

## FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Employment of fire fighters is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2020, but candidates for positions are expected to face keen competition because positions are highly attractive and sought after. Most job growth will occur as volunteer fire fighting positions are converted to paid positions in growing suburban areas. In addition to job growth, openings are expected to result from the need to replace fire fighters who retire, stop working for other reasons, or transfer to other occupations. Prospective fire fighters are expected to face keen competition for available job openings. A trend towards more people living in and around cities has increased the demand for fire fighters. When areas develop and become more densely populated, emergencies and fires affect more buildings and more people and therefore require more fire fighters. Applicants with the best opportunities are those who are physically fit and score the highest on physical conditioning and mechanical aptitude exams. Those who have completed some fire fighter education at a community college and have EMT certification will have an additional advantage.

### Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2010, those employed in fire services administration held an estimated 2,552 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 2,927 projected by 2020 (+15%). Of those projected, 2,212 are firefighters, 88 are fire inspectors and investigators, and 253 are first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers.

Further data indicated that in the four Kansas counties in the Kansas City MSA (Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte) an estimated 845 firefighters were employed in 2010 (1,003 projected by 2020, +19%); 35 were fire inspectors and investigators (38 projected, +9%); and 98 were first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers (106 projected, +8%).

**State:** In Kansas, those employed in fire services administration held an estimated 4,012 jobs in 2010, with 4,738 jobs projected by 2020 (+18%). Of those, 3,275 were firefighters (3,925 projected, +20%); 127 were fire inspectors and investigators (142 projected, +12%); and 610 were first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers (672 projected, +10%). All together 2,094 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements.

**National:** About 374,159 jobs were held by those employed in fire services administration in 2010, with 432,335 jobs projected by 2020 (+16%). Of those, 303,392 were firefighters (355,930 projected, +17%); and 56,443 were first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers (60,753 projected, +8%). Approximately 186,513 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

## **Salary Information**

***Greater Kansas City Area:*** Firefighters employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of \$21.90 in 2011. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned \$31.53 per hour, and fire inspectors and investigators earned \$24.54 per hour.

***State:*** Firefighters in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of \$17.54 in 2011. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned \$26.60 per hour; and fire inspectors and investigators earned \$22.21 per hour.

***National:*** Firefighters working full-time earned an average hourly wage of \$22.76 in 2011. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned \$34.46 per hour; and Fire inspectors and investigators earned \$24.38 per hour.

## **JCCC Placement and Salary Information**

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. One hundred percent of the fire services administration program completers who responded to the short-term follow-up study conducted during the 2010-11 academic year were employed full-time in a job related to fire services administration and reported earning an average hourly wage of \$39.50.

Note: Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2011 second quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers.