



# **Veterinarian Occupation Employment**

**Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area**

**March 2015**

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](http://www.cedbr.org)

Veterinary employment in the Wichita metropolitan area accounts for a small fraction of the local labor force, approximately 590 workers. However, 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, employment in veterinary occupations has grown significantly between 2008 and 2013. The concentration of these occupations in the Wichita area is well above the national average.

### Wichita, KS

	Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Veterinarians	150	▲ 87.5%	1.18	▲ 0.51	\$89,540	93.1%	▼ -39.4%
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	90	**	0.48	**	\$33,310	104.9%	▲ 18.9%
Vet. Assist. and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	350	▲ 66.7%	2.27	▲ 0.97	\$25,300	100.8%	▲ 21.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2014

## Veterinarians

Veterinarians diagnose, treat, or research diseases and injuries of animals. In addition to caring for pets and companion animals, veterinarians conduct research and inspect livestock.<sup>1</sup>

Nationally, the number of veterinarians has grown by 13.4 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022.<sup>2</sup> Growth in this occupation in the Wichita area has been significantly above the national average. The growth between 2008 and 2013 brought the local concentration of veterinarians above the national average.

Within Kansas, there has been mixed growth in this profession. Wichita and Kansas City have grown, while Lawrence and Topeka have seen decreases in the number of veterinarians. Lawrence has historically had an unusually high concentration of veterinarians.

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

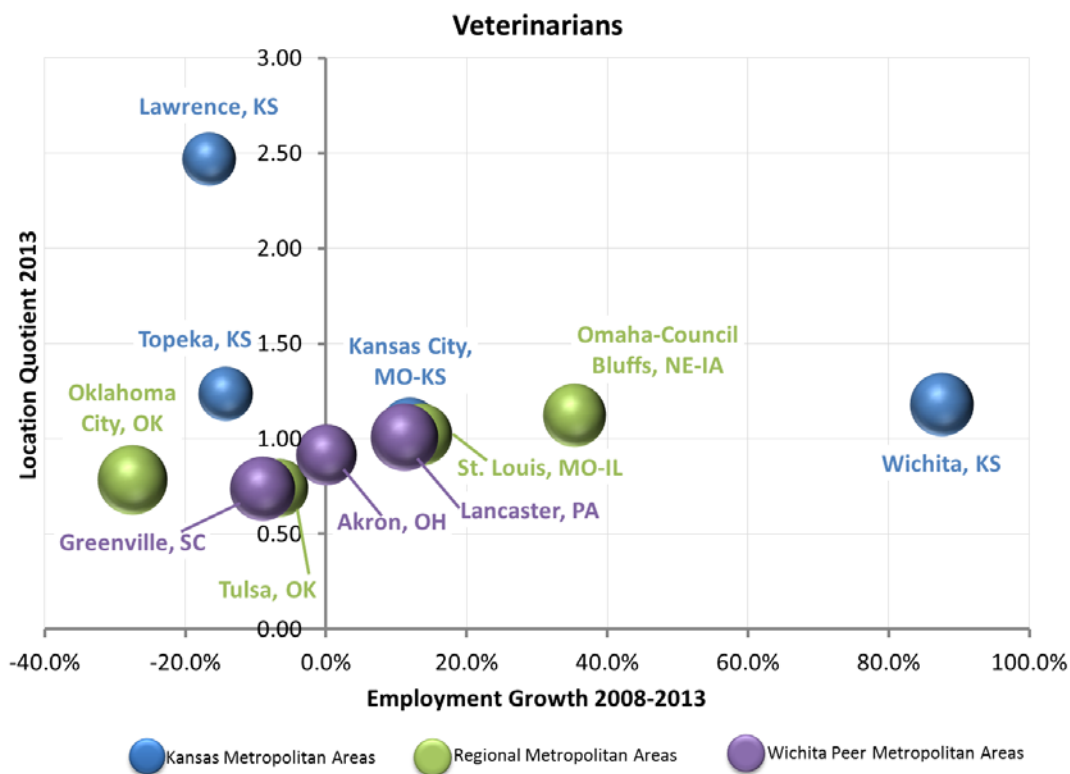
<sup>2</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Veterinarians

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	150	▲ 87.5%	1.18	▲ 0.51	\$89,540	93.1%	▼ -39.4%
	Lawrence, KS	50	▼ -16.7%	2.47	▼ -0.78	\$64,590	67.2%	▼ -16.9%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	470	▲ 11.9%	1.07	▲ 0.01	\$75,220	78.2%	▼ -13.8%
	Topeka, KS	60	▼ -14.3%	1.24	▼ -0.39	\$65,460	68.1%	▲ 2.6%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	210	▼ -27.6%	0.79	▼ -0.50	\$107,790	112.1%	▲ 38.7%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	230	▲ 35.3%	1.13	▲ 0.18	\$89,090	92.7%	▲ 21.5%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	590	▲ 13.5%	1.02	▲ 0.04	\$86,100	89.6%	▲ 4.5%
	Tulsa, OK	140	▼ -6.7%	0.74	▼ -0.14	\$73,670	76.6%	▼ -8.5%
Peer	Akron, OH	130	▬ 0.0%	0.92	▼ -0.08	\$83,030	86.4%	▼ -6.9%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	**	**	**	**	\$85,460	88.9%	▼ -2.6%
	Greenville, SC	100	▼ -9.1%	0.74	▼ -0.16	\$92,790	96.5%	▼ -7.5%
	Lancaster, PA	100	▲ 11.1%	1.01	▲ 0.03	\$101,020	105.1%	▲ 19.5%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a veterinarian was \$96,140, up 7.5 percent from 2008. The average wage of a veterinarian in Wichita was below the national average in 2013 and decreased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



## Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

Veterinary technologists and technicians perform medical tests in a laboratory environment for use in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases in animals. They prepare vaccines and serums for prevention of diseases and prepare tissue samples, take blood samples, and execute laboratory tests, such as urinalysis and blood counts. Veterinary technologists and technicians also clean and sterilize instruments and materials and maintain equipment and machines. They may also assist a veterinarian during surgery.<sup>3</sup>

Nationally, the number of veterinary technologists and technicians has grown by 13.4 percent between 2008 and 2013. This occupation is projected to grow 30 percent from 2012 to 2022.

### Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	90	**	0.48	**	\$33,310	104.9%	▲ 18.9%
	Lawrence, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	450	▼ -16.7%	0.69	▼ -0.22	\$32,480	102.3%	▲ 0.5%
	Topeka, KS	80	▲ 100.0%	1.11	▲ 0.49	\$25,020	78.8%	▲ 8.3%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	220	▼ -29.0%	0.56	▼ -0.37	\$30,010	94.5%	▲ 4.4%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	240	**	0.79	**	\$30,320	95.5%	▼ -1.5%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	720	▲ 140.0%	0.84	▲ 0.46	\$29,430	92.7%	▼ -3.2%
	Tulsa, OK	400	▲ 207.7%	1.43	▲ 0.92	\$26,380	83.1%	▼ -1.7%
Peer	Akron, OH	130	▼ -27.8%	0.62	▼ -0.31	\$31,150	98.1%	▲ 0.3%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	220	▲ 37.5%	0.84	▲ 0.12	\$30,710	96.7%	▲ 1.3%
	Greenville, SC	210	▲ 5.0%	1.05	▼ -0.05	\$32,280	101.6%	▲ 0.3%
	Lancaster, PA	130	▼ -7.1%	0.88	▼ -0.14	\$32,050	100.9%	▲ 2.5%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a veterinary technologist or technician was \$31,760, up 6.3 percent from 2008. The average wage of a veterinary technologist or technician in Wichita was above the national average in 2013 and increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.

## Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers

Veterinary assistants feed, water, and examine pets and other nonfarm animals for signs of illness, disease, or injury in laboratories and animal hospitals and clinics. They clean and disinfect cages and work areas, and sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment. They may provide routine post-operative care, administer medication orally or topically, or prepare samples for laboratory examination under the supervision of veterinary or laboratory animal technologists or technicians, veterinarians, or scientists.<sup>4</sup>

Nationally, the number of veterinary assistant has grown by 1.7 percent between 2008 and 2013. This occupation is projected to grow 10 percent from 2012 to 2022. There has been significant growth in the number of veterinary assistants in the Wichita area, bringing the concentration well above the national

<sup>3</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

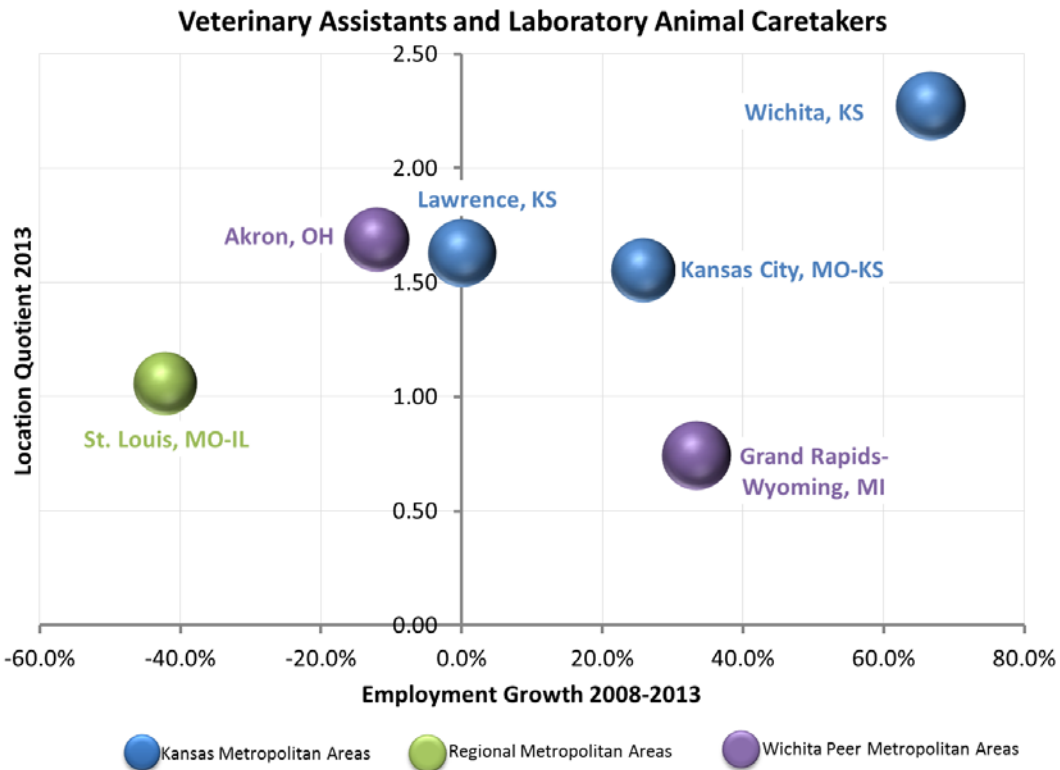
<sup>4</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

average. The local wage of a veterinary assistant increased significantly between 2008 and 2013 to approximately equal the national wage.

### Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	350	▲ 66.7%	2.27	▲ 0.97	\$25,300	100.8%	▲ 21.7%
	Lawrence, KS	40	▬ 0.0%	1.63	▲ 0.03	\$24,440	97.3%	▲ 6.2%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	830	▲ 25.8%	1.55	▲ 0.33	\$21,650	86.2%	▼ -3.1%
	Topeka, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	**	**	**	**	\$26,430	105.3%	▲ 10.0%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	200	**	0.81	**	\$24,630	98.1%	▲ 13.4%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	740	▼ -42.2%	1.06	▼ -0.73	\$20,890	83.2%	▼ -5.2%
	Tulsa, OK	**	**	**	**	\$21,350	85.0%	▼ -2.1%
Peer	Akron, OH	290	▼ -12.1%	1.69	▼ -0.17	\$21,990	87.6%	▼ -28.7%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	160	▲ 33.3%	0.74	▲ 0.16	\$24,830	98.9%	▲ 3.1%
	Greenville, SC	**	**	**	**	\$25,250	100.6%	▲ 10.4%
	Lancaster, PA	**	**	**	**	\$22,640	90.2%	▼ -4.5%

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



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](mailto:cedbr@wichita.edu)