

Dayton ranks in top 20 in U.S. for health care jobs

Brookings report:
Industry added 2.6M
jobs in past 10 years.

By **Randy Tucker**
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In a local economy that is still more than 30,000 jobs short of its pre-recession peak, health care continues to shine as a bright spot for employment in the metropolitan Dayton area, according to the Brookings Institution's new quarterly "Metro Monitor" report.

Health care accounted for about 13 percent of all workers employed in the Dayton area in the first quarter this year, according to the report, which ranked Dayton among the top 20 most "health care-intensive" metro areas in the U.S.

Nationwide, employment in the health care industry varied from just 7 percent of total employment in the Las Vegas metro area to 20 percent in the McAllen, Texas, metro ar-



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ea, Brookings found.

The most health care-intensive metro areas were in the Northeast, Midwest and sunshine states, such as Florida

Health care continued on **A6**

Health care still growing

Health care

continued from A1

and Arizona, with large senior populations.

The graying of the population is one of the main reasons many experts believe the upward trend in health care employment will continue unabated. That's especially true in states, such as Ohio where, the number of residents 65 and older grew at a rate of nearly 8 percent over the past decade while overall population growth remained flat, according to a recent report from the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University.

"Health care has been a consistent area of job increases nationwide, and I have every expectation that that will continue to be the case, in part, just because of the demographics," said Ken Mayland, a labor economist and founder of ClearView Economics in suburban Cleveland. "We're getting older, and we're going to require more and more services."

According to the Brookings report, the health care industry has added 2.6 million jobs nationwide over the past 10 years, and the industry's 22.7 percent employment growth rate over that period significantly outstripped the 2.1 percent employment growth rate in all other industries.

More health care jobs

Brookings researchers found health care employment was most intense in industrial areas, such as Dayton, which have experienced massive job losses in manufacturing since the 1980s

and are now seeing health care emerge to fill the void.

"As many of these metro economies lost manufacturing jobs over the succeeding decades, their economic base shifted decidedly toward the health care sector, which now represents proportionally larger employment shares in those regional economies," the researchers wrote.

Nationwide, health care has accounted for 13 percent of total job growth in the 100 largest metro areas since the recovery began in June 2009, according to Brookings.

Today, the health care industry employs about 14.5 million people, and accounts for 10.3 percent of jobs nationally in occupations ranging from doc-

tors, nurses and dentists to less skilled nursing assistants and home health aides.

Steady growth in the health care industry continued even through the most recent economic downturn. The continued job gains in health care are even more impressive than gains in other industries because health care jobs aren't bouncing off recessionary lows, Mayland said.

"You talk about recession-proof employment, health care wasn't even dented by the recession and is now probably 1.5 million jobs greater than it was in early 2008, while nationwide, we're still about 3 million jobs short of the 2007-2008 peak," he said.

Indeed, the Dayton ar-

ea ranked 60th out of the 100 largest metro areas for total jobs recovered since the recession ended, according to Brookings. The local area is not expected to regain pre-recession employment levels until sometime after 2023, according to a report commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Meanwhile, the health care sector is expected to get a boost from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which will expand health coverage to millions of Americans and is expected to drive up demand for an already thin supply of doctors.

The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates the shortage of primary care doctors

will reach 30,000 by 2015 and increase to 66,000 in about a decade, the Dayton Daily News has been reporting.

Meanwhile, monthly job growth in the health care industry has averaged 55,000 through the first six months of the year, according to the most recent jobs report released Friday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's almost twice the average gain of 30,000 per month in 2012, the BLS noted.

Overall, the nation added a better-than-expected 195,000 non-farm jobs in June, despite widely publicized concerns that the pending implementation of the health care law would slow down hiring, especially for employers

with 50 or more full-time workers who would be forced to offer health coverage next year under the ACA's employer mandate.

The Obama administration has suspended the mandate for a year, giving those employers most likely to be impacted by the mandate – such as hotels, bars and restaurants – a temporary reprieve.

But many of those same employers were busy last month adding new workers, according to the jobs report, which showed the leisure and hospitality industries led the way in job growth last month with employment in food services and at drinking establishments increasing by 75,000.

REBOUNDING HEALTH CARE JOBS

The Dayton metro area ranks among the top 20 metros in the country for health care employment intensity — or the percent of all workers employed in the health care industry.

Metro Area	Healthcare employment intensity in first quarter 2015	Healthcare pre-recession employment intensity peak	Share of total jobs recovery attributed to health care since June 2009	Change in total health care jobs since recovery began
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas	20.20%	18.90%	29.40%	4,015
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio-Penn.	15.50%	14.50%	2.90%	207
New Haven-Milford, Conn.	15.50%	14.00%	14.40%	1,740
Worcester, Mass.	15.50%	13.90%	22.90%	3,272
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-Mass.	15.00%	13.10%	16.70%	2,403
North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, Fla.	14.70%	12.00%	13.80%	1,429
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Penn.-N.J.	14.60%	13.10%	21.70%	3,665
Springfield, Mass.	14.10%	13.70%	-0.80%	-99
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor	14.00%	11.70%	24.50%	8,039
Toledo	13.60%	12.60%	-2.30%	-253
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, Penn.	13.50%	13.10%	0.90%	38
Pittsburgh	13.40%	13.00%	12.20%	6,087
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.-N.H.	13.30%	12.20%	15.70%	18,823
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington-N.J.-Del.-Md.	13.20%	12.00%	22.80%	13,880
Dayton	13.10%	11.00%	3.50%	341
Lancaster, Penn.	12.80%	11.50%	16.40%	895
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, Fla.	12.80%	10.10%	16.80%	387
Detroit-Warren-Livonia	12.80%	9.90%	8.70%	10,127
Tucson	12.60%	10.30%	13.30%	1,468

Source: Brookings Healthcare Metro Monitor Supplement