

Nurse Assistants

2018 Median Pay	\$28,530 per year, \$13.72 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	state-approved training, state competency exam
Number of Jobs as of 2016	1,564,300
Job Outlook for Years 2016–2026	11% (faster than average)
Employment Change for Years 2016–2026	177,700

Vocational Overview

Nurse assistants, sometimes called nursing aides, help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.

Employment Outlook

Projected overall growth of employment for nurse assistants is 11 percent between 2016 and 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. As the baby-boom population ages, an increasing population of elderly patients will rely upon care provided by nurse assistants.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) / Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs)

2018 Median Pay	\$46,240 / year, \$22.23 / hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	postsecondary non-degreed award
Number of Jobs in Year 2016	724,500
Job Outlook for Years 2016–2026	12% (faster than average)
Employment Change for Years 2016–2026	88,900

Vocational Overview

LPNs and LVNs provide basic nursing care. They work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses work in many settings, including nursing homes, extended care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices, and private homes. Most LPNs and LVNs work full time. Many work nights, weekends, and holidays because medical care takes place at all hours, and work shifts may extend beyond eight hours.

Employment Outlook

In May 2018, the median annual wages for licensed practical nurses and licensed vocational nurses employed in the top industries were as follows:

Government	\$48,050
Nursing and Extended Care Facilities	\$47,470
Private Homes	\$46,510
Hospitals, State, Local, and Private	\$44,630
Physicians' Offices	\$42,520



Registered Nurses (RNs)

2018 Median Pay	\$71,730 / year, \$34.48 / hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	bachelor's degree
Number of Jobs in Year 2016	2,955,200
Job Outlook for Years 2016–2026	15% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change for Years 2016–2026	438,100

Vocational Overview

RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners

2018 Median Pay	\$113,930 / year, \$54.78 / hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	master's degree
Number of Jobs in Year 2016	203,800
Job Outlook for Years 2016–2026	31% (much faster than average)
Employment Change for Years 2016–2026	64,200

Vocational Overview

Nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners, also referred to as advanced-practice registered nurses (APRNs), coordinate patient care and may provide primary and specialty healthcare. The scope of practice varies from state to state.

Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics