

# Occupational Profile: Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse

## GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Care for ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled persons in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse. Licensing required.

### Specific tasks include:

- Observe patients, charting and reporting changes in patients' conditions, such as adverse reactions to medication or treatment, and taking any necessary action.
- Administer prescribed medications or start intravenous fluids, and note times and amounts on patients' charts.
- Answer patients' calls and determine how to assist them.
- Measure and record patients' vital signs, such as height, weight, temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration.
- Provide basic patient care and treatments, such as taking temperatures or blood pressures, dressing wounds, treating bedsores, giving enemas or douches, rubbing with alcohol, massaging, or performing catheterizations.
- Help patients with bathing, dressing, maintaining personal hygiene, moving in bed, or standing and walking.
- Supervise nurses' aides and assistants.
- Work as part of a health care team to assess patient needs, plan and modify care and implement interventions.
- Record food and fluid intake and output.
- Evaluate nursing intervention outcomes, conferring with other health care team members as necessary.

Source: O\*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

## REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table (right), 100% of interviewed employers reportedly required a 2-year degree or equivalent for this occupation.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	0%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	100%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## WAGES

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse is generally considered a medium to high-wage

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$12.18	\$14.41	\$16.94	\$20.28	\$23.32
	Yearly	\$25,300	\$30,000	\$35,200	\$42,200	\$48,500
Greater Phoenix MSA	Hourly	\$12.73	\$15.89	\$18.13	\$20.15	\$22.81
	Yearly	\$26,491	\$33,067	\$37,729	\$41,932	\$47,468
Arizona	Hourly	\$13.33	\$16.26	\$18.92	\$20.94	\$22.87
	Yearly	\$27,700	\$33,800	\$39,400	\$43,600	\$47,600

occupation, with above average possibility for wage advancement with experience. This occupation is generally paid higher for entry level positions in the Greater Phoenix MSA as compared with the overall United States.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

As shown in the table to right, a comparison of wages for this occupation by State reveals Arizona ranks 13th in terms of median wages.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	Connecticut	\$23.68	\$49,300
2	Massachusetts	\$21.76	\$45,300
3	Columbia	\$21.63	\$45,000
4	New Jersey	\$21.57	\$44,900
5	Maryland	\$21.17	\$44,000
13	ARIZONA	\$18.92	\$39,400

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table below provides a comparison of wages by industry for the Greater Phoenix MSA (2005). As shown, median wages are comparable across industries with the exception of the Social Assistance sector, where pay is substantially lower.

Wages by Industry: Greater Phoenix MSA (2005)	Rounded Employment	Mean Wage	10th Percentile Wage	25th Percentile Wage	Median Wage	75th Percentile Wage	90th Percentile Wage
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,290	\$19.60	\$14.28	\$17.17	\$19.41	\$21.86	\$25.92
Hospitals	NR	\$17.63	\$12.61	\$14.85	\$18.04	\$20.24	\$21.56
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,560	\$19.01	\$11.87	\$17.66	\$19.69	\$21.60	\$24.58
Social Assistance	NR	\$15.36	\$12.17	\$13.89	\$15.36	\$16.90	\$19.19

## EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 39% growth over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix MSA. There is an average projected 297 job openings each year, comprised of 191 new jobs and 106 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
United States	2004	2014				
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	725,700	850,000	17%	28,250	n/a	n/a
Arizona	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	2002	2012				
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	8,820	12,280	39%	540	n/a	n/a
Greater Phoenix MSA	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	2003	2013				
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	4,837	6,745	39%	297	191	106

Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

An additional source of information regarding this occupation can be provided by analysis of employer survey data collected for the Maricopa County Community Colleges by the ERISS Corporation in 2004. As shown, the ERISS survey data shows a projected 1-year growth rate of 3%, which is comparable to the average of 4.4% per year reflected by the BLS data above.

Additionally, the ERISS data provides an indicator of turnover for this occupation, which is reported to be 19%. This high turnover rate is somewhat typical for lower paying occupations within the Health Services industry.

ERISS Occupational Survey Data (2004)			
Greater Phoenix MSA	Growth	Turnover	Demand
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	11.0%	22.0%	33.0%

Source: 2004 ERISS occupational survey

### Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

As shown in the table to right, a statewide comparison reveals the State of Arizona ranks 1st in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation between 2002 and 2012 (39%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent Change
		2002	2012	
1	ARIZONA	8,820	12,280	39%
2	Nevada	2,460	3,370	37%
3	Idaho	2,950	3,950	34%
4	Utah	2,910	3,830	32%
5	Florida	44,980	57,040	27%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, Nursing Care Facilities and General Medical and Surgical Hospitals account for the most employment.

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
25.1%	Nursing Care Facilities
19.7%	General Medical & Surgical Hospitals
12.3%	Offices of Physicians
7.2%	Home Health Care Services
6.9%	Employment Services
4.6%	Community Care Facilities for the Elderly
4.4%	Local Government Hospitals
2.4%	Local Government Excluding Education and Hospitals

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 50 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 198)

