



# **Physical Therapy Occupations Employment**

**Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area**

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Employment in physical 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 750 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 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 employment in the physical therapy occupations is below the national average, with the exception of massage therapists. This indicates there may be a shortage of workers in these occupations.

### Wichita, KS

	Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Physical Therapists	360	▼ -5.3%	0.86	▼ -0.15	\$75,430	91.8%	▼ -5.2%
Physical Therapist Assistants	150	▲ 36.4%	0.96	▲ 0.17	\$69,530	130.4%	▲ 37.8%
Physical Therapist Aides	50	▼ -54.5%	0.48	▼ -0.62	\$23,040	88.6%	▼ -1.4%
Massage Therapists	200	▲ 66.7%	1.18	▲ 0.14	\$25,210	62.4%	▼ -23.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014

<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.

## Physical Therapists

Physical therapists assess, plan, organize and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.<sup>2</sup> Physical therapists are required to have a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and a license to practice.

Nationally, the number of physical therapists has grown by 18.9 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 36.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>3</sup> Within the region, including Kansas, there has not been strong growth in this occupation, with the exceptions of Kansas City and Omaha. The peer communities have had growth in this occupation that is more comparable to the national growth rate.

The concentration of physical therapists in the metropolitan areas of Kansas has decreased over the past five years. Topeka continues to have a high concentration of physical therapists, although it has decreased. Kansas City has increased in the number of physical therapists, but not enough to keep pace with the overall labor pool. Across the region, only Omaha has had an increase in growth, and in the concentration, of physical therapists.

### Physical Therapists

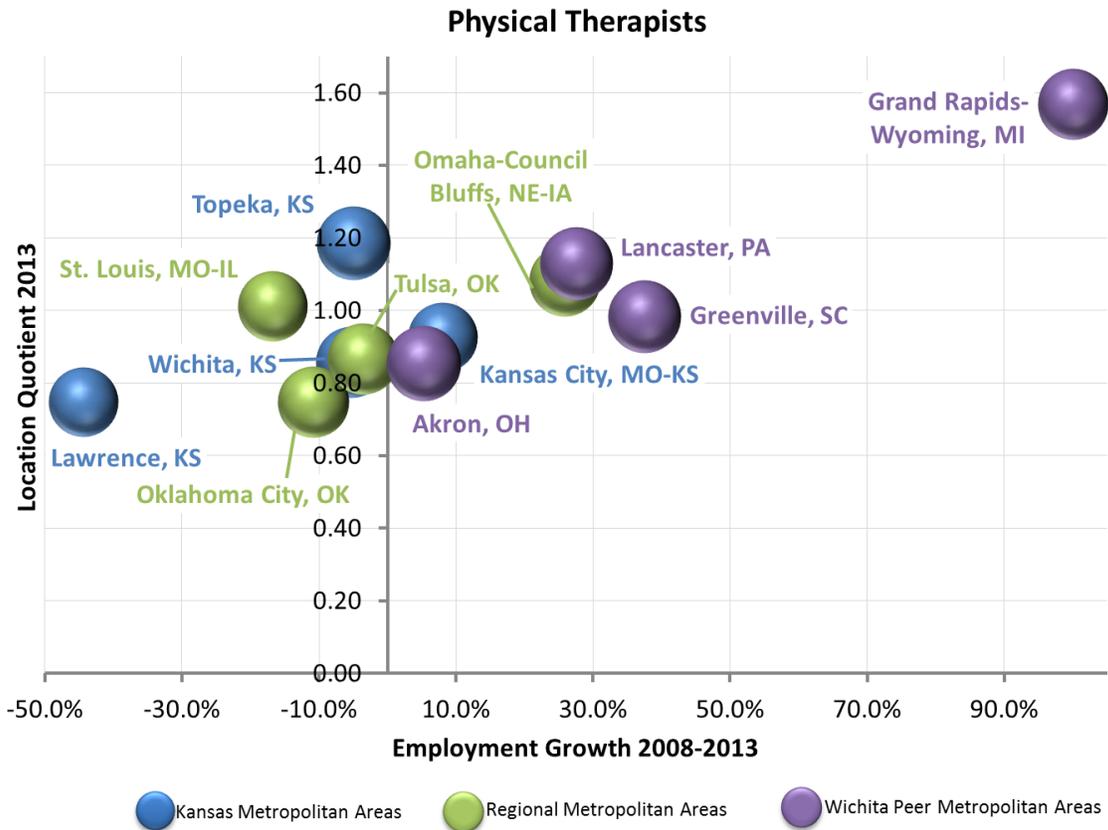
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	360	▼ -5.3%	0.86	▼ -0.15	\$75,430	91.8%	▼ -5.2%
	Lawrence, KS	50	▼ -44.4%	0.75	▼ -0.80	\$70,630	85.9%	▲ 7.3%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	1,350	▲ 8.0%	0.93	▼ -0.07	\$71,490	87.0%	▼ -1.4%
	Topeka, KS	190	▼ -5.0%	1.19	▼ -0.29	\$79,790	97.1%	▲ 21.7%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	660	▼ -10.8%	0.75	▼ -0.29	\$74,600	90.8%	▼ -7.6%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	730	▲ 25.9%	1.08	▲ 0.06	\$74,610	90.8%	▲ 3.6%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	1,930	▼ -16.8%	1.01	▼ -0.38	\$72,050	87.7%	▲ 4.7%
	Tulsa, OK	540	▼ -3.6%	0.87	▼ -0.18	\$75,450	91.8%	▲ 9.6%
Peer	Akron, OH	400	▲ 5.3%	0.85	▼ -0.07	\$83,280	101.3%	▼ -5.9%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	920	▲ 100.0%	1.57	▲ 0.60	\$73,670	89.6%	▼ -5.7%
	Greenville, SC	440	▲ 37.5%	0.98	▲ 0.16	\$77,730	94.6%	▲ 2.2%
	Lancaster, PA	370	▲ 27.6%	1.13	▲ 0.12	\$78,140	95.1%	▼ -12.2%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a physical therapist was \$82,180, up 10 percent from 2008. The average wage of physical therapists in Wichita was below the national average in 2013 and declined relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. Akron, Ohio, was the only metropolitan area analyzed with an average wage higher than the national average.

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

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



## Physical Therapist Assistants

Physical therapist assistants support physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. They may, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist.<sup>4</sup> Most states require physical therapist assistants to have an associate’s degree from an accredited physical therapist assistant program.

Nationally, the number of physical therapist assistants has grown by 19.4 percent between 2008 and 2013. However, this occupation is projected to grow by 41 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>5</sup> This occupation has also grown strongly in Kansas over the past five years, with the strongest growth being in Wichita. Although Wichita has had strong growth in this occupation over the past five years, it is the only area examined with a concentration of physical therapist assistants below the national average.

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

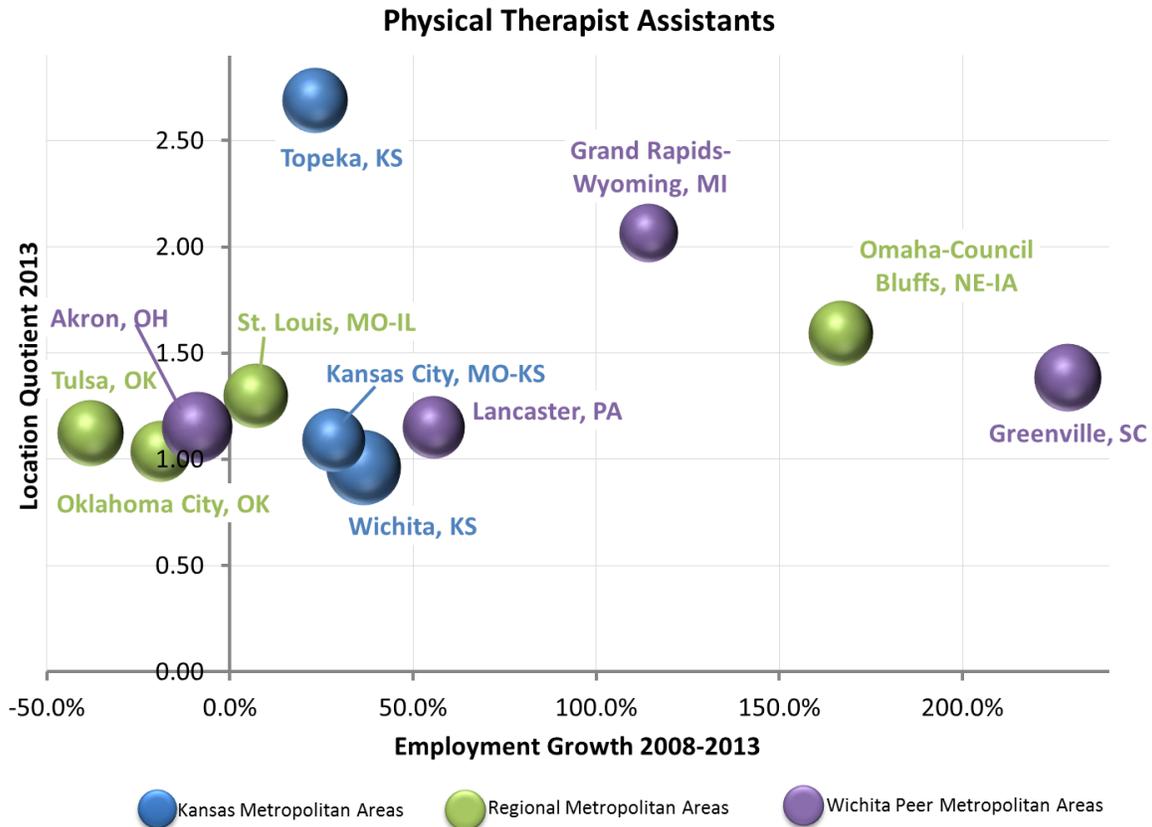
<sup>5</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Physical Therapist Assistants

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	150	▲ 36.4%	0.96	▲ 0.17	\$69,530	130.4%	▲ 37.8%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	590	▲ 28.3%	1.09	▲ 0.10	\$49,280	92.4%	▼ -6.7%
	Topeka, KS	160	▲ 23.1%	2.69	▲ 0.09	\$52,700	98.8%	▲ 7.3%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	340	▼ -19.0%	1.04	▼ -0.56	\$45,360	85.1%	▼ -6.4%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	400	▲ 166.7%	1.60	▲ 0.88	\$52,330	98.1%	▲ 12.4%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	920	▲ 7.0%	1.30	▼ -0.10	\$51,330	96.3%	▲ 3.3%
	Tulsa, OK	260	▼ -38.1%	1.13	▼ -0.99	\$54,190	101.6%	▲ 30.7%
Peer	Akron, OH	200	▼ -9.1%	1.15	▼ -0.29	\$61,690	115.7%	▲ 2.8%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	450	▲ 114.3%	2.07	▲ 0.88	\$42,670	80.0%	▼ -12.4%
	Greenville, SC	230	▲ 228.6%	1.39	▲ 0.90	\$55,260	103.6%	▲ 1.7%
	Lancaster, PA	140	▲ 55.6%	1.15	▲ 0.31	\$47,770	89.6%	▲ 1.8%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a physical therapist assistant was \$53,320, up 15.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of a physical therapist assistant in Wichita was well above the national average and increased relative to the national average, by 37.8 percent, between 2008 and 2013. In eight out of the 11 metropolitan areas analyzed, physical therapist assistants experienced an increase in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



## Physical Therapist Aides

Physical therapist aides, under close supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, perform only delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations. These duties include preparing the patient and the treatment area.<sup>6</sup> Physical therapist aides generally have a high school diploma and receive on-the-job training.

Nationally, the number of physical therapist aides has increased by 11.4 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 41.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>7</sup> Over the past five years, there has been a significant decrease in the number of physical therapist aides in the Wichita area, dropping by 54.5 percent. Across the areas analyzed there have been significant variations in the growth rates of this occupation. As with the growth rates, there are few consistencies in the level of concentration of this occupation in the metropolitan areas analyzed.

### Physical Therapist Aides

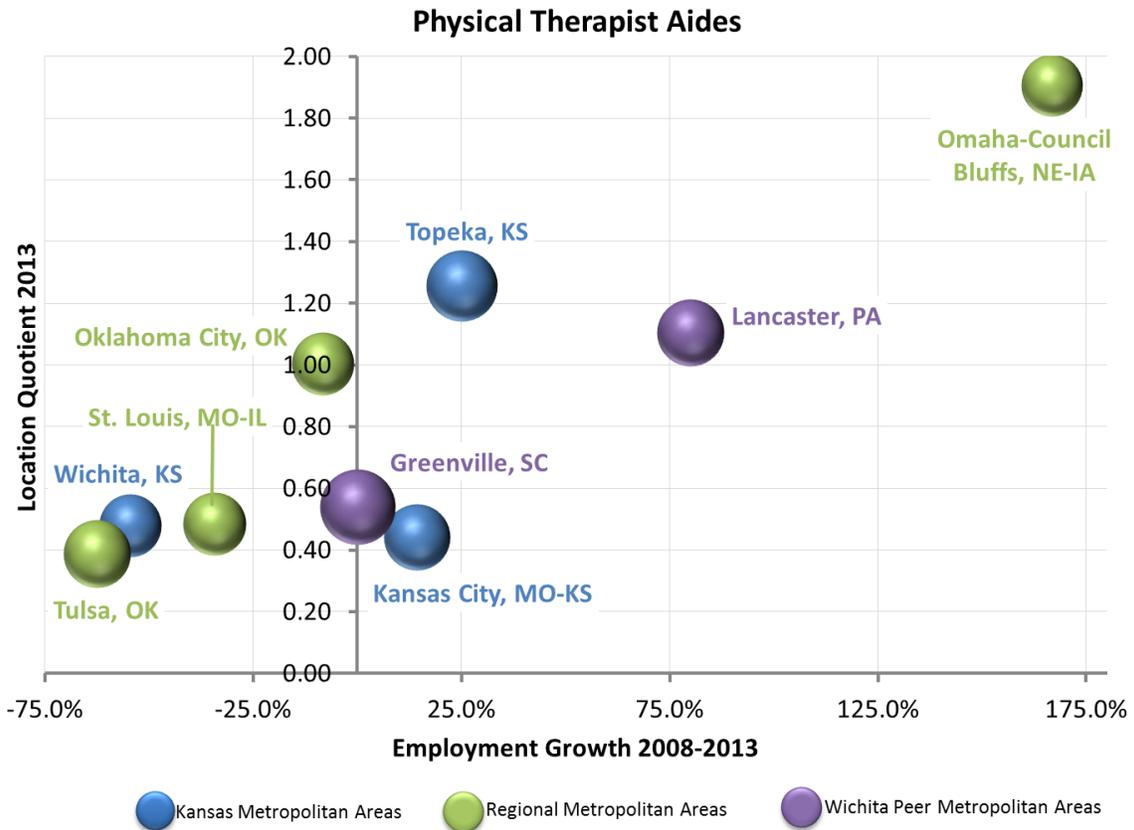
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	50	▼ -54.5%	0.48	▼ -0.62	\$23,040	88.6%	▼ -1.4%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	160	▲ 14.3%	0.44	▲ 0.02	\$26,130	100.5%	▼ -3.6%
	Topeka, KS	50	▲ 25.0%	1.26	▲ 0.14	\$29,610	113.9%	▲ 27.0%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	220	▼ -8.3%	1.00	▼ -0.27	\$22,720	87.4%	▲ 12.6%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	320	▲ 166.7%	1.91	▲ 1.11	\$22,110	85.1%	▼ -26.3%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	230	▼ -34.3%	0.49	▼ -0.31	\$23,250	89.5%	▼ -1.0%
	Tulsa, OK	60	▼ -62.5%	0.39	▼ -0.74	\$26,760	103.0%	▲ 2.9%
Peer	Akron, OH	**	**	**	**	\$21,490	82.7%	▼ -19.9%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	40	**	0.27	**	\$31,900	122.7%	▲ 18.3%
	Greenville, SC	60	▬ 0.0%	0.54	▼ -0.05	\$33,290	128.1%	▲ 11.9%
	Lancaster, PA	90	▲ 80.0%	1.11	▲ 0.45	\$26,250	101.0%	▼ -27.5%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a physical therapist aide was \$25,990, up 5.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of physical therapist aides in Wichita remained below the national average and decreased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In five out of the 11 metropolitan areas analyzed, physical therapist aides experienced an increase in wages 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



## Massage Therapists

Massage therapists perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. They may assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.<sup>8</sup>

Nationally, the number of massage therapists has increased by 56.0 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow at a rate of 23.0 percent between 2012 and 2022.<sup>9</sup> Over the past five years, the number of massage therapists in Wichita has increased by 66.7 percent, the only metropolitan area in the region to experience growth in this occupation. Wichita also has a relatively high concentration of massage therapists.

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

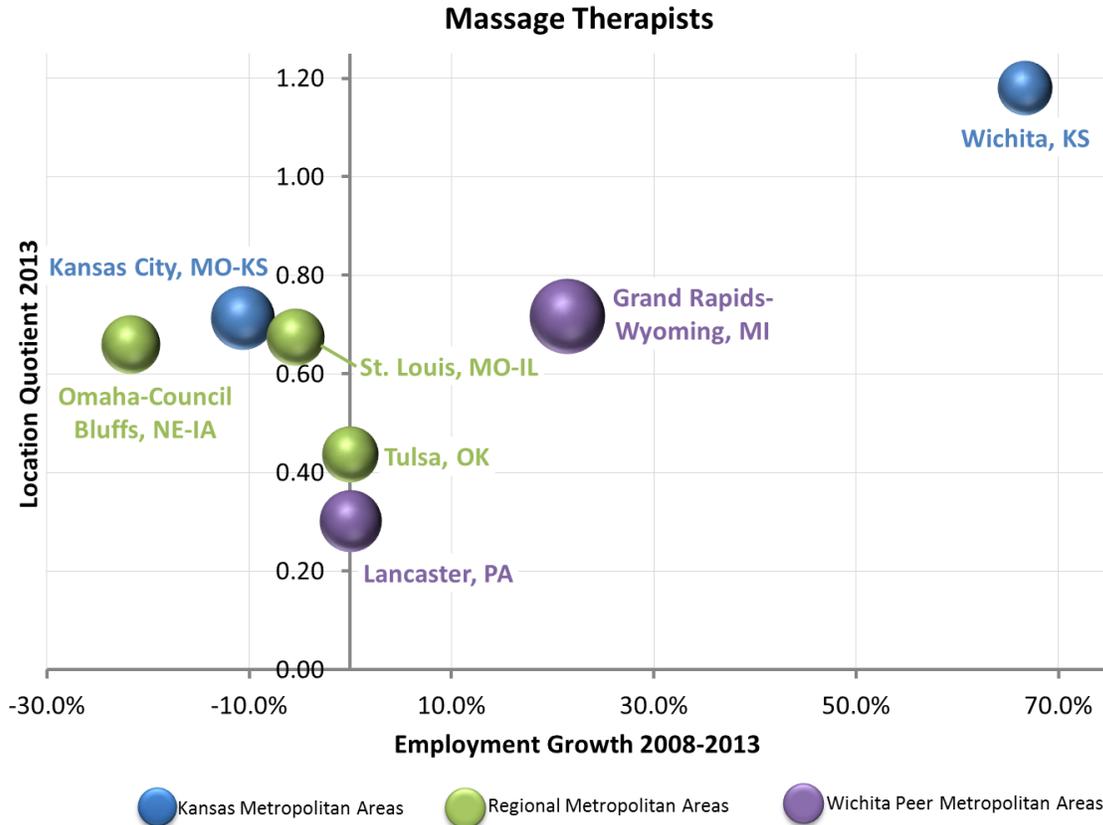
<sup>9</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Massage Therapists

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	200	▲ 66.7%	1.18	▲ 0.14	\$25,210	62.4%	▼ -23.7%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	420	▼ -10.6%	0.71	▼ -0.51	\$34,350	85.0%	▼ -9.4%
	Topeka, KS	40	**	0.62	**	\$26,380	65.3%	**
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	**	**	**	**	\$32,290	79.9%	▲ 27.5%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	180	▼ -21.7%	0.66	▼ -0.66	\$29,000	71.8%	▼ -19.9%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	520	▼ -5.5%	0.68	▼ -0.40	\$27,720	68.6%	▼ -26.9%
	Tulsa, OK	110	▬ 0.0%	0.44	▼ -0.23	\$26,420	65.4%	▼ -11.9%
Peer	Akron, OH	**	**	**	**	\$41,930	103.8%	▲ 22.8%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	170	▲ 21.4%	0.72	▼ -0.24	\$47,460	117.5%	▲ 45.9%
	Greenville, SC	230	**	1.27	**	\$30,230	74.8%	▼ -19.8%
	Lancaster, PA	40	▬ 0.0%	0.30	▼ -0.15	\$32,620	80.7%	▼ -16.5%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a massage therapist was \$40,400, up 1.0 percent from 2008. The average wage of a massage therapist in Wichita remained well below the national average and declined 23.7 percent relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013. In seven out of the 10 metropolitan areas analyzed, massage therapists experienced a decrease in wages relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



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

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