**Labor Statistics for Physical Therapists as of April 1, 2014 (for May 2013)**

**The Profession of Physical Therapy**

Physical therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.

**Learn more about the physical therapy profession:**

<https://www.apta.org/AboutPTs/>

**Job Outlook**

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos080.htm), employment of physical therapists is expected to grow by 30 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations. In fact, it is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2020 and beyond. According to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), with just a 0.2 percent unemployment rate, physical therapists are now experiencing the best employment conditions since enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

The impact of proposed federal legislation imposing limits on reimbursement for therapy services may adversely affect the short-term job outlook for physical therapists. However, over the long run, the demand for physical therapists should continue to rise as growth in the number of individuals with disabilities or limited function spurs demand for therapy services. This is particularly true regarding the growing elderly population as they are vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. Further, young people will need physical therapy as technological advances save the lives of a larger proportion of newborns with severe birth defects.

Widespread interest in health promotion also should increase demand for physical therapy services. A growing number of employers are using physical therapists to evaluate work sites, develop exercise programs, and teach safe work habits to employees in the hope of reducing injuries in the workplace.

**National earnings estimates for this occupation:**

Employment estimate and mean wage estimates for this occupation:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Employment** | **Employment RSE** | **Mean hourly wage** | **Mean annual wage** | **Wage RSE** |
| 195,670 | 0.9 % | $39.51 | $82,180 | 0.3 % |

Percentile wage estimates for this occupation:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Percentile** | **10%** | **25%** | **50% (Median)** | **75%** | **90%** |
| Hourly Wage | $27.06 | $32.55 | $38.96 | $45.11 | $54.49 |
| Annual Wage | $56,280 | $67,700 | $81,030 | $93,820 | $113,340 |

Median annual earnings of physical therapists were $81,030 in 2013. Salaries may vary depending on experience and area of specialization, location, and size of employer.

**Learn more about the physical therapy job outlook and earnings:**

<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291123.htm>