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Occupational Employment Statistics

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Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2006

29-2021 Dental Hygienists

Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease. May educate patients on oral hygiene, take and develop X-rays, or apply fluoride or sealants.

[National estimates for this occupation](#)

[Industry profile for this occupation](#)

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National estimates for this occupation: [Top](#)

Employment estimate and mean wage estimates for this occupation:

Employment (1)	Employment RSE (3)	Mean hourly wage	Mean annual wage (2)	Wage RSE (3)
166,380	2.4 %	\$30.01	\$62,430	0.6 %

Percentile wage estimates for this occupation:

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$19.45	\$24.63	\$30.19	\$35.67	\$41.60
Annual Wage (2)	\$40,450	\$51,240	\$62,800	\$74,190	\$86,530

Industry profile for this occupation: [Top](#)

Industries with the highest published employment and wages for this occupation are

provided. For a list of all industries with employment in this occupation, see the [Create Customized Tables](#) function.

Industries with the highest levels of employment in this occupation:

Industry	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Offices of Dentists	160,000	\$30.12	\$62,640
Employment Services	1,520	\$32.71	\$68,030
Offices of Physicians	1,240	\$26.55	\$55,230
Outpatient Care Centers	550	\$30.40	\$63,240
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	490	\$25.77	\$53,600

Top paying industries for this occupation:

Industry	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage
Employment Services	1,520	\$32.71	\$68,030
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	(8)	\$30.96	\$64,400
Management of Companies and Enterprises	(8)	\$30.86	\$64,180
Outpatient Care Centers	550	\$30.40	\$63,240
Offices of Dentists	160,000	\$30.12	\$62,640

State profile for this occupation: [Top](#)

States with the highest published employment concentrations and wages for this occupation are provided. For a list of all States with employment in this occupation, see the [Create Customized Tables](#) function.

States with the highest concentration of workers in this occupation:

State	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of State employment
Vermont	590	\$27.14	\$56,450	0.197%

Michigan	8,480	\$27.99	\$58,210	0.197%
New Hampshire	1,190	\$33.23	\$69,120	0.190%
Washington	5,110	\$39.80	\$82,780	0.187%
North Dakota	600	\$24.68	\$51,330	0.179%

Top paying States for this occupation:

State	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of State employment
Washington	5,110	\$39.80	\$82,780	0.187%
Alaska	340	\$39.15	\$81,430	0.112%
California	22,290	\$35.55	\$73,950	0.148%
Colorado	2,980	\$35.06	\$72,920	0.135%
Oregon	2,800	\$34.70	\$72,170	0.170%

Metropolitan area profile for this occupation: [Top](#)

Metropolitan areas with the highest published employment concentrations and wages for this occupation are provided. For a list of all Metropolitan areas with employment in this occupation, see the [Create Customized Tables](#) function.

Metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of workers in this occupation:

MSA	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of MSA employment
Lynn-Peabody-Salem, MA NECTA Division	400	\$33.31	\$69,290	0.393%
Barnstable Town, MA	340	\$32.48	\$67,550	0.343%
Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA	290	\$34.34	\$71,430	0.320%
Flint, MI	480	\$24.53	\$51,030	0.316%
Bay City, MI	110	\$29.16	\$60,640	0.295%

Top paying Metropolitan areas for this occupation:

MSA	Employment	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage	Percent of MSA employment
Salinas, CA	(8)	\$48.84	\$101,580	(8)
Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA	250	\$46.15	\$95,980	0.131%
Bellingham, WA	130	\$43.15	\$89,750	0.168%
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	280	\$42.81	\$89,050	0.216%
Wenatchee, WA	50	\$42.74	\$88,900	0.128%

[About May 2006 National, State, Metropolitan, and nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

These estimates are calculated with data collected from employers in all industry sectors in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas in every State and the District of Columbia. The top five employment and wage figures are provided above. The complete list is available in the [downloadable Excel files \(XLS\)](#).

Percentile wage estimates show the percentage of workers in an occupation that earn less than a given wage and the percentage that earn more. The median wage is the 50th percentile wage estimate--50 percent of workers earn less than the median and 50 percent of workers earn more than the median. [More about percentile wages.](#)

(1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(2) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(3) The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the reliability of a survey statistic. The smaller the relative standard error, the more precise the estimate.

(8) Estimate not released.

Other OES estimates and related information:

[May 2006 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2006 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2006 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[May 2006 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

[List of Occupations in SOC Code Number Order](#)

[List of Occupations in Alphabetical Order](#)

[Download May 2006 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates in Zipped Excel files](#)

[Technical notes](#)

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