Data Focus

New Mexico Data Focus: Healthcare Support Occupations
Bob Richards, Economist

Healthcare support occupations had employment of 25,130 in May 2018, representing 3.1 percent of total statewide employment. The annual mean wage across all healthcare support occupations was $29,760, compared with New Mexico’s average wage of $45,400 for all occupations. Employment in the healthcare support occupational group is expected to grow from 27,332 in 2016 to 33,114, adding 5,782 jobs (a 21.15 percent increase), by 2026. This growth rate is more than triple the overall expected employment growth of 6.68 percent for all occupations in New Mexico, with its rapid growth mainly due to an aging population.

- As seen in Exhibit 1, the largest healthcare support occupations were nursing assistants (6,200, or 24.7 percent share of the group); medical assistants (5,960, or 23.7 percent); and home health aides (2,670, or 22.6 percent).
- Exhibit 2 shows the ten highest paying healthcare support occupations. They include occupational therapy assistants ($57,810); physical therapists assistants ($46,650); massage therapists ($42,260); and healthcare support workers, all other ($39,210).
- Healthcare support occupations expected to add the most jobs between 2016 and 2026 are home health aides (3,025 jobs); medical assistants (1,024 jobs); and nursing assistants (721 jobs).

Data sources: NMDWS Economic Research and Analysis Bureau, Occupational Employment Statistics Program (www.jobs.state.nm.us/oeswage) and Employment Projections Program (www.jobs.state.nm.us/occprj).