

# Highlights from the 2014 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Data Release

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Every year the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives conducts the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. Results from the survey can be used to answer some key questions about occupational employment in Michigan, for instance:

1. Which occupations provide the most jobs in Michigan?
2. What is the pay range for different job titles in Michigan?
3. What is the relationship between educational attainment and occupational employment?

This brief article answers these questions by highlighting some of the 2014 data which was released in March of 2015.

## **(1) Which occupations provide the most jobs in Michigan?**

In 2014, establishments in Michigan provided 4,073,730 jobs by occupation in the state. This employment was distributed across a diverse mix of job titles. Nevertheless, the top 10 occupations with the highest levels of employment made up nearly a quarter of all jobs in the state. (Table 1) These occupations are numerous because these are common job titles employed across a wide variety of industries.

**In 2014, establishments in Michigan provided 4,073,730 jobs by occupation, with the top 10 occupations accounting for nearly a quarter of all jobs.**

With the exception of *Registered nurses*, these job titles are all lower paying and require relatively little education and training.

**Table 1: Largest Occupations in Michigan**

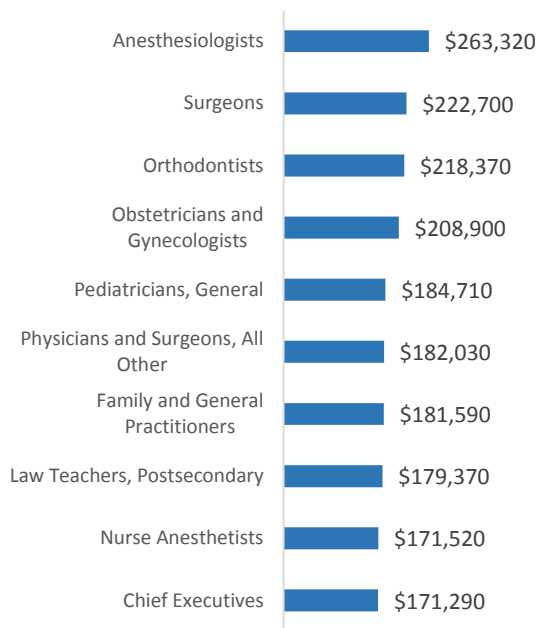
Occupation	Total Employment	Average Hourly Wage
Retail Salespersons	141,610	\$11.91
Office Clerks, General	114,870	\$14.94
Team Assemblers	101,800	\$16.13
Food Preparation and Serving Workers	98,220	\$9.01
Cashiers	93,900	\$9.89
Registered Nurses	90,340	\$32.30
Customer Service Representatives	82,540	\$15.67
Waiters and Waitresses	74,860	\$9.64
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	65,630	\$13.27
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping	63,510	\$12.15

**Source:** DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

## (2) What is the pay range for each occupation in Michigan?

The average wage for all occupational employment was \$21.70 per hour or \$45,140 annually. Figure 1 highlights the job titles at the top of the pay range.

**Figure 1: Highest Paying Occupations**



**Source:** DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

The list is dominated by professions from the medical field, with the exception of *Law professors* and *Chief executives*. Most of these occupations employ less than 1,000 people in Michigan, although some of the medical field positions have higher employment than what is collected, because medical professionals who own their own practice typically are not reported as an employee in the OES survey. The low levels of employment and high wages for these occupations are due to the high level of education, training, and skill required to perform these jobs.

Conversely, lower paying occupations concentrated in sales and service occupations

include *Cashiers*, *Fast food cooks*, *Hosts and hostesses*, and *Dishwashers*. These occupations require a modest level of education and training. They are also more likely to be part-time or temporary positions, putting downward pressure on average wages.

## (3) What is the relationship between educational attainment and occupational employment?

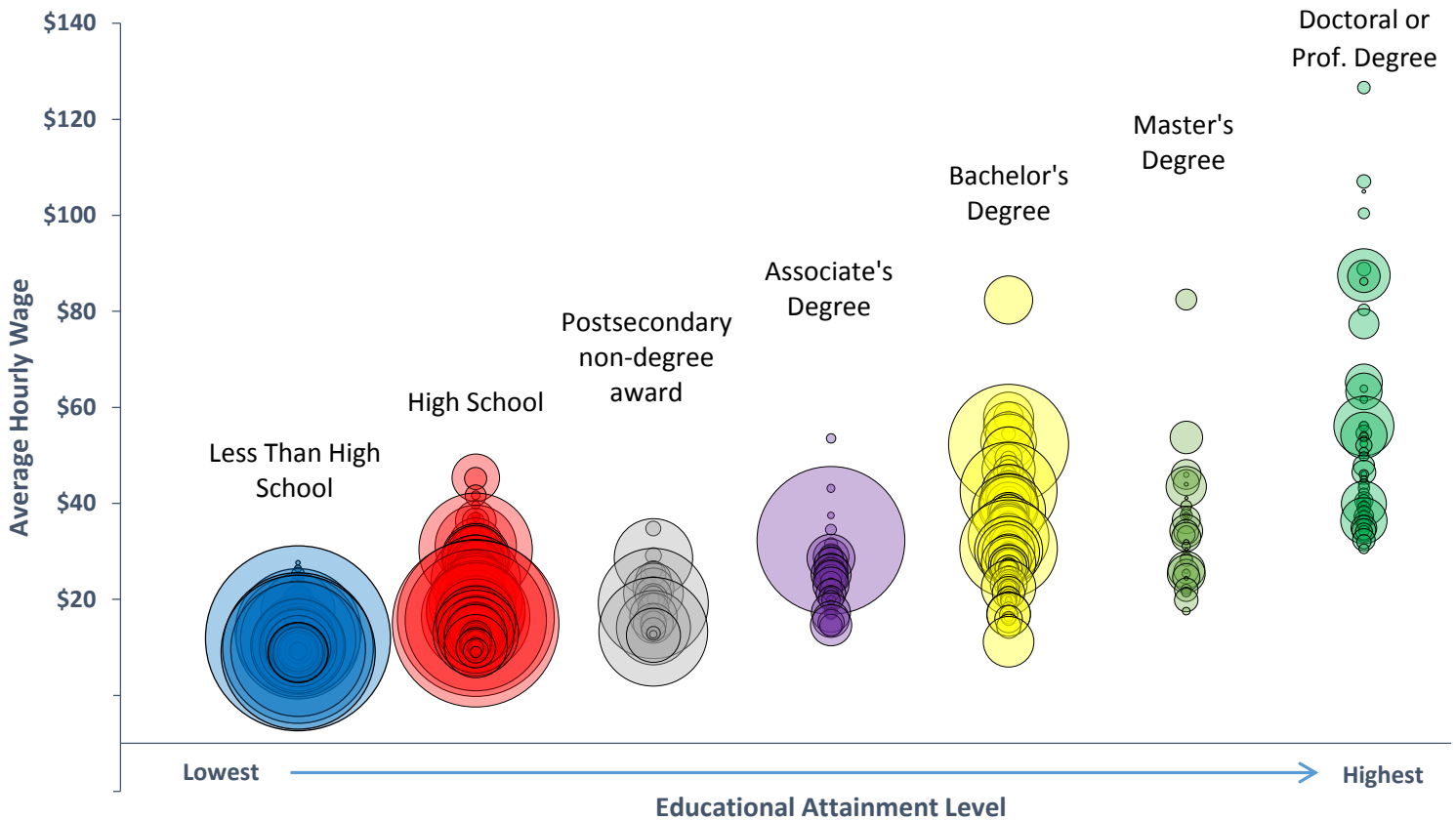
The important relationship between educational attainment and employment cannot be overstated. Valuable insights into this relationship can be gleaned by matching the results of the OES survey to information about the education, training, and work experience typically required for job titles.

Almost two-thirds of all jobs in Michigan require only a high school diploma or less. Earnings potential increases with more education, but it is not a guarantee of a higher wage.

Figure 2 shows the average wages of all occupations based on the educational attainment level required. The size of the circles represents the employment in the occupation.

The employment concentration trends downwards as educational level increases, while wages trend upwards, but with large overlaps. There is more earning potential the higher the educational attainment, but going further in school does not guarantee a higher wage. The large circle in the Associate's Degree area is for *Registered Nurses*, which is one of the most prevalent occupations overall in Michigan. It has an average wage higher than many jobs that require a Bachelor's degree. The highest average wage occupations for Bachelor's and Master's degrees are *CEO's* and *Nurse anesthetists*, which are also in Michigan's top 10 highest average wage occupations seen in Table 1. This graph shows that those two occupations are wage outliers for their educational attainment level.

**Figure 2: Employment and Earning by Education**



Source: DTMB, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

**Want more Information?**

The Occupational Employment Statistics survey produces occupation, employment and wage data for over 800 occupations in over 600 metro areas, every state, and the nation. More data and program information can be found on the Bureau of Labor statistics website at

[www.bls.gov/oes/#data](http://www.bls.gov/oes/#data) or on the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives website at [www.michigan.gov/LMI](http://www.michigan.gov/LMI).

For a complete listing of occupations and wages in Michigan and its areas go to [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi) and click on the wages link to download the Excel files.<sup>i</sup>

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