Employment of fire fighters is expected to grow more slowly than the average for all occupations through 2021. 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 2016, those employed in fire services administration held an estimated 3,679 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 3,774 projected by 2021 (+2.6%). Of those jobs in 2016, 2,889 are firefighters, 61 are fire inspectors and investigators, and 729 are first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers.

**State:** In Kansas, those employed in fire services administration held an estimated 4,850 jobs in 2016, with 5,015 jobs projected by 2021 (+3.4%). Of those jobs in 2016, 3,569 were firefighters (3,695 projected, +4%); 89 were fire inspectors and investigators (93 projected, +4%); and 1,192 were first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers (1,228 projected, +3%). All together 165 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements.

**National:** About 397,319 jobs were held by those employed in fire services administration in 2016, with 410,813 jobs projected by 2021 (+3.4%). Of those jobs in 2016, 325,748 were firefighters (336,847 projected, +3%); 59,055 were first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers (60,955 projected, +3%); and 12,515 were fire inspectors and investigators (13,011 projected, +4%). Approximately 13,494 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

September 2017
Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Firefighters employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $22.14 in 2016. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned $35.73 per hour, and fire inspectors and investigators earned $31.71 per hour.

**State:** Firefighters in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $17.74 in 2016. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned $30.23 per hour; and fire inspectors and investigators earned $24.06 per hour.

**National:** Firefighters working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $23.83 in 2016. Additionally, first-line supervisors/managers of fire fighting and prevention workers earned $36.24 per hour; and fire inspectors and investigators earned $29.41 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 graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a job related to their field. Fire Services program completers reported an average hourly wage of $25.00.

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**Note:** Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third 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. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.