

Understanding the Local Labor Market

Promising Career Pathways in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

Focus: Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

Understanding the Local Labor Market: Promising Career Pathways in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County is intended as a useful resource for career counselors and other professionals responsible for helping jobseekers make informed decisions about employment and training. Featured occupations are selected on the basis of vacancies, wages and benefits, and opportunities for advancement.

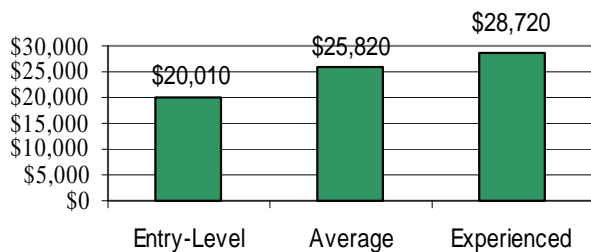
What do Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics do?

- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics are emergency responders trained to provide emergency medical services to the critically ill and injured. They also transport those persons to medical facilities. A paramedic is an EMT with more advanced training.
- EMTs and paramedics respond to many types of emergency calls including medical emergencies, hazardous materials exposure, childbirth, child abuse, fires, injuries, trauma, and psychiatric crises.

What are wages, benefits, and work conditions for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics?

- EMTs and paramedics work in stressful, life-or-death situations that may include exposure to dangerous diseases and violence. EMTs and paramedics also do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting.
- EMTs and paramedics work both indoors and outdoors, in all types of weather conditions. EMTs work irregular hours, but usually between 45-60 hours per week. EMTs and paramedics' earnings depend on employment setting, geographic region, and the individual's training. The average annual wages for these positions in Allegheny County is \$25,820.

Annual Wages for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics in Allegheny County



Source: PA Dept. of Labor & Industry, Center for Workforce Information & Analysis (www.paworkstats.state.pa.us)

What do Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics like about their jobs?

- EMTs and paramedics find the work to be both exciting and challenging.
- They enjoy the opportunity to help others and save lives.
- EMTs and paramedics like supporting people through stressful, life-or-death situations.
- They enjoy working with other people and overcoming difficult situations.

What are advancement opportunities and related occupations?

- Advancement occurs through additional training. There are four levels of EMTs: EMT-Basic, also known as EMT-1; EMT-Intermediate, or EMT-2 or EMT-3 (currently not recognized in PA); and EMT-Paramedic. Advancement beyond EMT-Paramedic usually requires further education and leaving fieldwork.
- An EMT-Paramedic can become a supervisor, operations manager, administrative director, or executive director of emergency services. Some become instructors, dispatchers, or physicians' assistants, while others move into sales or marketing of emergency medical equipment.
- Related occupations that require level-headed reactions to life-or-death situations include: air-traffic controllers, fire-fighting occupations, physicians' assistants, police and detectives, and registered nurses.

How many openings are there for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics?

- The PA Department of Labor and Industry estimates that there are approximately 1,950 EMTs and paramedics working in Allegheny County.
- As population and urbanization increase, and segments of the population begin to have more medical emergencies, the demand for EMTs and paramedics is expected to rise.
- As full-time paid EMTs and paramedics replace unpaid volunteers, employment is projected to increase by 350 jobs to 2300 EMTs and paramedics in 2012 within Allegheny County.
- The PA Department of Labor and Industry projects that the annual amount of job openings in Allegheny County for EMTs and paramedics will be approximately 57 jobs.

