



# W O R K F O R C E TRENDING NOW

From the office of William J. Grubbs, President & CEO of Cross Country Healthcare

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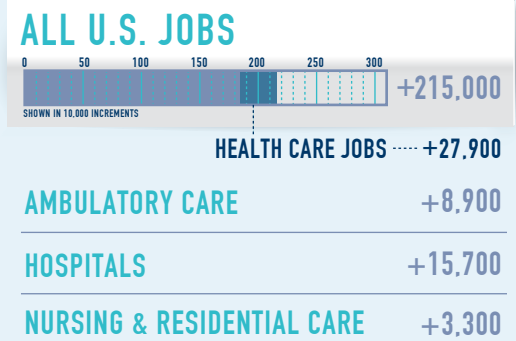
## EMPLOYMENT POSTS SOLID MIDSUMMER GAINS, ADDING 215,000 JOBS IN JULY; UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 5.3%

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Report, 215,000 jobs were created in July, in line with economist expectations. Employment gains for June and May were upwardly revised by a combined 14,000, with the government reporting that 231,000 new jobs were created in June instead of 223,000. May's numbers were raised to 260,000 from the originally reported 254,000. Over the past three months the economy has created an average of 235,000 jobs, up from an average of 195,000 in the first quarter.

Once again, the health care sector accounted for sizable job growth, contributing 27,900 jobs in the month of July. Within the health care segment, hospital growth outpaced ambulatory health care, adding 15,700 jobs. Ambulatory health care accounted for 8,900 new jobs. Within ambulatory health care, employment grew by 4,500 jobs in offices of physicians, 3,400 in home health care services and 1,700 in outpatient care centers. Nursing and residential care facilities added 3,300 jobs.

Health care remains a bright spot in the overall employment landscape. So far in 2015 health care has accounted for 233,300 jobs.

### JULY JOBS ADDED BY SEGMENT

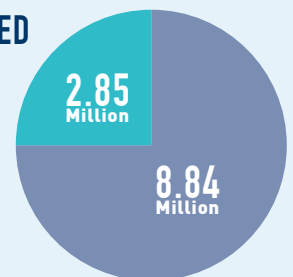


## NEW INSURANCE MARKETPLACE ENROLLEES FUEL RISING DEMAND FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 48.6 million Americans lacked health insurance. Since 2010, approximately 16.4 million citizens have gained coverage through state and federal marketplaces. This year in particular saw an unexpectedly high number of new enrollees, catching both industry analysts and health care facilities by surprise. Growing numbers of enrollees continue to widen the gap between health care provider supply and demand, particularly in ambulatory health care settings.

### NUMBER OF AMERICANS SIGNED UP FOR COVERAGE DURING THE 2015 OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Enrolled via Healthcare.gov
- Enrolled via State platforms



TOTAL: 11.7 MILLION

## NEW INSURANCE MARKETPLACE ENROLLEES FUEL RISING DEMAND FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS (CONT')

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 11.7 million people signed up for coverage during the 2015 Open Enrollment period: 8.84 million through Healthcare.gov and another 2.85 million through state exchanges with their own platforms in place. That's a sharp increase from the 8 million who enrolled in 2014. The rise in enrollments was considerably more than industry analysts had predicted and was attributed to improvements in Marketplace websites, as well as broadened outreach and education efforts.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revealed that 55% of Marketplace enrollees in 2015 were new. In some states, new Marketplace enrollees comprised the majority. As outreach and education efforts continue improving, enrollment numbers are likely to continue increasing.

As provider supply races to catch up with demand, ambulatory health care settings are expected to see the biggest impact. Long favored by patients and providers alike for their ability to save both time and money when it comes to many procedures, these facilities are seeing the spillover from standard offices and emergency rooms that are simply unable to accommodate an ever-growing number of patients.

## NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS SEE RESPONSIBILITIES EXPAND ALONG WITH DEMAND

The recent surge in patients seeking medical services has left many physicians stretched thinner than ever before. For nurse practitioners and physician assistants, this has meant a larger role and increased demand in many practice settings.

According to a recent USA TODAY analysis, nurse practitioners and physician assistants saw year-over-year increases in Medicare payments of 15% and 11% respectively in 2013. Electrocardiograms, pelvic exams and tissue biopsies are just a few of the procedures they billed for. This shift of responsibilities saw Medicare reimbursement to physicians drop by 5% that same year.

The USA TODAY analysis found that, "Overall, Medicare payments in 2013 totaled \$1.5 billion for nearly 65,000 nurse practitioners and \$1 billion for about 50,000 physician assistants." This trend is expected to continue as the number of people utilizing health insurance benefits continues to rise.

Sources:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/07/27/role--nurse-practitioners-and-physician-assistants-growing/30463537/?siteID=je6NUbpObpQ-VP88Vt28xXigTkzxBpLOCQ>

CHANGES IN YEAR-OVER-YEAR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENTS IN 2013

