The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) is releasing this report in honor of National Nurses Month. New Jersey takes pride in having 140,800 nursing jobs, with the majority located in health care settings. Among the various nursing occupations, registered nurses (RN) are the most prevalent, earning an average annual salary of $89,700.

14% of New Jersey’s nursing jobs are outside of health care industries, such as public administration and educational services.

**Registered Nurses Per Capita by Labor Area**

- **93.2 - 97.9**
- **98.0 - 111.0**
- **111.1 - 120.9**
- **121.0 - 149.5**
- **149.6 - 197.7**

**Where Nurses Work**

- Health Services: 86.0%
- Educational Services and Social Assistance: 4.4%
- Professional and Business Services: 4.2%
- Public Administration and Social Assistance: 4.8%
- Finance and Insurance: 0.6%

**Key Figures**

- **140.8K** Number of nurses working in New Jersey
- **$89.7K** Average New Jersey salary for RNs, the largest nursing occupation
- **1.5K** Nursing apprenticeships supported by the NJDOL GAINS Program
- **5.1K** Students completing nursing-related programs offered at New Jersey secondary and post-secondary schools in 2021
Registered nurse is the most common nursing occupation and is often the first thing that comes to mind when people think of a "nurse." However, it's worth noting that the nursing field provides a wide range of specialized occupations, many of which offer salaries higher than the state average ($67,100). These diverse nursing roles, many of which are listed above, allow professionals to explore various paths and pursue specialized areas of expertise, both in terms of clinical practice and earning potential.

Skills Sought by Employers

- Communications
- Management
- Leadership
- Planning
- Teaching
- Problem Solving

The majority of nursing positions typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. In addition to nursing expertise, employers seeking to hire nurses have emphasized the importance of candidates possessing strong interpersonal skills, such as effective communication, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.

Apprenticeships Offer Career Opportunities in the Nursing Field

The NJDOL's Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS) program assists individuals pursuing nursing careers by promoting the expansion and development of USDOL-approved Registered Apprenticeship programs. This initiative encourages economic growth by promoting skill development and educational attainment, creating pathways to higher-paying careers and advanced credentials. New Jersey businesses or organizations, as well as current registered apprenticeship sponsors in specific sectors, can receive support for developing new Registered Apprenticeship programs or expanding existing ones to new USDOL-approved occupations through the GAINS program. To date, the GAINS program has enabled 1,522 individuals to participate in nursing program apprenticeships. To learn more about the GAINS program, please click here.