



# **Pharmacy Occupation Employment**

**Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area**

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Employment in the various pharmacy 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 1,700 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, employment in the pharmacy occupations has grown between 2008 and 2013. The concentration of these occupations in the Wichita area is above the national average. The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy opened a branch in Wichita in 2011, with the first class of students due to graduate in 2015. As new graduates enter the work force it is likely to increase the number of pharmacists in the area.

### Wichita, KS

	Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Pharmacists	620	▲ 10.7%	1.01	▲ 0.07	\$118,420	101.6% ▲	0.8%
Pharmacy Technicians	970	▲ 29.3%	1.25	▲ 0.22	\$28,250	91.6% ▲	2.1%
Pharmacy Aides	130	▲ 116.7%	1.44	▲ 0.93	\$18,620	76.0% ▼	-7.8%

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.

## Pharmacists

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use. They may also advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosage, interactions, and side effects of medications. Pharmacists must have a Doctor of Pharmacy and hold a license.<sup>2</sup>

Nationally, the number of pharmacists has grown by 9.8 percent between 2008 and 2013 and is projected to grow 14 percent from 2012 to 2022.<sup>3</sup> Growth in this occupation in the Wichita area has been somewhat above the national average, enough to slightly improve the concentration of pharmacists in the area.

Within Kansas, there has been strong growth in this profession. Topeka was the only metropolitan area in the state where growth was not strong enough to increase the concentration of pharmacists. This strong growth, in the number of pharmacists, has extended across the region, with the exception of St. Louis. Relative to the peer communities, growth in this occupation in Wichita has been somewhat slower.

### Pharmacists

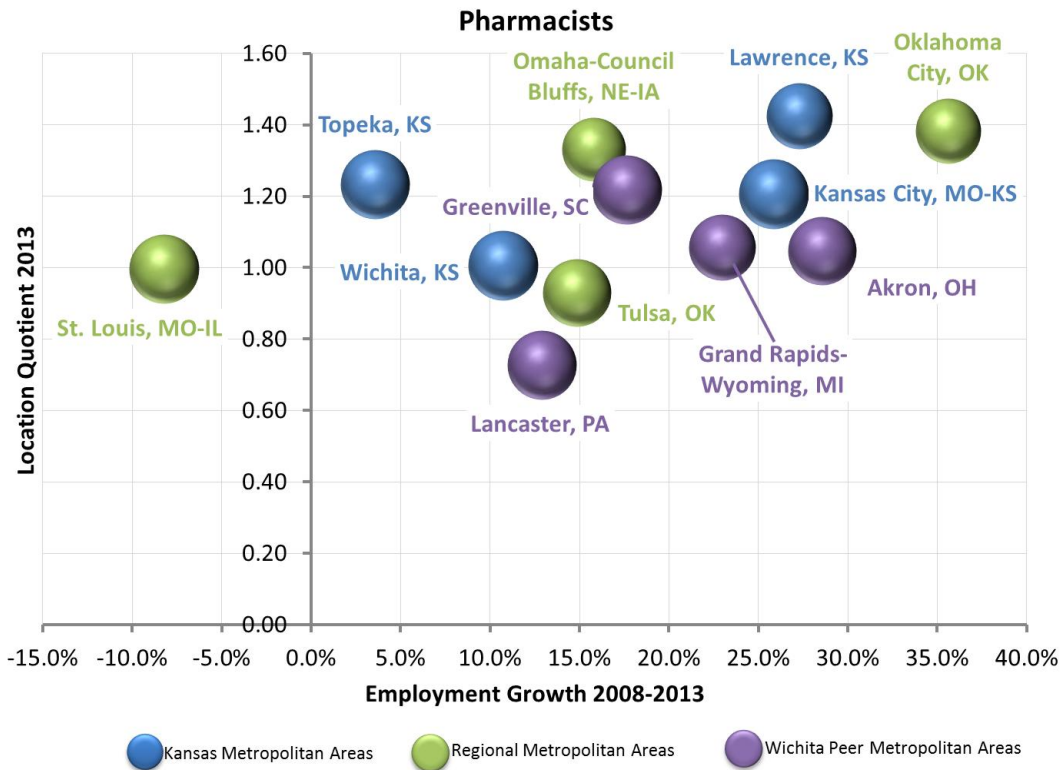
		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	620	▲ 10.7%	1.01	▲ 0.07	\$118,420	101.6%	▲ 0.8%
	Lawrence, KS	140	▲ 27.3%	1.43	▲ 0.24	\$107,080	91.9%	▲ 1.2%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	2,580	▲ 25.9%	1.21	▲ 0.18	\$118,810	102.0%	▲ 2.9%
	Topeka, KS	290	▲ 3.6%	1.23	▼ -0.07	\$117,730	101.1%	▲ 12.9%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	1,790	▲ 35.6%	1.38	▲ 0.21	\$103,770	89.1%	▼ -4.4%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,320	▲ 15.8%	1.33	▲ 0.07	\$99,690	85.6%	▲ 0.9%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,790	▼ -8.2%	1.00	▼ -0.15	\$118,720	101.9%	▲ 5.4%
	Tulsa, OK	850	▲ 14.9%	0.93	▲ 0.06	\$113,770	97.7%	▲ 4.8%
Peer	Akron, OH	720	▲ 28.6%	1.05	▲ 0.19	\$114,190	98.0%	▼ -2.3%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	910	▲ 23.0%	1.06	▲ 0.08	\$107,370	92.2%	▼ -4.2%
	Greenville, SC	800	▲ 17.6%	1.22	▲ 0.11	\$118,230	101.5%	▼ -0.4%
	Lancaster, PA	350	▲ 12.9%	0.73	▲ 0.05	\$116,350	99.9%	▲ 8.0%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a pharmacist was \$116,500, up 12 percent from 2008. The average wage of a pharmacist in Wichita was above 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



## Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy technicians prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. They may measure, mix, count, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders. Pharmacy technicians may learn through a postsecondary program or through on-the-job training.<sup>4</sup>

Nationally, the number of pharmacy technicians has grown by 13.8 percent between 2008 and 2013. This occupation is projected to grow 20 percent from 2012 to 2022. In the Wichita area, the number of pharmacy technicians has grown much faster than the national rate and the concentration has increased considerably. Across the region, many of the areas that have had growth in this occupation have not had growth strong enough to maintain or increase the concentration of pharmacy technicians.

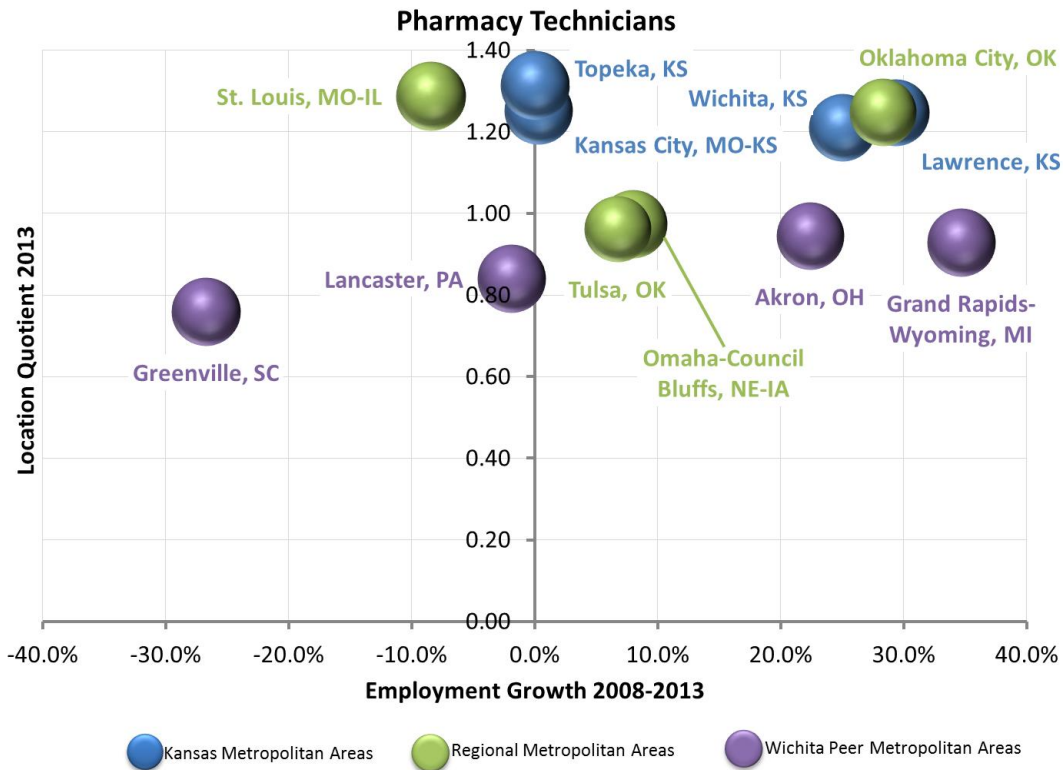
<sup>4</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics

## Pharmacy Technicians

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	970	▲ 29.3%	1.25	▲ 0.22	\$28,250	91.6%	▲ 2.1%
	Lawrence, KS	150	▲ 25.0%	1.21	▲ 0.14	\$28,220	91.5%	▲ 7.2%
	Kansas City, MO-KS	3,380	▲ 0.3%	1.25	▼ -0.13	\$28,560	92.6%	▲ 6.0%
	Topeka, KS	390	▬ 0.0%	1.31	▼ -0.17	\$29,520	95.7%	▲ 6.7%
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	2,040	▲ 28.3%	1.25	▲ 0.09	\$28,170	91.3%	▲ 6.0%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,220	▲ 8.0%	0.97	▼ -0.05	\$29,150	94.5%	▼ -1.6%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	4,550	▼ -8.5%	1.29	▼ -0.25	\$30,220	98.0%	▲ 8.0%
	Tulsa, OK	1,110	▲ 6.7%	0.96	▼ -0.04	\$27,520	89.2%	▲ 2.5%
Peer	Akron, OH	820	▲ 22.4%	0.95	▲ 0.11	\$28,380	92.0%	▲ 5.3%
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	1,010	▲ 34.7%	0.93	▲ 0.12	\$28,570	92.6%	▼ -7.6%
	Greenville, SC	630	▼ -26.7%	0.76	▼ -0.39	\$29,180	94.6%	▲ 8.6%
	Lancaster, PA	510	▼ -1.9%	0.84	▼ -0.09	\$29,030	94.1%	▲ 4.0%

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

In 2013 the national average wage of a pharmacy technician was \$30,840, up 8.2 percent from 2008. The average wage of a pharmacy technician in Wichita was below the national average in 2013 and increased relative to the national average between 2008 and 2013.



## Pharmacy Aides

Pharmacy aides record drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs. They may also operate the cash register and accept prescriptions for filling.<sup>5</sup>

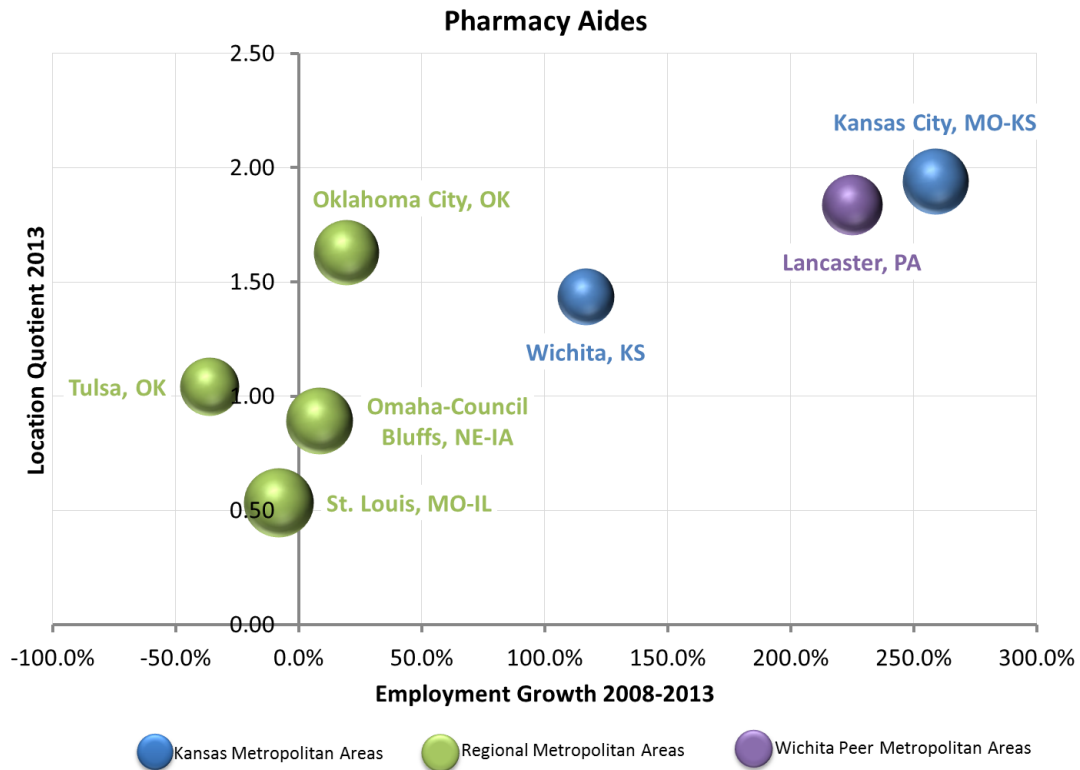
There has been significant growth in the number of pharmacy aides in the Wichita area, bringing the concentration well above the national average. However, the local wage of a pharmacy aide is well below the national average wage of \$24,510 in 2013, and decreased between 2008 and 2013.

### Pharmacy Aides

		Employment		L.Q.		Average Annual Wages		
		2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% Chg. 2008-2013	2013	% of National	% Chg. 2008-2013
Kansas	Wichita, KS	130	▲ 116.7%	1.44	▲ 0.93	\$18,620	76.0%	▼ -7.8%
	Lawrence, KS	50	**	3.46	**	\$20,170	82.3%	**
	Kansas City, MO-KS	610	▲ 258.8%	1.94	▲ 1.52	\$25,470	103.9%	▼ -0.2%
	Topeka, KS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Region	Oklahoma City, OK	310	▲ 19.2%	1.63	▲ 0.48	\$24,410	99.6%	▲ 15.1%
	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	130	▲ 8.3%	0.89	▲ 0.23	\$25,660	104.7%	▲ 4.1%
	St. Louis, MO-IL	220	▼ -8.3%	0.53	▲ 0.08	\$28,040	114.4%	▲ 0.4%
	Tulsa, OK	140	▼ -36.4%	1.04	▼ -0.25	\$19,820	80.9%	▼ -0.2%
Peer	Akron, OH	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	Greenville, SC	**	**	**	**	\$23,660	96.5%	▲ 3.7%
	Lancaster, PA	130	▲ 225.0%	1.84	▲ 1.40	\$21,200	86.5%	▼ -12.6%

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

<sup>5</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Employment Statistics



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

For additional information you may contact us at:

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