupation employment in the Wichita metropolitan area has varied significantly across the occupations for which data is available.¹ Although these occupations account for a very small fraction of the local labor force, approximately 1,700 workers, they provide valuable services to the community. There were 205 dental offices in the Wichita metropolitan area in 2013.²

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 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 indicate 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 dentists and dental assistants is below the national average with location quotients of 0.68 and 0.90, respectively. The concentration of dentists has improved over the past five years, while the concentration of dental assistants has declined. The concentration of dental hygienists in the Wichita area is somewhat above the national average and has improved slightly over the past five years.

Wichita, KS

	Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
General Dentists	140	▲ 16.7%	0.68	▲ 0.06	\$177,730	108.0%	▼ -17.1%
Dental Hygienists	460	▲ 7.0%	1.12	▲ 0.01	\$66,650	93.2%	▲ 4.7%
Dental Assistants	600	▼ -15.5%	0.90	▼ -0.17	\$34,510	96.8%	▲ 0.8%

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

¹The 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.

²Bureau of Labor Statistics – Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

General Dentists

General dentists examine, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums. They may also treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene and retention of teeth. In some cases general dentists may fit dental appliances or provide preventive care.³ However, this data excludes prosthodontists, orthodontists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Information on dental specialties is not available for the Wichita area.

Nationally, the number of dentists has grown by 13.7 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 16.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.⁴ The number of dentists in most of the metropolitan areas analyzed has increased in the past five years. The exceptions are Oklahoma City and Lancaster, which experienced decreases of 6.1 percent and 25.0 percent, respectively.

Although there have generally been increases in the number of dentists, growth in the occupation has not been sufficient to sustain an average concentration of dentists in most areas. Consequently, there continues to be a shortage of dentists in those areas. Four out of the seven metropolitan areas in the region, including those in Kansas, have a concentration of dentists below the national average. Of the four areas in the region with a below average concentration of dentists, only Wichita has had an increase in concentration over the past five years.

Of the five peer communities analyzed, which includes Wichita, only one, Greenville, has a concentration of dentists above the national average. Concentrations among the peer group have both increased and decreased over the past five years.

General Dentists

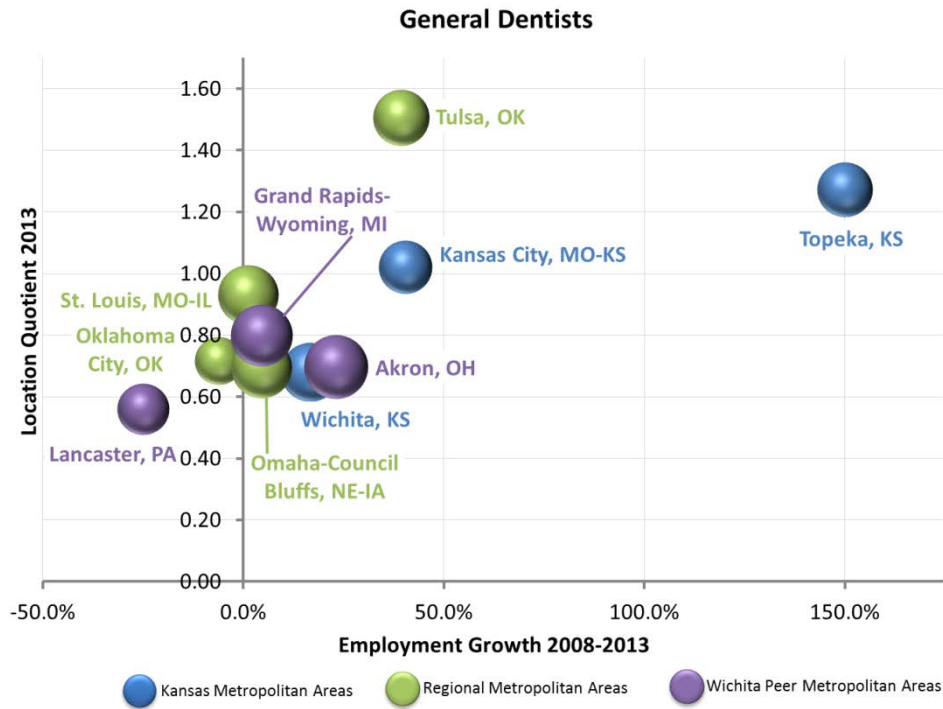
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	140	▲ 16.7%	0.68	▲ 0.06	\$177,730	108.0%	▼ -17.1%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	730	▲ 40.4%	1.02	▲ 0.22	\$145,140	88.2%	▼ -15.5%
	Topeka, KS	100	▲ 150.0%	1.27	▲ 0.70	\$154,600	93.9%	▼ -4.5%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	310	▼ -6.1%	0.72	▼ -0.19	\$118,790	72.2%	▼ -15.2%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	230	▲ 4.5%	0.69	▼ -0.06	\$187,390	113.9%	▲ 1.8%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	870	▲ 1.2%	0.93	▼ -0.08	\$185,040	112.4%	▼ -2.4%
	Tulsa, OK	460	▲ 39.4%	1.51	▲ 0.31	\$162,360	98.7%	▲ 12.2%
Peer	Akron, OH	160	▲ 23.1%	0.70	▲ 0.08	\$208,260	126.5%	▲ 9.0%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	230	▲ 4.5%	0.80	▼ -0.10	\$198,420	120.6%	▲ 18.9%
	Greenville, SC	240	**	1.09	**	**	**	**
	Lancaster, PA	90	▼ -25.0%	0.56	▼ -0.25	\$136,170	82.7%	**

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a dentist was \$164,570, up 6.7 percent from 2008. The average wage of a dentist in Wichita remained above the national average; however, it declined relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In five out of the nine metropolitan areas analyzed, dentists experienced a decline in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

³Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook



Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. They also may educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop X-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.⁵ Dental hygienists typically work independently from dentists, but under their supervision. Dental hygienists may have an associate's or bachelor's degree and require a state license to practice.

Nationally, the number of dental hygienists has increased by 13.0 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 33.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.⁶ Over the past five years, the number of dental hygienists in the Wichita area grew by 7.0 percent. There has been a wide range of employment growth in this occupation across the state, region and peer communities, ranging from an increase of 70.6 percent in Omaha to a loss of 15.6 percent in Tulsa.

Metropolitan areas in Kansas, with the exception of Kansas City, have an above average concentration of dental hygienists. However, within the region, including Kansas, only half of the metropolitan areas have an above average concentration of dental hygienists. Among the peer areas, only Greenville does not have at least the national average concentration of hygienists.

⁵Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

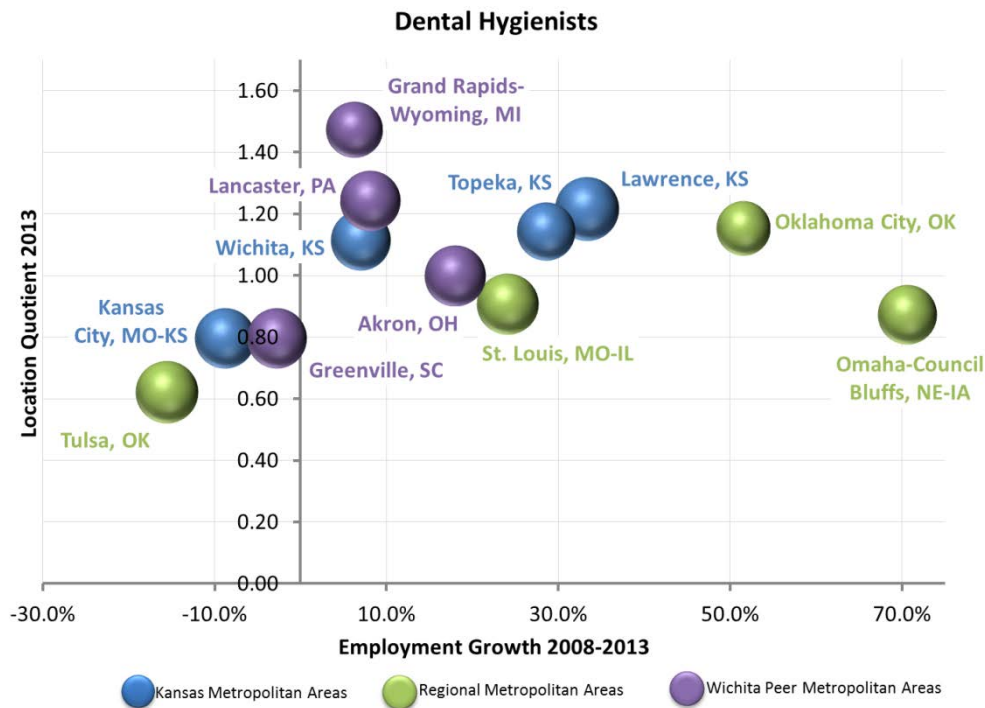
⁶Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

Dental Hygienists

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	460	▲ 7.0%	1.12	▲ 0.01	\$66,650	93.2%	▲ 4.7%
	Lawrence, KS	80	▲ 33.3%	1.22	▲ 0.22	\$74,460	104.1%	▲ 12.1%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,140	▼ -8.8%	0.80	▼ -0.16	\$67,240	94.0%	▼ -12.7%
	Topeka, KS	180	▲ 28.6%	1.14	▲ 0.14	\$62,200	87.0%	▼ -19.3%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	1,000	▲ 51.5%	1.15	▲ 0.26	\$54,300	75.9%	▼ -9.2%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	580	▲ 70.6%	0.87	▲ 0.30	\$64,130	89.7%	▼ -12.1%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	1,700	▲ 24.1%	0.91	▲ 0.11	\$68,910	96.3%	▲ 5.6%
	Tulsa, OK	380	▼ -15.6%	0.62	▼ -0.19	\$71,590	100.1%	▲ 2.5%
Peer	Akron, OH	460	▲ 17.9%	1.00	▲ 0.09	\$68,050	95.1%	▲ 3.2%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	850	▲ 6.3%	1.47	▼ -0.15	\$58,240	81.4%	▼ -3.2%
	Greenville, SC	350	▼ -2.8%	0.80	▼ -0.10	\$66,390	92.8%	▲ 17.5%
	Lancaster, PA	400	▲ 8.1%	1.24	■ 0.00	\$66,400	92.8%	▲ 10.6%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of dental hygienists was \$71,530, up 6.8 percent from 2008. The average wage of dental hygienists in Wichita remained below the national average; however, increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In seven out of the 12 metropolitan areas analyzed dental hygienists experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



Dental Assistants

Dental assistants set up equipment, prepare patients for treatment, and keep records. They also assist dentists during dental procedures.⁷ Dental assistants are not required to be licensed in Kansas, but this requirement varies by state. Dental assistants may train on the job or receive formal vocational training.

Nationally, the number of dental assistants has increased by 7.5 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 25.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.⁸ Over the past five years, there have been decreases in the number of dental assistants in the region, including Kansas. The only metropolitan area in the region to have an increase in the number of dental assistants was Oklahoma City.

Between 2008 and 2013 Wichita and Topeka dropped below the national average in the concentration of dental assistants. All metropolitan areas in the region, including those in Kansas, declined in the concentration of dental assistants.

Among Wichita's peer communities, only Wichita and Grand Rapids have seen declines in the number of dental assistants and the concentration of dental assistants in the work force. Akron and Lancaster have had increases in both employment and concentration. Greenville had an increase in the number of dental assistants, but has declined in concentration.

Dental Assistants

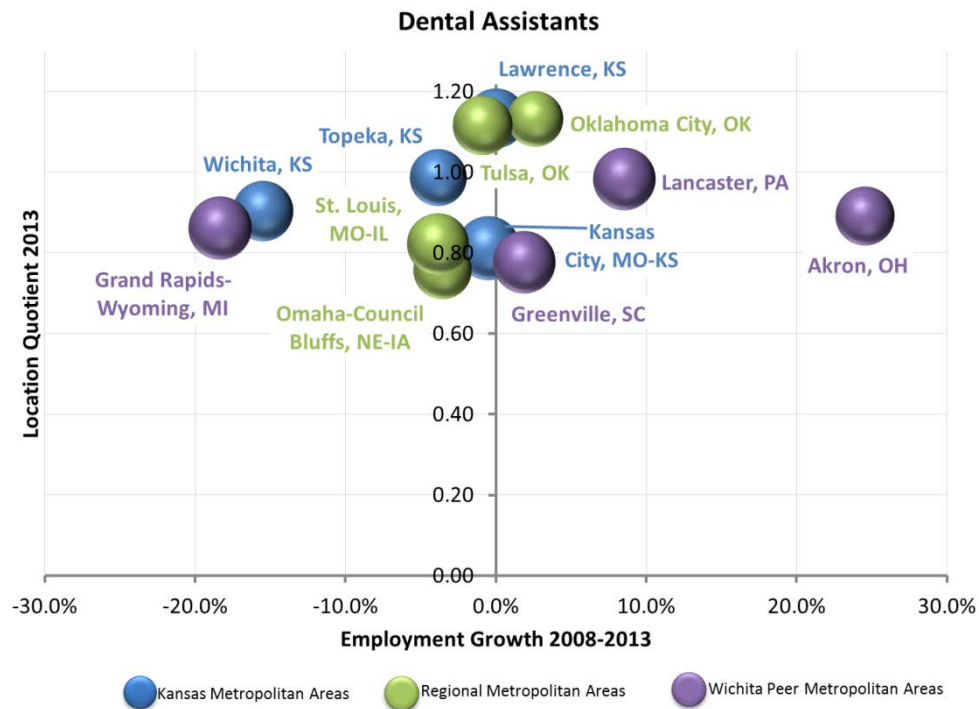
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	600	▼ -15.5%	0.90	▼ -0.17	\$34,510	96.8%	▲ 0.8%
	Lawrence, KS	120	▬ 0.0%	1.13	▼ -0.04	\$33,820	94.9%	▼ -9.3%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,870	▼ -0.5%	0.81	▼ -0.04	\$38,280	107.4%	▲ 3.8%
	Topeka, KS	250	▼ -3.8%	0.99	▼ -0.11	\$30,530	85.7%	▼ -0.7%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	1,580	▲ 2.6%	1.13	▼ -0.11	\$29,290	82.2%	▼ -8.7%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	810	▼ -3.6%	0.76	▼ -0.09	\$31,840	89.3%	▼ -5.3%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,480	▼ -3.9%	0.82	▼ -0.06	\$35,560	99.8%	▼ -6.0%
	Tulsa, OK	1,100	▼ -0.9%	1.12	▼ -0.06	\$33,400	93.7%	▲ 9.8%
Peer	Akron, OH	660	▲ 24.5%	0.89	▲ 0.16	\$32,770	91.9%	▼ -5.5%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	800	▼ -18.4%	0.86	▼ -0.31	\$37,250	104.5%	▼ -4.0%
	Greenville, SC	550	▲ 1.9%	0.78	▼ -0.02	\$36,660	102.9%	▲ 14.9%
	Lancaster, PA	510	▲ 8.5%	0.98	▲ 0.05	\$36,570	102.6%	▲ 2.9%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a dental assistant was \$35,640, up 7.4 percent from 2008. The average wage of dental assistants in Wichita remained below the national average; however, increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In five out of the 12 metropolitan areas analyzed, dental assistants experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

⁷Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

⁸Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook



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

For additional information you may contact us at:

(316) 978-3225

Or

cedbr@wichita.edu