

Metropolitan Chicago Region Overview of the Economy with a Focus on the Healthcare Industry



This report is issued by The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago (WBMC) and the Metro Economic Growth Alliance of Chicago (MEGA) for the purpose of sharing economic and workforce development information for the metropolitan Chicago region. The report is the second in a series of reports that provide the most recent available economic indicator data for the metropolitan Chicago region.¹ Additionally, the report presents information specific to the region's healthcare industry.

The metropolitan Chicago region includes the City of Chicago and the following counties: [Cook](#), [DeKalb](#), [DuPage](#), [Grundy](#), [Kane](#), [Kankakee](#), [Kendall](#), [Lake](#), [Livingston](#), [McHenry](#), and [Will](#). The WBMC is a regional consortium of Workforce Boards that have collaborated for the past eight years on initiatives that address workforce and economic development issues. The Workforce Boards oversee development of a workforce system that provides individuals with education and training required for career opportunities in high demand occupations and provides employers with access to a skilled, competitive workforce. The MEGA is a partnership of lead economic organizations from throughout the metropolitan Chicago region that are committed to growing the regional economy through coordinated, effective business development. Both organizations recognize that the quality of its workforce is intrinsically linked to the strength of its economy.

The Region's Jobs

As of December 2009, the metropolitan Chicago region had 5,200,472 jobs as compared to 5,091,975 for the quarter ending September 2009 – an increase of 108,497 jobs. Table 1 reflects the geographical distribution of jobs within the region. All metropolitan Chicago counties gained jobs during the quarter ending December 2009. Counties with the largest increase in numbers included: Cook (60,509), DuPage (13,938), Lake (10,559), and Will (9,396). In terms the proportion of jobs gained, Kendall (6.5%), Grundy (4.0%), Will (3.8%), and DeKalb (3.0%) represent the largest proportional increases.

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Geographic Distribution of Jobs
Quarters Ending September and December 2009
Table 1

County	Jobs September 2009	Jobs December 2009	Change from September to December 2009	% Change
Cook	3,164,467	3,224,976	60,509	1.9%
DuPage	698,123	712,061	13,938	2.0%
Lake	430,257	440,816	10,559	2.5%
Kane	253,279	259,984	6,705	2.6%
Will	244,829	254,225	9,396	3.8%
McHenry	121,600	124,043	2,443	2.0%
Kankakee	54,036	54,340	304	0.6%
DeKalb	52,056	53,635	1,579	3.0%
Kendall	31,059	33,067	2,008	6.5%
Grundy	22,107	22,994	887	4.0%
Livingston	20,162	20,331	169	0.8%
Total	5,091,975	5,200,472	108,497	2.1%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 4th. Quarter 2009 & 1st Quarter 2010

¹ Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) complete employment data sets utilized for this report include: 2009 1st quarter data, period ending December 2008; 2009 4th quarter data, period ending September 2009; 2010 1st quarter data, period ending December 2009. Information related to EMSI data sources and methodologies for compiling projections can be found at <http://workforceboardsmetrochicago.com/publications/>.

When comparing December 2009 jobs with December 2008 (Table 2), the region gained only 46,586 jobs (<1%). Counties with the largest increase of jobs include: Cook (38,437), Will (7,243), Lake (5,527), and Kankakee (1,240). In terms of proportional job gains, counties with the largest increase include: Kendall (3.0%), Will (2.9%), Kankakee (2.3%), and Grundy (1.8%). Counties that posted a decrease in jobs over the year ending December 2009 include: DuPage (-7,169), McHenry (-1,619), and Livingston (-56).

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Geographic Distribution of Jobs
December 2008 and December 2009
Table 2

County	Jobs December 2008	Jobs December 2009	Change from 2008 to 2009	% Change
Cook	3,186,539	3,224,976	38,437	1.2%
DuPage	719,230	712,061	(7,169)	(1.0%)
Lake	435,289	440,816	5,527	1.3%
Kane	259,206	259,984	778	0.3%
Will	246,982	254,225	7,243	2.9%
McHenry	125,662	124,043	(1,619)	(1.3%)
Kankakee	53,100	54,340	1,240	2.3%
DeKalb	52,799	53,635	836	1.6%
Kendall	32,095	33,067	972	3.0%
Grundy	22,597	22,994	397	1.8%
Livingston	20,387	20,331	(56)	(0.3%)
Total	5,153,886	5,200,472	46,586	0.9%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2009 & 1st Quarter 2010

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Jobs by Industry
Table 3

Description	September 2009		December 2009		Change from September to December
	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	
Healthcare and Social Assistance	549,858	10.8%	575,307	11.1%	25,449
Government	540,722	10.6%	546,882	10.5%	6,160
Retail Trade	478,521	9.4%	480,255	9.2%	1,734
Professional and Technical Services	437,868	8.6%	455,560	8.8%	17,692
Manufacturing	399,436	7.8%	383,133	7.4%	(16,303)
Administrative and Waste Services	347,406	6.8%	367,250	7.1%	19,844
Finance and insurance	339,532	6.7%	348,443	6.7%	8,911
Accommodation and Food Services	321,883	6.3%	328,045	6.3%	6,162
Other Services, except Public Administration	260,460	5.1%	264,720	5.1%	4,260
Transportation and Warehousing	245,591	4.8% 2	49,427	4.8% 3	,836
Construction	241,271	4.7%	248,851	4.8%	7,580
Wholesale Trade	244,732	4.8%	243,320	4.7%	(1,412)
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	226,852	4.5%	240,993	4.6%	14,141
Educational Services	150,832	3.0%	158,776	3.1%	7,944
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	106,957	2.1%	111,865	2.2%	4,908
Information	99,032	2.0%	97,374	1.9%	(1,658)
Management of Companies and Enterprises	74,548	1.5%	75,030	1.4%	482
Utilities	12,652	<1.0%	11,878	<1.0%	(774)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,988	<1.0%	11,462	<1.0%	(526)
Mining	1,834	<1.0%	1,901	<1.0%	67
Total	5,091,975	100%	5,200,472	100%	108,497

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 4th Quarter 2009 & 1st Quarter 2010

Table 3 provides regional jobs data by industry for the third and fourth quarters of 2009. Within the region, Healthcare and Social Assistance (25,449) reflected the largest increase in jobs followed by Administrative and Waste Services (19,844) and Professional and Technical Services (17,692). Industries that lost jobs from third to fourth quarter include: Manufacturing (-16,303), Information (-1,658), and Wholesale Trade (-1,412).

Projected Job Growth

Tables 4 and 5 reflect the anticipated rate of growth for jobs over the next three years. The region's anticipated growth rate of 6% is slightly higher than both the State and nation's rates of 5%. Over the next three years, the region is expected to gain 294,927 jobs which represent almost 81% of the new jobs anticipated for the entire State. Additionally, it is projected that the region's share of the State's total jobs will remain steady at 71%.

In looking at projected job growth by industry over the next three years, Healthcare and Social Assistance (61,458) reflects the largest increase in jobs followed by Professional and Technical Services (51,944) and Administrative and Waste Services (47,056). In looking at job loss, Manufacturing is projected to lose the largest number of jobs (-23,995) followed by Utilities (-884) and Information (-832).

Projected Job Growth 2010-2013 Table 4				
Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Change	% Change
Regional Total	5,200,472	5,495,399	294,927	6%
State Total	7,379,579	7,744,669	365,090	5%
National Total	177,451,854	186,982,322	9,530,468	5%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Metropolitan Chicago Region Job Growth by Industry Table 5				
Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Change	% Change
Healthcare and Social Assistance	575,307	636,765	61,458	11%
Government	546,882	559,824	12,942	2%
Retail Trade	480,255	485,582	5,327	1%
Professional and Technical Services	455,560	507,504	51,944	11%
Manufacturing	383,133	359,138	(23,995)	(6%)
Administrative and Waste Services	367,250	414,306	47,056	13%
Finance and Insurance	348,443	372,941	24,498	7%
Accommodation and Food Services	328,045	341,219	13,174	4%
Other Services, except Public Administration	264,720	275,881	11,161	4%
Transportation and Warehousing	249,427	260,749	11,322	5%
Construction	248,851	269,497	20,646	8%
Wholesale Trade	243,320	242,856	(464)	0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	240,993	273,884	32,891	14%
Educational Services	158,776	175,267	16,491	10%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	111,865	122,528	10,663	10%
Information	97,374	96,542	(832)	(1%)
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75,030	77,080	2,050	3%
Utilities	11,878	10,994	(884)	(7%)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,463	10,850	(613)	(5%)
Mining	1,901	1,990	89	5%
Total	5,200,472	5,495,399	294,927	6%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Unemployment Rates
Table 6

County	March 2010	February 2010	March 2009	Change over the Month	Change over the Year
Cook	11.3%	11.4%	9.6%	-0.1	1.7
DeKalb	10.8%	11.0%	9.5%	-0.2	1.3
DuPage	9.2%	9.2%	7.7%	0.0	1.5
Grundy	14.8%	15.1%	12.3%	-0.3	2.5
Kane	12.2%	12.0%	10.3%	0.2	1.9
Kankakee	15.2%	16.1%	12.0%	-0.9	3.2
Kendall 1	1.5%	11.4%	9.6%	0.1	1.9
Lake	13.0%	13.5%	9.9%	-0.5	3.1
Livingston	12.9%	13.8%	11.0%	-0.9	1.9
McHenry	11.3%	11.3%	9.6%	0.0	1.7
Will	12.0%	2.1%	9.8%	-0.1	2.2
Region	11.4%	11.5%	9.5%	-0.1	1.9

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Summary

Unemployment rates for the region as well as individual counties are reflected in Table 6. Unemployment for the region remained stable from February 2010 (11.5%) to March 2010 (11.4%). Over the past year, the region's unemployment rate increased significantly, from 9.5% to 11.4%. In terms of county unemployment for the month of March 2010, Kankakee had the highest rate of unemployment (15.2%) followed by Grundy (14.8%), Lake (13.0%), and Livingston (12.9%). DuPage had the lowest unemployment rate at 9.2%. Counties with the largest increase in unemployment from March 2009 to March 2010 were: Kankakee (+3.2), Lake (+3.1), Grundy (+2.5), and Will (+2.2).

Metropolitan Chicago Region
Unemployment by Industry
Table 7

Description	# Jobs	July 2009			December 2009			State %	National %
		# Unemployed	% Total Jobs	# Jobs	# Unemployed	% Total Jobs			
Construction	241,271	38,022	15.8%	240,426	60,608	25.2%	27.0%	16.5%	
Administrative and Waste Services	347,406	37,402	10.8%	348,892	47,430	13.6%	14.0%	11.2%	
Accommodation and Food Services	321,883	37,217	11.6%	321,202	40,593	12.6%	12.9%	12.4%	
Manufacturing	399,436	74,514	18.7%	397,725	43,560	11.0%	11.7%	11.9%	
Retail Trade	478,521	48,651	10.2%	478,276	52,030	10.9%	11.4%	9.9%	
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	106,957	3,849	3.6%	107,378	9,022	8.4%	8.5%	7.8%	
Mining	1,834	116	6.3%	1,876	134	7.1%	7.1%	7.2%	
Transportation and Warehousing	245,591	23,771	9.7%	244,974	17,032	7.0%	7.3%	6.8%	
Wholesale Trade	244,732	19,956	8.2%	243,840	16,897	6.9%	7.2%	6.8%	
Information	99,032	7,115	7.2%	98,502	6,696	6.8%	6.9%	7.8%	
Other Services, except Public Administration	260,460	14,787	5.7%	260,198	16,446	6.3%	6.6%	6.2%	
Educational Services	150,832	9,454	6.3%	151,642	9,146	6.0%	6.4%	6.4%	
Professional and Technical Services	437,868	27,628	6.3%	436,208	24,876	5.7%	5.8%	5.1%	
Government	540,722	20,503	3.8%	540,985	29,547	5.5%	5.6%	3.7%	
Healthcare and Social Assistance	549,857	22,449	4.1%	550,246	25,823	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%	
Finance and Insurance	339,532	16,293	4.8%	337,991	15,497	4.6%	4.7%	4.2%	
Utilities	12,652	281	2.2%	12,588	564	4.5%	4.6%	4.2%	
Management of Companies and Enterprises	74,548	2,007	2.7%	73,744	1,995	2.7%	2.7%	2.2%	
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	226,852	5,475	2.4%	226,034	5,857	2.6%	2.7%	2.5%	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,988	119	1.0%	11,768	306	2.6%	2.5%	4.8%	
Not elsewhere classified	N/A	46,959	N/A	N/A	58,610	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Table 7 reflects regional unemployment data by industry for the months of July 2009 and December 2009. The Construction industry reflects the highest regional unemployment for December 2009, with 60,608 individuals out of work (25.2%) – an increase of 22,586 individuals unemployed and change of +9.4% over the six month period. Manufacturing posted the region's highest unemployment (18.7%) in July but fell to 11.0% and 4th ranking for the month of December 2009, with the number unemployed decreasing from 74,514 to 43,560. Unemployment for the region's largest industry - Healthcare and Social Assistance – increased slightly from 4.1% to 4.7%.

The occupations with the highest unemployment rates in the region in December 2009 are reflected in Table 8. Building and grounds, cleaning and maintenance occupations represent the highest unemployment rate at 23.9%, followed by production occupations at 18.4% and construction and extraction occupations at 12.9%. Of the ten occupations with the highest unemployment rates in the region, seven are higher than the national unemployment rate for the occupation; all regional rates are lower than the State unemployment rates. As an occupational group, sales and related occupations had the largest number of unemployed individuals (72,336).

Metropolitan Chicago Region Unemployment by Occupation December 2009 Table 8					
Description	# Jobs	# Unemployed	% Total Jobs	State %	National %
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	180,794	43,189	23.9%	24.5%	13.2%
Production occupations	323,227	59,419	18.4%	19.2%	12.3%
Construction and extraction occupations	206,987	26,670	12.9%	13.1%	19.8%
Food preparation and serving related occupations	312,110	35,292	11.3%	11.5%	9.7%
Sales and related occupations	659,748	72,336	11.0%	11.2%	7.2%
Military occupations	34,782	3,380	9.7%	10.1%	2.9%
Healthcare support occupations	110,586	10,007	9.0%	9.4%	6.7%
Transportation and material moving occupations	341,711	29,850	8.7%	9.1%	11.2%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	152,082	12,035	7.9%	8.2%	8.4%
Architecture and engineering occupations	63,622	4,686	7.4%	7.7%	6.3%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment –1st Quarter 2010

Focus on Healthcare Industry

Industry Overview

The Healthcare and Social Assistance industry represents 11.1% (575,307) of the region's jobs and has one of the lowest unemployment rates at 4.7%. In addition, healthcare represented 25% of all job growth in the region between September and December of 2009. Healthcare jobs account for 445,544 (77%) of all jobs in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. An additional 43,310 healthcare jobs are anticipated over the next three years. Only two types of healthcare employers are expected to have a reduction in number of jobs over the next 3 years: psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals (-378) and other residential care facilities (-194). The highest demand for new workers will be in offices of physicians (8,941), offices of other health practitioner (6,978), general medical and surgical hospitals (6,835), home healthcare services (6,749), and nursing care facilities (6,049).



Metropolitan Chicago Region
Healthcare Industry
December 2009
Table 9

Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Change	% Change	2008 Establishments
Healthcare	445,544	488,854	43,310	9%	18,011
Ambulatory healthcare services	200,185	229,189	29,004	14%	16,519
Offices of physicians	68,579	77,520	8,941	13%	6,313
Offices of dentists	28,421	31,938	3,517	12%	4,361
Offices of other health practitioners	40,800	47,778	6,978	17%	4,023
Outpatient care centers	10,503	12,151	1,648	16%	463
Medical and diagnostic laboratories	5,564	6,207	643	12%	415
Home healthcare services	38,474	45,223	6,749	18%	716
Other ambulatory healthcare services	7,844	8,372	528	7%	228
Hospitals	163,364	170,066	6,702	4%	507
General medical and surgical hospitals	157,891	164,726	6,835	4%	463
Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals	2,374	1,996	(378)	(16%)	22
Other hospitals	3,099	3,344	245	8%	22
Nursing and residential care facilities	81,995	89,599	7,604	9%	985
Nursing care facilities	48,826	54,875	6,049	12%	460
Residential mental health facilities	11,784	11,785	1	0%	188
Community care facilities for the elderly	17,137	18,884	1,747	10%	218
Other residential care facilities	4,249	4,055	(194)	(5%)	119

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2009 & 1st Quarter 2010

In the metropolitan Chicago region, there are over 18,000 establishments that provide healthcare services. Ambulatory healthcare services (16,519) represent approximately 92%, hospitals (507) represent 3%, and nursing and residential care facilities (985) represent 5% of all healthcare establishments. The largest employers in the region are reflected in Table 10.

Based on data in Table 9, job growth projections indicate that the largest numbers of new jobs will be in offices of physicians (8,941), offices of other health practitioners (6,978), general medical and surgical hospitals (6,835), home health services (6,749), and nursing care facilities (6,049). Table 11 identifies the high demand occupations that will comprise much of the anticipated growth at each type of employer/establishment.

Several of the occupations will be in high demand by different types of employers. For example, registered nurses represent the largest number of new jobs (4,426) and will be in high demand at general medical and surgical hospitals (2,822), offices of physicians (1,071), and nursing care facilities (531). Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants (3,201) will be needed by nursing care facilities (2,131), home health services (690) and hospitals (380).



Metropolitan Chicago Region
Largest Employers by Type
Table 10

Description	Business Name	Local Employees
Ambulatory Healthcare Services		
Miscellaneous ambulatory health care services	Evanston North Shore Healthcare	5,000
Miscellaneous ambulatory health care services	University of Illinois Medical Center	5,000
Medical laboratories	Abbott Laboratories	4,000
Home healthcare services	Walgreen Drug Stores	3,500
Offices of physicians, except mental health	St. Alexius Medical Center	2,100
Hospitals		
General medical and surgical hospitals	Loyola University Hospital	8,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	John H Stroger Jr. Hospital	6,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	Northwestern Memorial Hospital	6,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	Advocate Christ Medical Center	5,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	Comer Children's Hospital	5,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	Cook County Bureaus-Health Services	5,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	Edward Hospital & Health Services	5,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	University Of Chicago Medical Center	5,000
General medical and surgical hospitals	University of Illinois Medical Center	5,000
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities		
Nursing care facilities	Regency Rehabilitation Center	1,968
Homes for the elderly	Hearthstone Of Arlington Heights	850
Nursing care facilities	Lutheran Home	700
Continuing care retirement communities	Presbyterian Homes	535
Nursing care facilities	Kindred Hospital-Chicago-North	502
Continuing care retirement communities	Friendship Village	500

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Healthcare Information Exchange – Impact on Job Skills

The Healthcare Information Exchange (HIE) is part of a \$17 billion federal initiative that will result in the electronic sharing of medical records by 2014. Illinois is investing \$3 million in the initiative and has established 16 Medical Trading Areas throughout the state for the purpose HIE planning. The Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) is responsible for HIE planning in five of the six Medical Trading Areas that comprise the metropolitan Chicago region; the Illinois Healthcare Consortium is responsible for planning in southern Cook County. HIE is not intended to prescribe the use of one software system but rather to establish the capability for divergent systems to communicate and share healthcare information. It is anticipated that implementation of electronic health record technology will impact job growth and skill requirements in the healthcare industry. In January 2010, MCHC conducted a focus group with representatives of member organizations to identify healthcare IT occupations with expected industry growth.

Focus Group Findings: HIT Occupations With Anticipated Growth

Entry Level:

- Coding (RHIT/CCS certification)
- Help Desk/Call Center
- Telecommunications

Professional/Management/Senior Leadership

- Operational EMR Implementation (e.g., Cerner)
- Technical Project Manager (Cisco Security & Privacy Certifications)
- Information System Analyst/Clinical Information (Epic Certification)
- Information Security
- Consulting Applications/System Training (Training Providers on EMR)
- Data Warehousing

The average earning per worker ranges from a low of \$8.59 per hour for personal and home care aides to a high of \$58.98 for surgeons and physicians. Of the eleven different occupations, five require on-the-job training; two require a postsecondary vocational award, one requires an associate degree, and three require a master degree or professional degree.

**Metropolitan Chicago Region
High Demand Healthcare Occupations
Table 11**

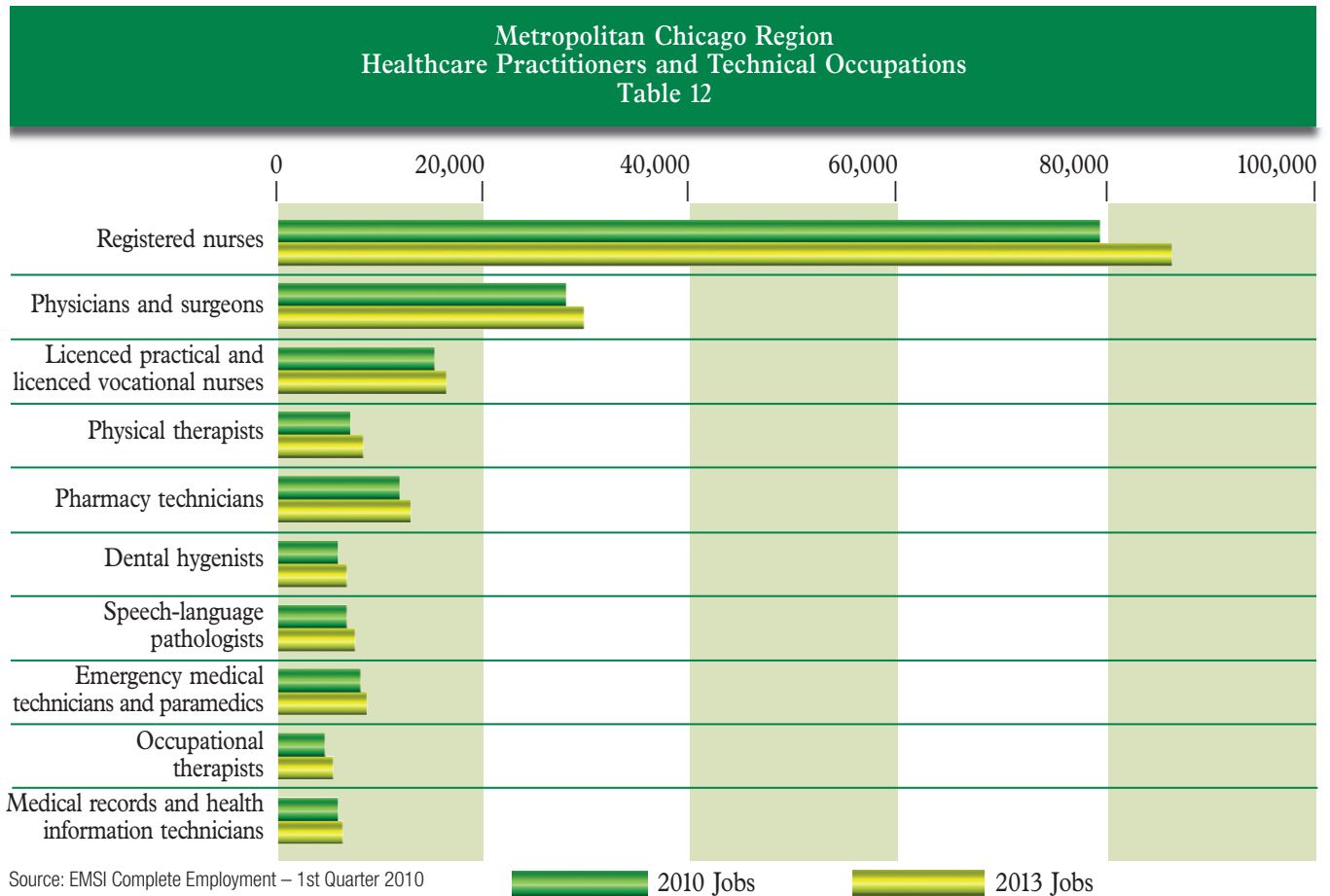
Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Change	% Change	% of Industry	Current Average Hourly Earnings	Educational Level
Top Three High Demand Occupations in Offices of Physicians							
Physicians and surgeons	19,038	20,900	1,862	10%	28%	\$58.98	First professional degree
Medical assistants	6,984	8,038	1,054	15%	10%	\$14.35	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Registered nurses	5,909	6,982	1,073	18%	9%	\$31.53	Associate's degree
Top Three High Demand Occupations in Offices of Other Health Practitioners							
Physical therapists	3,043	3,761	718	24%	7%	\$35.38	Master's
Speech-language pathologists	2,186	2,648	462	21%	5%	\$29.74	Master's
Receptionists and information clerks	1,815	2,193	378	21%	4%	\$12.90	Short-term on-the-job training
Top Three High Demand Occupations in General Medical and Surgical Hospitals							
Registered nurses	43,508	46,330	2,822	6%	28%	\$31.53	Associate's degree
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	9,771	10,151	380	4%	6%	\$11.31	Postsecondary vocational award
Healthcare support workers, all other	3,516	3,716	200	6%	2%	\$14.68	Short-term on-the-job training
Top Three High Demand Occupations in Home Healthcare Services							
Home health aides	9,833	11,874	2,041	21%	26%	\$9.32	Short-term on-the-job training
Personal and home care aides	8,791	10,477	1,686	19%	23%	\$8.59	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	3,758	4,448	690	18%	10%	\$11.31	Postsecondary vocational award
Top Three High Demand Occupations in Nursing Care Facilities							
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	16,593	18,724	2,131	13%	34%	\$11.31	Postsecondary vocational award
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	4,432	5,000	568	13%	9%	\$21.53	Postsecondary vocational award
Registered nurses	4,128	4,659	531	13%	8%	\$31.53	Associate's degree

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010



Demand Side: Fastest Growing Occupations

Healthcare occupations are categorized as either healthcare practitioners and technical occupations or healthcare support occupations. While the previous section of this report looked at occupational growth in relationship to the type of employer/workplace, this section will present occupational growth data across the entire healthcare industry. Tables 12 and 13 reflect the ten healthcare practitioners and technical occupations that are expected to grow the fastest over the next three years regardless of the industry or employer type. Registered nurses are expected to increase by 6,824, followed by physicians and surgeons (2,225), licensed practical nurses (1,472), and physical therapists (1,049).

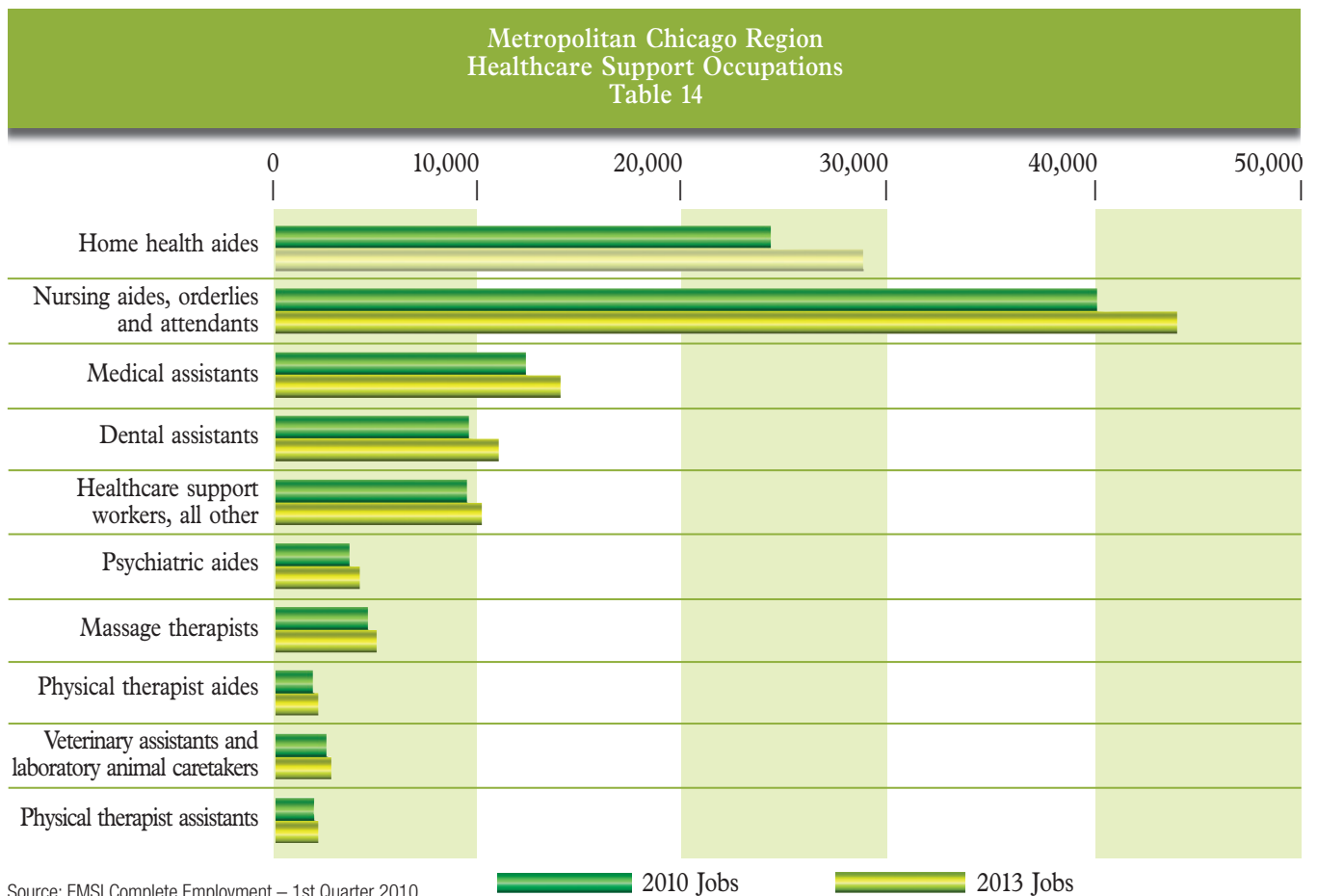


**Metropolitan Chicago Region
Fastest Growing Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
Table 13**

Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Growth	Growth %	Current Average Hourly Earnings
Registered nurses	78,780	85,604	6,824	9%	\$31.53
Physicians and surgeons	26,939	29,164	2,225	8%	\$58.98
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	14,191	15,663	1,472	10%	\$21.53
Physical therapists	6,503	7,552	1,049	16%	\$35.38
Pharmacy technicians	11,247	12,149	902	8%	\$13.55
Dental hygienists	5,014	5,775	761	15%	\$34.32
Speech-language pathologists	6,334	7,054	720	11%	\$29.74
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	7,330	7,961	631	9%	\$15.75
Occupational therapists	3,932	4,481	549	14%	\$32.72
Medical records and health information technicians	5,324	5,789	465	9%	\$15.72

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Tables 14 and 15 reflect the ten healthcare support occupations that are expected to grow the fastest over the next three years. Home health aides are expected to increase by 4,397, followed by nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants (3,970), medical assistants (1,762), and dental assistants (1,444). In looking at the average hourly earnings, the healthcare support occupations generally earn considerably less than the healthcare practitioner and technical occupations; the exception is the physical therapist assistant with average hourly earnings of \$25.20.



**Metropolitan Chicago Region
Fastest Growing Healthcare Support Occupations
Table 15**

Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Growth	Growth %	Current Average Hourly Earnings
Home health aides	24,178	28,575	4,397	18%	\$9.32
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	40,064	44,034	3,970	10%	\$11.31
Medical assistants	12,134	13,896	1,762	15%	\$14.35
Dental assistants	9,541	10,985	1,444	15%	\$15.56
Healthcare support workers, all other	9,377	10,145	768	8%	\$14.68
Psychiatric aides	3,584	4,080	496	14%	\$8.69
Massage therapists	4,501	4,954	453	10%	\$16.00
Physical therapist aides	1,712	2,045	333	19%	\$12.50
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	2,288	2,620	332	15%	\$11.01
Physical therapist assistants	1,767	2,080	313	18%	\$25.20

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Supply Side: Skilled Workforce

Understanding where the region can expect job growth is helpful to individuals in identifying careers that provide employment opportunities and good earning potential. It is also useful in assessing the region's ability to provide employers with the skilled workers that they need now and in the future. The quality of the region's workforce directly impacts employer decisions to remain, locate and expand within the region.

Tables 16 and 17 data provides some indication of the region's capacity to develop the skilled workforce that employers will need over the next three years. The 2008 Completion column reflects the number of students that have completed educational programs that provide them with the skills, but not necessarily the certification or license, for employment in the specified occupations. This data is only for those educational institutions in the metropolitan Chicago region. The completion numbers can be compared to the number of anticipated growth/new jobs as well as projected new and replacement jobs that include job vacancies due to individuals leaving the region's workforce (e.g., retiring, relocating, etc.). In examining data, it should not be assumed that all individuals completing educational requirements will choose to remain and work in the metropolitan Chicago area.

Recognizing that the healthcare industry is the largest industry in the region and that projected growth will provide employment opportunities in the future, the public workforce system has been proactive in instituting programs that are designed to increase the pipeline of skilled healthcare workers. Program strategies include:

- Targeting funds available through the Workforce Investment Act program for training that prepares individuals for high growth healthcare jobs; funds offset costs associated with tuition and related training costs for disadvantaged adults and youth and dislocated workers.
- Assisting healthcare employers with the offering of additional education to their current workforce which enables incumbent workers to obtain the certifications, licenses, and/or credentials needed to advance in their careers.
- Implementing bridge programs that are designed to prepare adults with limited academic or limited English skills to enter and succeed in education and training that leads to employment in healthcare occupations that provides an opportunity for progression in a career pathway.²

Employer Assistance: Incumbent Worker Training

Employer recognize that one way to ensure that they have the skilled workforce that they need is to "grow their workers" through incumbent worker training. A shortage of available Registered Nurses prompted Provena St. Joseph Medical Center to launch a program designed to assist their current workforce in acquiring the academic credentials they need to advance and serve as nursing leaders. With the assistance of a grant through the Workforce Investment Board of Will County and in partnership with Lewis University, an onsite, two year BSN completion program was developed for AA degree nurses working at Provena. Employees benefitting from the program make a commitment to stay with Provena for two years. The program is funded 1/2 with incumbent worker grant funds and 1/2 employee tuition reimbursement and the Provena St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation.

"We could not have initiated the BSN completion program without the assistance of the Workforce Investment Board of Will County. Provena is interested in building an organization for quality care – this program represents a move in that direction," stated Beth Garrow, Foundation President, PSJMC and Regional VP, Development.

² Using WIA Title I to Support Bridge Programs, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Workforce Development, August 10 and 11, 2009, page 12.



Metropolitan Chicago Region
2008 Education Completion Data for High Growth Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
Table 16

Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Growth	% Growth	New & Replacement	% New and Replacement	2008 Completion	Educational Attainment
Registered nurses	78,780	85,604	6,824	9%	10,815	14%	3,367	Associate, Bachelor and Master Degrees and Post Baccalaureate and Post Masters Certificate
Physicians and surgeons	26,939	29,164	2,225	8%	3,599	13%	1,172	First Professional Degrees
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	14,191	15,663	1,472	10%	2,749	19%	435	Award of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less than 2 and Bachelor Degrees
Physical therapists	6,503	7,552	1,049	16%	1,269	20%	242	Bachelor, Master and Doctor Degrees
Pharmacy technicians	11,247	12,149	902	8%	1,727	15%	474	Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Dental hygienists	5,014	5,775	761	15%	1,050	21%	124	Associate and Bachelor Degrees
Speech-language pathologists	6,334	7,054	720	11%	1,049	17%	421	Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Doctor Degrees Post Baccalaureate Certificates
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	7,330	7,961	631	9%	1,065	15%	1,074	Associate Degrees, Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Occupational therapists	3,932	4,481	549	14%	751	549	128	Associate, Bachelor and Master Degrees
Medical records and health information technicians	5,324	5,789	465	9%	780	15%	486	Associate Degrees, Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Metropolitan Chicago Region
2008 Education Completion Data for High Growth Healthcare Support Occupations
Table 17

Description	2010 Jobs	2013 Jobs	Growth	% Growth	New & Replacement	% New and Replacement	2008 Completion	Educational Attainment
Home health aides	24,178	28,575	4,397	18%	5,070	21%	27	Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	40,064	44,034	3,970	10%	5,119	13%	2,603	Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Medical assistants	12,134	13,896	1,762	15%	2,145	18%	3,945	Associate Degrees, Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Dental assistants	9,541	10,985	1,444	15%	1,952	20%	206	Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Healthcare support workers, all other	9,377	10,145	768	8%	1,072	11%	Not available	Not available
Psychiatric aides	3,584	4,080	496	14%	596	17%	20	Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Massage therapists	4,501	4,954	453	10%	627	14%	1,699	Associate Degrees, Awards of Less Than 1 Academic Year and Awards of at Least 1 Academic Year but Less Than 2
Physical therapist aides	1,712	2,045	333	19%	402	23%	See Physical therapist assistant data	
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	2,288	2,620	332	15%	404	18%	62	Associate Degrees,
Physical therapist assistants	1,767	2,080	313	18%	384	22%	38	Associate Degrees

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2010

Conclusion

The Healthcare and Social Assistance industry is the region's largest industry, representing 575,307 (11.1%) of the region's labor force (5,200,472). It is also the fastest growing industry and represented the largest industry growth between September and December 2009 (+25,440). Over the next three years, it is expected to grow by an additional 61,459 jobs (11%). Healthcare jobs account for 445,544 (77%) of all jobs in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry. An additional 43,310 healthcare jobs are anticipated over the next three years. To help jobs seekers and career changers take advantage of these employment and advancement opportunities, the region's workforce system will continue to share career preparation information and maximize its investment of public resources in education and training for healthcare occupations.

But, unlike many other industries, the region's need for a skilled healthcare workforce extends beyond economic and workforce concerns. The availability of a skilled workforce impacts our region's quality of life. As the population ages, we will see a greater demand for needed healthcare services. Increasing the pipeline of healthcare workers and retaining those individuals in the region's workforce will require a concerted effort by regional stakeholders that include all levels of the educational system, employers, and the public workforce system.

For more information, visit www.workforceboardsmetrochicago.com or www.mega-chicago.org
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