



# Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board

## Allied Health Sector Employment Trends in Montgomery County

January 2012

A decorative graphic consisting of a dark blue vertical bar on the left, a light blue circle with a grid pattern in the center, and a green brushstroke-like shape at the bottom.

Produced for the Allied Health Industry Alliance  
by the  
Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board

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## Key Findings

- Allied Health sub-sector makes up about 6% of total employment in Montgomery County with about 28,000 workers.
- There are close to 7,000 potential employers with operations related to the Allied Health sub-sector in Montgomery County.
- Allied Health sub-sector has outperformed the overall economy in terms of the historic job growth over the past five years. All occupations, except five (pharmacy aides, respiratory therapy technicians, psychiatric technicians, orthotists and prosthetists, and radiation therapists) have grown at the 3%-15% rate.
- Projected employment growth over the next ten years is positive for all occupations except respiratory therapy technicians.
- The average hourly wages for employees in Allied Health is \$25.20.

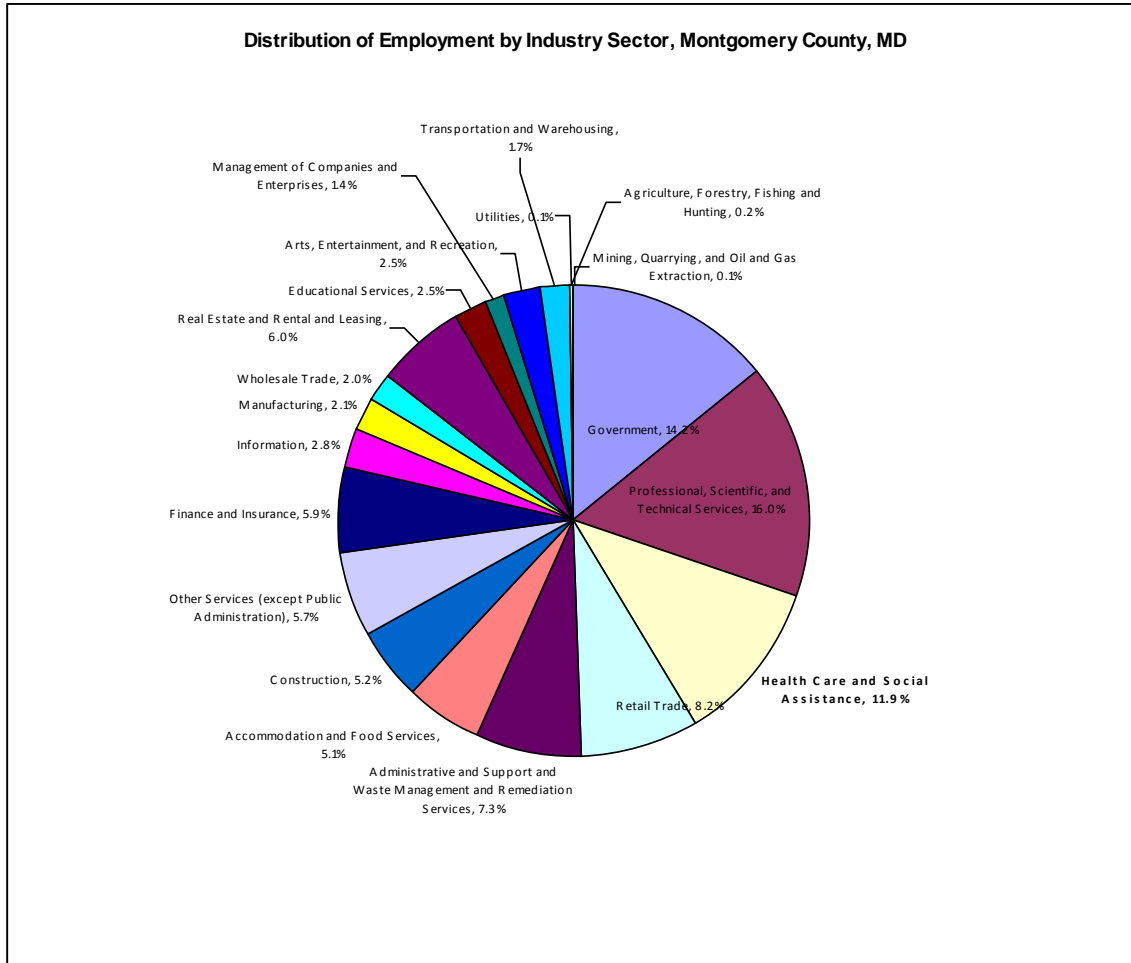
## What is Allied Health?

Allied Health professionals are involved with the delivery of health or related services pertaining to the identification, evaluation and prevention of diseases and disorders; dietary and nutrition services; rehabilitation and health systems management, among others. Allied health professionals, to name a few, include dental hygienists, diagnostic medical sonographers, dietitians, medical technologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, radiographers, respiratory therapists, and speech language pathologists.

## Current Employment in Major Industry Sectors

Healthcare and Social Assistance sector is the top third sector by the number of employees in Montgomery County, falling only behind the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Government sectors. It represents close to 12% of the total employment in the county with over 70,000 jobs in 2011.

Figure 1. Distribution of Employment by Industry Sector, Montgomery County, MD

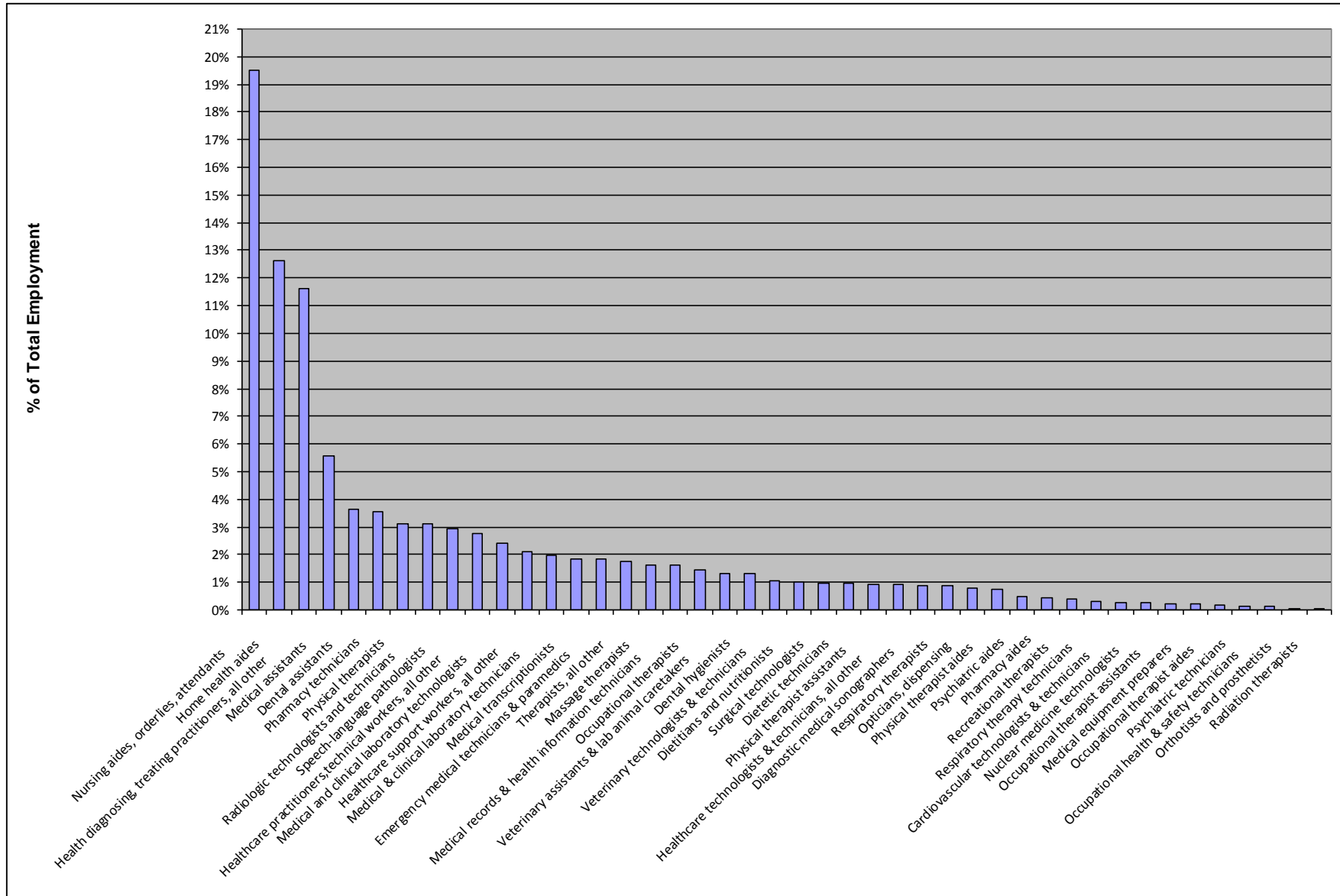


Source: EMSI, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011. EMSI combines covered employment data from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) produced by the Department of Labor with total employment data in Regional Economic Information System (REIS) published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), augmented with County Business Patterns (CBP) and Nonemployer Statistics (NES) published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Projections are based on the latest available EMSI industry data, 15-year past local trends in each industry, growth rates in statewide sub-state area industry projections published by MD DLLR, and (in part) growth rates in national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Employment in Allied Health Sub-Industry

Allied Health is a subsection within the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry sector. Allied Health occupations are found both among the Standard Occupational Code (SOC) 29 and SOC 30. It encompasses 44 occupations, which are listed in the *Table 1* below. Allied Health occupations represent 6% of all employment in Montgomery County and employ 27,883 workers.

Table 1. Distribution of Employment by Occupation



Source: EMSI, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011

As the economy slowly recovers from the recession, hiring has increased overall as compared to levels in 2009. In the period between 2009 and 2011, the growth in occupational jobs in SOC 31 was 5.4% with 874 openings and 4% growth and 972 openings for SOC 29. Average growth for all allied health occupations has been 5% with 1,078 new jobs and 1,845 openings<sup>1</sup>. Total number of new jobs in the Montgomery County economy in the same period was 3,723, which means that allied health positions represent 29% of all.

## Employers

In 2011 the number of establishments in the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry in Montgomery County was 3,450 representing 22% of all state establishments.

There are many allied health employers in the county and 18 of them are among the top 200 largest employers.

*Table 2. Top Allied Health Employers*

Description	Average Number of Employees
Adventist Healthcare	5,000
Holy Cross Hospital	3,000
Kaiser Permanente	2,700
Suburban Hospital	1,900
Montgomery General Hospital	1,300
Affiliated Associates, Inc.	900
CHI Centers Inc.	600
Children's National Medical	600
Capitol Women's Care, LLC	400
Community Support Services	300
Options for Senior America	300
Compass, Inc.	300
National Rehab Hospital, inc.	300
Integramed America	300
Family Services Agency, Inc.	300
Bar-T Holding, Inc.	250
OMV Medical	200
SSC Bethesda Operating	200

It is not surprising that hospitals and major healthcare delivery organizations are the largest employers for allied health occupations.

<sup>1</sup> Openings - the sum of new and replacement jobs in the occupation for the selected year.

Table 3. Healthcare and Social Assistance Industry's breakdown (3-digit NAICS level)

Description	2011 Jobs	% of Total	2011 Average Earnings	2011 Establishments
Ambulatory Health Care Services	33,956	47.62%	\$73,925	2,666
Hospitals	10,483	14.70%	\$65,995	30
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	14,405	20.20%	\$36,234	228
Social Assistance	12,457	17.47%	\$27,964	526
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>71,301</b>		<b>\$51,030</b>	<b>3,450</b>

Source: EMSI (QCEW, REIS, BEA, CBP, NES, MD DLLR, BLS) 4th Quarter 2011.

Table 4. Healthcare and Social Assistance Industry's breakdown (4-digit NAICS level)

Description	2011 Jobs	% of Total	2011 Average Earnings	2011 Establishments
Offices of Physicians	11,789	16.53%	\$104,614	1,158
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	9,918	13.91%	\$66,116	18
Child Day Care Services	6,561	9.20%	\$22,999	305
Home Health Care Services	6,300	8.84%	\$28,916	106
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	6,132	8.60%	\$58,114	431
Community Care Facilities for the Elderly	5,830	8.18%	\$34,140	84
Nursing Care Facilities	4,937	6.92%	\$43,838	39
Individual and Family Services	4,023	5.64%	\$32,978	154
Outpatient Care Centers	3,885	5.45%	\$86,238	120
Offices of Dentists	3,850	5.40%	\$66,037	703
Residential Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities	2,797	3.92%	\$25,902	72
Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	1,423	2.00%	\$80,971	131
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	1,314	1.84%	\$32,839	25
Other Residential Care Facilities	842	1.18%	\$40,465	33
Other Ambulatory Health Care Services	578	0.81%	\$58,734	17
Community Food and Housing, and Emergency and Other Relief Services	559	0.78%	\$38,699	41
Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	556	0.78%	\$63,429	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,294</b>		<b>\$52,061</b>	<b>3,445</b>

Source: EMSI (QCEW, REIS, BEA, CBP, NES, MD DLLR, BLS) 4th Quarter 2011.

## Wages

The average annual wage for employees in the Allied health industry is \$52,414 or hourly wage of \$25.20.

*Table 5. Wages and Education Levels in Allied Health Occupations*

Description	2011 Average Annual Earnings	Required Education Level
Health diagnosing, treating practitioners, all other	\$113,235	Bachelor's degree
Healthcare practitioners, technical workers, all other	\$102,066	Postsecondary vocational award
Nuclear medicine technologists	\$81,848	Associate's degree
Physical therapists	\$81,078	Master's degree
Radiation therapists	\$79,539	Associate's degree
Respiratory therapists	\$74,963	Associate's degree
Dental hygienists	\$72,883	Associate's degree
Occupational therapists	\$71,947	Master's degree
Respiratory therapy technicians	\$71,760	Associate's degree
Radiologic technologists and technicians	\$71,157	Associate's degree
Speech-language pathologists	\$70,450	Master's degree
Dietitians and nutritionists	\$66,102	Bachelor's degree
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	\$65,978	Bachelor's degree
Diagnostic medical sonographers	\$65,229	Associate's degree
Occupational health & safety technicians	\$64,293	Postsecondary vocational award
Cardiovascular technologists & technicians	\$59,550	Associate's degree
Surgical technologists	\$56,867	Postsecondary vocational award
Healthcare technologists & technicians, all other	\$56,784	Postsecondary vocational award
Recreational therapists	\$53,581	Bachelor's degree
Orthotists and prosthetists	\$50,253	Bachelor's degree
Therapists, all other	\$49,878	Bachelor's degree
Medical & clinical laboratory technicians	\$49,650	Associate's degree
Occupational therapist assistants	\$46,384	Associate's degree
Physical therapist assistants	\$45,094	Associate's degree
Medical records & health information technicians	\$43,992	Associate's degree
Massage therapists	\$43,659	Postsecondary vocational award
Healthcare support workers, all other	\$42,162	Short-term on-the-job training
Psychiatric technicians	\$41,787	Moderate-term on-the-job training

Description	2011 Average Annual Earnings	Required Education Level
Emergency medical technicians & paramedics	\$38,626	Postsecondary vocational award
Dietetic technicians	\$37,378	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Veterinary technologists & technicians	\$37,086	Associate's degree
Medical transcriptionists	\$36,442	Postsecondary vocational award
Opticians, dispensing	\$36,379	Long-term on-the-job training
Dental assistants	\$36,130	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Veterinary assistants & lab animal caretakers	\$35,880	Short-term on-the-job training
Pharmacy technicians	\$35,256	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Medical assistants	\$35,214	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Medical equipment preparers	\$32,573	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing aides, orderlies, attendants	\$29,286	Postsecondary vocational award
Psychiatric aides	\$28,642	Short-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist aides	\$26,645	Short-term on-the-job training
Occupational therapist aides	\$23,608	Short-term on-the-job training
Home health aides	\$22,901	Short-term on-the-job training
Pharmacy aides	\$21,986	Short-term on-the-job training
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$52,414</b>	

## Historical and Projected Employment Change

*Table 6. Industry Employment Trends and Projections*

Industry Sector	Total Employment Change 2006-2011	% Change in Employment	Projected Change in Employment 2011-2021	Projected % Change in Employment 2011-2021
Healthcare and Social Assistance	7,399	11.58%	11,861	16.63%
Allied Health	2,977	11.95%	5,323	19.09%
All Industry Sectors	3,129	0%	69,681	11%



Table 7. Projected Employment Growth, Allied Health Occupations

Description	2011 Jobs	2021 Jobs	2006-2011 % change	2011-2021 % change
Nursing aides, orderlies, attendants	5,437	6,219	7.45%	14.38%
Home health aides	3,522	5,111	35.57%	45.12%
Health diagnosing, treating practitioners, all other	3,238	3,442	14.86%	6.30%
Medical assistants	1,557	1,947	11.06%	25.05%
Dental assistants	1,018	1,316	7.27%	29.27%
Pharmacy technicians	985	1,281	15.88%	30.05%
Physical therapists	869	1,054	9.03%	21.29%
Radiologic technologists and technicians	864	990	10.91%	14.58%
Speech-language pathologists	822	931	7.03%	13.26%
Healthcare practitioners, technical workers, all other	767	846	11.00%	10.30%
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	667	774	13.44%	16.04%
Healthcare support workers, all other	590	664	13.90%	12.54%
Medical & clinical laboratory technicians	556	655	13.24%	17.81%
Medical transcriptionists	517	546	-2.82%	5.61%
Emergency medical technicians & paramedics	516	533	-4.09%	3.29%
Therapists, all other	489	553	12.93%	13.09%
Massage therapists	451	531	5.62%	17.74%
Medical records & health information technicians	450	511	7.40%	13.56%
Occupational therapists	398	473	8.45%	18.84%
Veterinary assistants & lab animal caretakers	372	408	7.83%	9.68%
Dental hygienists	361	471	6.80%	30.47%
Veterinary technologists & technicians	298	358	14.18%	20.13%
Dietitians and nutritionists	284	316	10.51%	11.27%
Surgical technologists	275	329	9.56%	19.64%
Dietetic technicians	272	303	5.43%	11.40%
Physical therapist assistants	261	318	4.82%	21.84%
Healthcare technologists & technicians, all other	256	281	10.34%	9.77%
Diagnostic medical sonographers	250	292	10.62%	16.80%
Respiratory therapists	241	276	3.88%	14.52%
Opticians, dispensing	217	253	11.28%	16.59%
Physical therapist aides	212	260	2.42%	22.64%
Psychiatric aides	136	156	13.33%	14.71%

Description	2011 Jobs	2021 Jobs	2006-2011 % change	2011-2021 % change
Pharmacy aides	117	117	-0.85%	0.00%
Recreational therapists	109	121	7.92%	11.01%
Respiratory therapy technicians	80	76	-4.76%	-5.00%
Cardiovascular technologists & technicians	79	94	9.72%	18.99%
Nuclear medicine technologists	73	83	8.96%	13.70%
Occupational therapist assistants	64	75	4.92%	17.19%
Medical equipment preparers	63	69	3.28%	9.52%
Occupational therapist aides	45	53	2.27%	17.78%
Psychiatric technicians	42	42	0.00%	0.00%
Occupational health & safety technicians	42	53	10.53%	26.19%
Orthotists and prosthetists	11	12	0.00%	9.09%
Radiation therapists	10	13	0.00%	30.00%