

NEWS RELEASE

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Increased Training Helps Idaho's Nursing Market Reach Equilibrium

The emphasis Idaho's educational institutions put on providing highly skilled nurses has - for the most part - created balanced market conditions for health care employers and a highly sought after workforce, according to a new report by the Idaho Department of Labor.

The report, Idaho Nursing Overview 2015, found the labor markets for registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses - those with advanced training such as nurse practitioners - are tight but nearly balanced between supply and demand. Data for licensed practical nurses show a slight surplus.

The department's labor market analyses for nurses is a collaborative effort with the state Board of Nursing, which is financing the work, and the state's 11 public and private institutions providing nursing education.

"Idaho's population and workforce are aging faster than the nation," the report said. "There has never been a greater responsibility on health care providers to tap into a talented and plentiful workforce to meet their demands."

Emphasis on expanded nursing educational opportunities in the mid-2000s generated sufficient registered and licensed practical nursing graduates to meet the state's needs, but in 2013 median wages lower than all the surrounding states but Montana may be resulting in more Idaho licensed nurses practicing in other states.

Median Annual Wage Estimates From OES May 2013						
State	LPNs	RNs	Instructors	Nurse Anesthetists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Montana	\$37,530	\$58,840	\$55,280	\$138,610	*	\$88,210
Wyoming	\$42,570	\$60,450	\$57,900	\$185,730	*	\$88,740
Utah	\$40,330	\$59,040	\$61,350	\$124,100	\$80,620.00	\$89,600
Idaho	\$38,330	\$58,980	\$51,300	\$145,400	*	\$88,840
Washington	\$47,100	\$75,500	\$58,350	\$165,330	\$88,150.00	\$95,860
Oregon	\$48,100	\$80,360	\$61,770	\$151,650	\$106,810	\$104,320
Nevada	\$51,970	\$78,240	\$80,310	> \$187,200	*	\$90,830
* Estimated wage is not available						
Source: OES May 2013 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates						

Idaho's health care jobs are projected to grow at 2.5 percent a year through 2022, a percentage point more than the economy overall, and the demand for nursing education across the state is high. Over 2,200 people applied for the 1,331 nursing school openings in the state for the 2013-2014 school year.

In the case of registered nurses, only 59 percent of graduates remain in Idaho to work as nurses, leaving a gap of 120 to be recruited from other states to meet an annual demand from growth and replacements due to retirements or other reasons. Seventy-two percent of advanced practice registered nursing graduates remain and practice in Idaho, leaving just a small gap with a demand that typically can be met by professionals from other states.

In 2013, nearly 15 percent of Idaho licensed registered nurses and 14.5 percent of Idaho licensed advanced practice registered nurses worked in other states. That was up from 2010's 10.6 percent of registered nurses and 11.5 percent of advanced practice registered nurses.

The report found several areas for follow-up research including a survey of nurses working in other states to determine why they left Idaho, why as much as 9 percent of Idaho-licensed nurses are not working at all and assessing the impact of health care reform on nursing in the state.

The full report can be found online at <http://labor.idaho.gov/publications/NursingOverview2015.pdf>.

