

FASHION DESIGN

Employment of fashion designers is projected to grow more slowly than average for all occupations through 2014. Job competition is expected to be keen as many designers are attracted to the creativity and glamour associated with the occupation, while relatively few job openings arise because of low job turnover and a small number of new openings created every year. Demand is increasing for stylish clothing that is affordable, especially among middle income consumers. The best job opportunities will be in design firms that design mass market clothing sold in department stores and retail chain stores, such as apparel wholesale firms.

Employment Information

Greater Kansas City Area: Information on the number of jobs held by fashion designers in the eleven counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was not available. However, merchandise displayers and window dressers held approximately 460 jobs in 2000 with 490 jobs projected by 2010 (+6.5%). Further data indicates that an estimated 150 merchandise displayers and window trimmers were employed throughout the four Kansas counties in the Kansas City MSA (Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte) in 2002.

State: Fashion designers held an estimated 30 jobs in Kansas in 2000, with 30 jobs projected by 2010 (+0.0%).

National: Fashion designers held 17,000 jobs in 2004, with 18,000 jobs projected by 2014 (+8.4%). Approximately 4,000 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

Greater Kansas City Area: Information on the average hourly wage earned by fashion designers in the Greater Kansas City area in 2004 was not available. However, the average hourly wage for merchandise displayers and window trimmers employed in the Greater Kansas City area was \$9.57 in 2004. Merchandise displayers and window trimmers employed in Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties earned an average hourly wage of \$11.91 in 2005. Half earned less than \$11.03, and half earned more.

State: Fashion designers in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of \$32.05 in 2005. Half earned less than \$31.87 per hour, and half earned more.

National: Fashion designers working full-time earned an average hourly wage of \$28.88 in 2004.

JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion (short-term), and again four years after completion (long-term).

Two of the four fashion design program completers who responded to the short-term follow-up study conducted during the 2004-05 academic year were employed part-time in a job related to fashion design. One of the other two respondents was pursuing additional education.

Previous to the above mentioned short-term study, fashion design and fashion merchandising completers were not separated. Thus the only JCCC placement and salary information available is for fashion merchandising completers. Both of the fashion merchandising program completers responding to the long-term follow-up study conducted in the fall of 2003 were employed in a job related to fashion merchandising. Those who were working full-time in a related job reported earning an average hourly wage of \$15.00.

Note: Salary and placement information for JCCC career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers.