

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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For release: Tuesday, October 25, 2011

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**OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES FOR NURSES IN
ILLINOIS' METROPOLITAN AREAS – MAY 2010**

Among Illinois' nine metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet was the only area to have wages significantly above the national average for registered nurses and for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that there were two other areas, Bloomington-Normal and Decatur, with wages falling measurably below those for the nation in both of these nursing occupations. Nationwide, the average (mean) wage for registered nurses was \$67,720, and for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, \$41,360. (See table A. For a comprehensive definition of metropolitan area in Illinois, please see Technical Note.)

Table A. Average (mean) annual wages for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the United States and metropolitan areas in Illinois, May 2010

Area	Registered Nurses	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
United States	\$67,720	\$41,360
Illinois	66,660	41,080
Bloomington-Normal	54,690*	39,780*
Champaign-Urbana	63,950*	43,320
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	70,420*	44,170*
Danville	64,940*	42,730
Decatur	58,460*	38,640*
Kankakee-Bradley	61,760*	43,300
Peoria	55,630*	41,790
Rockford	57,570*	43,890*
Springfield	58,170*	40,610

* The mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

Of the nine metropolitan areas in Illinois, the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet area had the largest number of registered nurses (89,890) and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (14,130), accounting for 72 percent of the nursing jobs in the State. Peoria was the only other area where employment exceeded 4,000 for registered nurses and no other area had more than 1,000 licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses. (See table B.)

Table B. Employment for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the United States and metropolitan areas in Illinois, May 2010

Area	Registered Nurses	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
United States	2,655,020	730,290
Illinois	120,810	23,200
Bloomington-Normal	1,200	220
Champaign-Urbana	1,880	220
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	89,890	14,130
Danville	650	220
Decatur	1,320	320
Kankakee-Bradley	1,090	200
Peoria	4,950	930
Rockford	3,930	740
Springfield	2,950	960

Wages for registered nurses in metropolitan areas in Illinois

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet was the only metropolitan area with measurably higher wages for registered nurses in the State (\$70,420 per year), averaging more than \$2,000 above the national wage for this occupation. In contrast, 8 of the 9 metropolitan areas had significantly lower wages for registered nurses, of which 2 had wages more than \$12,000 below the national average—Bloomington-Normal and Peoria. (See chart 1.)

Wages for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in metropolitan areas in Illinois

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet (\$44,170) and Rockford (\$43,890) had the highest wages in the State for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses and were the only two metropolitan areas in Illinois with wages that were significantly higher than the nationwide average for this occupation. In contrast, two metropolitan areas had measurably lower wages for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, both averaging under \$40,000—Decatur and Bloomington-Normal. (See chart2.)

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Illinois Department of Employment Security and the Indiana and Wisconsin Departments of Workforce Development. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and nearly 800 non-military detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas.

OES wage and employment data for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in the state and metropolitan areas were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

NOTE: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the May 2010 estimates was 78.2 percent based on establishments and 74.4 percent based on employment. May 2010 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, November 2008, May 2008, and November 2007. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm

The May 2010 OES estimates mark the first set of estimates based in part on data collected using the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Nearly all the occupations in this release are 2010 SOC occupations; however, some are not. The May 2012 OES data will reflect the full set of detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC. For a list of all occupations, including 2010 SOC occupations, and how data collected on two structures were combined, see the OES Frequently Asked Questions online at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41.

OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Bloomington-Normal, Ill. MSA consists of McLean County.

Champaign-Urbana, Ill. MSA consists of Champaign, Ford, and Piatt Counties.

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill. MSA consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Danville, Ill. MSA consists of Vermilion County.

Decatur, Ill. MSA consists of Macon County.

Kankakee-Bradley, Ill. MSA consists of Kankakee County.

Peoria, Ill. MSA consists of Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

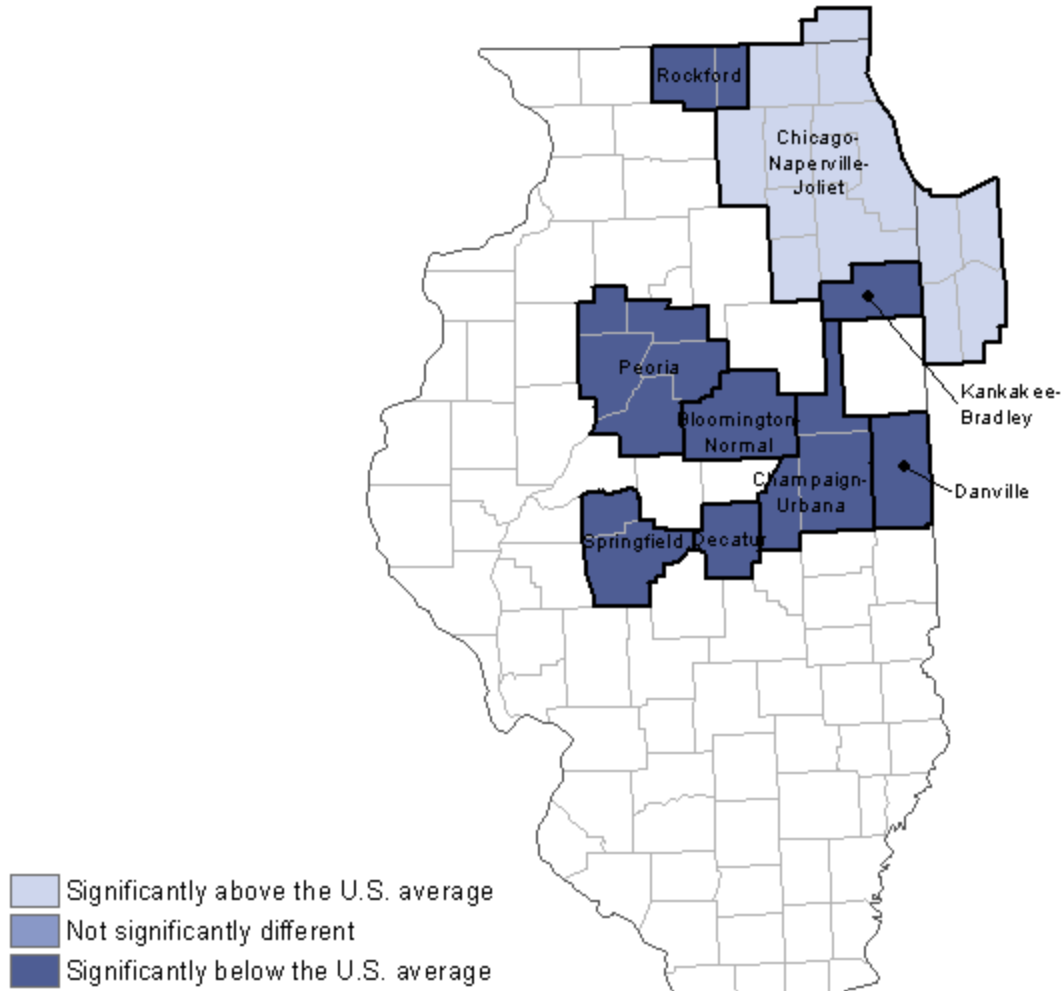
Rockford, Ill. MSA consists of Boone and Winnebago Counties.

Springfield, Ill. MSA consists of Menard County Sangamon Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/ro5/. If you have additional questions, contact the Chicago Economic Analysis and Information Unit at 312-353-1880. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Chart 1. Mean annual wages for registered nurses, by area, Illinois, May 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2011
Note: Significance testing was done at the 90-percent confidence level.

Chart 2. Mean annual wages for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, by area, Illinois, May 2010

