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Healthcare and Social Assistance Industry Sector: A Closer Look

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Employment

The healthcare and social assistance industry sector is the largest in the state employing an average of 143,878 employees and accounting for 14.8 percent of the employment in the state in the fourth quarter of 2016.¹

The healthcare and social assistance sector is made up of four industry subsectors: ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance. The largest of these subsectors is hospitals employing 40,658 (28.3 percent).¹

Coming in a close second is ambulatory health care services employing 40,595 (28.2 percent).

The ambulatory health care services industry sector includes offices of physicians, dentists, and other health practitioners; outpatient care centers; medical laboratories; home health care services; and other ambulatory health care services such as ambulance services and blood banks.²

The chart below shows that employment in all four of the healthcare industry subsectors has grown over the last 15 years. The largest growth occurred in the social assistance subsector, an increase of 115 percent. However, much of this increase is due to a change in the classification of non-medical home based services for the elderly and disabled, which moved from the private households industry to the health care titled code services for the elderly and persons with disabilities.³ This change occurred in the data starting in 2013. The second fastest growing industry subsector was ambulatory health care services increasing by 68 percent. The slowest growth occurred in hospitals with an increase of three percent.

Annual Employment by Sector

![Graph showing annual employment by sector from 2001 to 2016](chart)

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
According to 2014 to 2024 long-term industry projections, employment in the health care and social assistance sector is projected to increase by 15.2 percent, faster than the overall projected growth for the state of 8.6 percent. All of the subsectors except for hospitals (8.3 percent) are projected to increase faster than the rate for total industry employment. Ambulatory health care services are expected to grow the fastest at a rate of 23.9 percent.

**Demographics**

Employees in the healthcare and social assistance industry sector are more likely to be female with females making up 81.8 percent of employment. In comparison, when looking at all industries combined, employment is almost evenly split, with 49.9 percent of employment being female. Looking at the industry subsectors that make up the health care and social assistance sector, the greatest number of males are employed in the ambulatory health care services subsector making up 19.9 percent of employment. Within the ambulatory health care services subsector, the other ambulatory health care services industry group employs the most males (39.9 percent). The social assistance subsector is 83.2 percent female, the highest percentage for female workers of all the subsectors. Within this subsector, the child day care services industry group employs the most females (90.0 percent).

**Average Employment by Sex, 2016**

The age breakdown of workers in the healthcare and social assistance sector closely mirrors the overall trend for all industries. There are slightly fewer younger workers aged 14-24 in healthcare and social assistance (12.3 percent) compared to 14.0 percent for all industries. Slightly more workers are in the 25-54 age range in healthcare and social assistance (64.1 percent) compared to 62.5 percent for all industries. In the 55-99 age range, the breakdown was almost identical at 23.6 percent for healthcare and social assistance and 23.5 percent for all industries.

Workers ages 55 and over constitute a similar share of workers in the subsectors of the healthcare and social assistance industry, ranging from 22.5 percent of those working in ambulatory healthcare services to 24.4 percent working in hospitals. The subsectors show more variation when looking at the other two categories. Ambulatory healthcare services has the smallest amount of younger workers aged 14-24 (7.4 percent) and the largest in the 25-54 age range (70.1 percent). The largest concentration of workers age 14-24 is found in the social assistance subsector (18.4 percent). This subsector also has the smallest concentration of workers age 25-54 (57.6 percent).

Looking at the data at the next level of industry detail, by industry groups, even more age variation occurs. The child day care services group has the highest concentration of younger workers age 14-24 (37.3 percent). Workers age 25-54 are most likely to be found in specialty hospitals making up 76.7 percent of employment. Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals have the highest concentration of older workers ages 55-99 (33.4 percent).
Top Occupations in Healthcare

The chart above shows the top five largest occupations found within the healthcare and social assistance industry sector. These occupations employ one third of the workers found in this sector. Registered nurses made up the largest portion of the industry sector employment (13.9 percent) in 2014. The fastest growing of these occupations is personal care aides at a rate of 27.3 percent between 2014 and 2024. Personal care aides made up 2.9 percent of the sector’s employment in 2014 and this share of the industry is expected to increase to 3.2 percent by 2024.

The fastest growing occupations within the healthcare and social assistance industry sector with estimated employment of at least 25 in 2014 are shown in the chart above. The fastest growing occupation by percent change is occupational therapy assistants at a rate of 46.0 percent and adding 51 jobs.

Fastest Growing Occupations in Healthcare and Social Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2014 Estimated Employment</th>
<th>2024 Projected Employment</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy Assistants</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotists and Prosthetists</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>1,217</td>
<td>1,652</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistants</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massage Therapists</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The occupation of orthotists and prosthetists design and fit orthopedic braces or prostheses such as limbs for patients and has the second fastest growth rate of 40.0 percent increasing by 10 jobs. Home health aides is the largest occupation on the list and is expected to grow by 35.7 percent, adding 436 jobs and accounting for the largest numeric change in employment. This occupation growth is not affected by the industry coding change mentioned earlier since this data is looking at 2014 forward, after that change was made.
Omaha Labor Availability Study

The Nebraska Department of Labor is now conducting data collection for both the Omaha Metro Survey of Hiring and Training Needs and Omaha Metro Labor Availability Survey in the greater Omaha and Council Bluffs laborshed area. The goal of the Omaha Metro Survey of Hiring and Training Needs is to identify education, training, or skill gaps that need to be addressed to ensure businesses have a workforce that is prepared for today’s challenges and prepared to meet the requirements of businesses around the Omaha and Council Bluffs areas. The goal of the Omaha Metro Labor Availability Survey is to identify the number of individuals who are willing to change jobs or reenter the workforce, their education and skills, and what is important to them when considering a new job.

These surveys are being conducted in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Additional partners include the Greater Omaha Chamber and Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation. Employers that participate in the survey and provide a contact email address will be among the first to receive a report detailing the outcomes of the study.

The Omaha Metro Survey of Hiring and Training Needs may be returned to the Nebraska Department of Labor online at https://dol.nebraska.gov/las, emailed to LMI_NE@nebraska.gov, faxed to (402) 471-9867, or mailed using the envelope included with the survey. The Omaha Metro Labor Availability Study may be returned to the Bureau of Sociological Research using the postage-paid return envelope included in the survey packet.

For more information or for questions or comments about the survey, please visit the online portal or contact the Nebraska Department of Labor by phone at (800) 876-1377 or by email at LMI_NE@nebraska.gov.
Thanksgiving by the Numbers

Jennifer Gildersleeve, Research Analyst

Residents with English Ancestry (2016)
23.8 million - United States
143,380 - Nebraska

Households (2016)
119 million - United States
747,500 - Nebraska

Multi-Generational Households (2016)
4.6 million - United States
16,500 - Nebraska

Sweet Potatoes (2015)
3.1 billion lbs. produced by major sweet potato producing states

Cranberries (2016)
Forecasted weight produced in the United States - 859 million lbs.

Baked Goods Stores (2015)
3,510 - United States
33 - Nebraska

Grocery Stores & Supermarkets (2015)
66,284 - United States
432 - Nebraska

Fruit & Vegetable Markets (2015)
2,792 - United States
5 - Nebraska

Turkeys (2016)
Highest Producer: Minnesota, 44.5 million
Value of Imports: $25.8 million, (99.9 percent from Canada)

Sources
1. US Census Bureau, Facts for Features: Thanksgiving Day. October 10, 2017
2. US Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B11017 Multigenerational Households
   https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B11017/0400000US31
3. US Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B04006 People Reporting Ancestry
   https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B04006/0400000US31
4. US Census Bureau, 2015 County Business Patterns. Table CB1500A11, Naics 44511,445291, 445230.
   https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2015/00A1/0400000US31/naics~44511

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Dillon Cornett, Research Analyst

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a national campaign aimed at raising awareness about disability employment issues and celebrating the many and varied contributions of disabled workers. The map on the next page displays the percentage of all employed individuals in the labor force with a disability in each state and the most commonly reported disability by state.

Data comes from the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The current version of the survey covers six disability types.

Six Types of Reported Disabilities

Hearing Difficulty
Deaf or having some serious difficulty hearing

Ambulatory Difficulty
Having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs

Vision Difficulty
Blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses

Self-care Difficulty
Having difficulty bathing or dressing

Cognitive Difficulty
Having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem

Independent Living Difficulty
Having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem
Employment of Disabled Workers and Most Commonly Reported Disability by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent of Employees with a Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
# Openings & Expansions

*September*

**Kermit Spade, Research Analyst**

## Business Category

### Food & Entertainment
- Avila's Chill Spot/Ice Cream Shop
- Tonita's Taco Shop
- The Hive
- Taco Johns
- GrannyWeavs

### Healthcare
- Gleason Dental Clinic
- Husker Rehabilitation & Wellness Centers
- Old Cheney Rehabilitation
- Tabitha - Harbor House at Williamsburg Campus

### Retail/Sales
- Burlington Coat Factory
- Glik's
- Francie and Finch Bookstore
- Misty's Collections and Consignment
- Road Builders Machinery & Supply Co.
- Pickrell Locker and Smokehouse

### Finance & Insurance
- Cattle National Bank
- Castle & Associates, American Family Insurance
- SWBC (Expansion)

### Marketing
- Ebbeka Design Co.

### Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing
- Brick & Mortar
- Jana Robertson Realty

### OTHER
- Martinez Combative Arts
- Panhandle CoOp
- Cory Rourke Photography
- Cross the Line Church
- Eustic Body Shop
- Humanex Ventures
- Pure and Secure LLC
- MP Global (Expansion)
- Sacred Heart Parish - Child Care Center

## Sources:
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
NDOL Staff

*Openings and expansions are listed for the month in which they were reported to the Nebraska Department of Labor, not necessarily the month in which they occurred.*
Unemployment Data

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

September Unemployment Rates by County

*Not seasonally adjusted

### NEBRASKA

September Non-farm Total Employment: 1,033,320
Manufacturing: 97,651

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted)
September Unemployment Rate: 2.8%
Change (OTM): 0.0
Change (OTY): -0.5

Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted)
Central: 2.3%
Mid Plains: 2.4%
Northeast: 2.5%
Panhandle: 2.7%
Sandhills: 2.3%
Southeast: 3.2%

### OMAHA MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

September Unemployment Rate: 2.6%
September Total Non-Farm: 509,004
Manufacturing: 32,883
Largest OTM Increases:
Education and Health Services: 586 (0.7%)
Mining and Construction: 398 (1.3%)

### LINCOLN MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

September Unemployment Rate: 2.3%
September Total Non-Farm: 192,628
Manufacturing: 13,364
Largest OTM Increases:
Education and Health Services: 145 (0.5%)
Professional and Business Services: 80 (0.4%)

### GRAND ISLAND MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

September Unemployment Rate: 2.5%
September Total Non-Farm: 43,217
Change (OTM): 377 (0.9%)
Change (OTY): 154 (0.4%)

Sources:


County Rates
- 1.7 - 2.1
- 2.2 - 2.4
- 2.5 - 2.8
- 2.9 - 3.3
- 3.4 - 5.3
In each new issue of Trends, the Economic Indicators section features a chart or graph focused on one of the economic indicators listed on the following page. This month, we’ll be focusing on the Producer Price Index.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures average changes in prices received by domestic producers for their output.” Most of the information used in calculating producer price indexes is obtained through the systematic sampling of virtually every industry in the mining and manufacturing sectors of the economy. The Finished Goods Price Index is one of the nation’s most closely watched indicators of economic health. Movements in this index often are considered to presage similar changes in inflation rates for retail markets, as measured by the BLS Consumer Price Index. Producer Price Index data for capital equipment are used by the U.S. Department of Commerce to calculate the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator and many of its components.

Source:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Current Time Period</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Midwest Region</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-0.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Unemployment Claims</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+10.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers' New Orders for Consumer Goods</td>
<td>August, 2017</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM Manufacturing: New Orders Index©</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+7.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers' New Orders: Nondefense Capital Goods Excluding Aircraft</td>
<td>August, 2017</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500©</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+1.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Minus Federal Funds Rate</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan, Consumer Sentiment Index</td>
<td>October, 2017</td>
<td>+6.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index, not seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td>+0.6%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Cost Index</td>
<td>2nd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer Price Index: All Commodities</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+0.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>+0.2%*</td>
<td>+/-0.0%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real GDP, billions of chained 2009 dollars</td>
<td>2nd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>+3.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Taxable Sales</td>
<td>July, 2017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel of Crude Oil, WTI-Cushing, Spot Price</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>+$1.74</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on Current Account (millions of dollars)</td>
<td>2nd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>+8.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCES:**
