Hiring Lab

Economic Research by Indeed

2026 Q2 US Healthcare Labor Market Update

After outperforming the rest of the labor market for the past few years, Healthcare is beginning to fall in line. Job postings in most categories declined over the past year, wage growth in Nursing has slowed consistently, and workers are holding on tighter to their roles as the quits rate continues to ease.

Indeed Job Postings

Most Healthcare categories continue to shed job postings

Indeed job postings, through July 17, 2026

Occupational category	% change in past year	% change from Feb 01, 2020
Pharmacy	8.4	37.3
Personal Care & Home Health	-1.8	44.3
Physicians & Surgeons	-3.0	81.7
Therapy	-5.6	70.9
Medical Technician	-8.5	18.8
Nursing	-10.7	2.4
Dental	-15.9	14.3

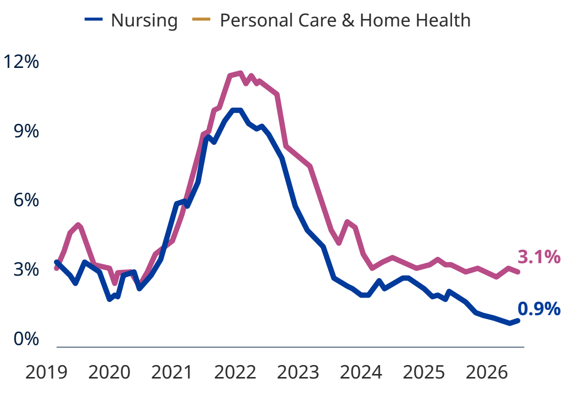
Source: Indeed

- Overall US job postings on Indeed appear to have stabilized near pre-pandemic levels, dipping just 2.3% in the year to July 17, 2026, and standing just over a percentage point above its February 2020 level.
- Once a labor market stalwart, the Healthcare category continues to weaken as nearly all categories record a year-over-year decline in job postings.
- Nursing is a particular soft spot in the Healthcare category, as postings declined over 10% in the last year and are approaching their pre-pandemic level.

Healthcare Wage Growth

Nursing wage growth weakens further in 2026

Year-over-year growth in posted wages, 3-month average, Jan 2019 - May 2026



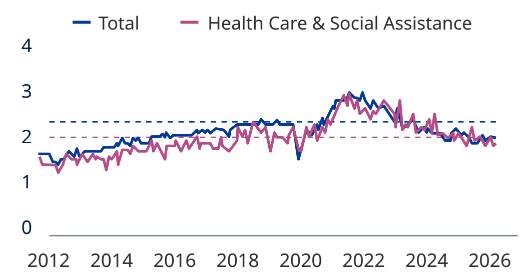
Source: Indeed

- Personal Care & Home Health wage growth has held steady near 3% for much of the past two years, and easily outpaced the labor market average of 2.4% in May 2026.
- Nursing wage growth has lost ground for much of the year, notching just a 0.9% increase over the past year.

Healthcare Quits

Healthcare workers staying put as quits rate trends downward

Quits rate, %, seasonally adjusted, through May 2026, dashed line = 2019 average

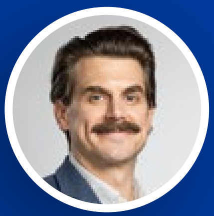


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Reduced quits is a main feature of the current labor market, as workers hold on tight to the jobs they have, leaving the quits rate well below its 2019 average.
- The quits rate in the Healthcare & Social Assistance industry continues to trend downward even as that for the rest of the labor market has leveled out.
- This shows that healthcare workers are especially cautious of their job prospects in a healthcare labor market that is slowing.

About Our Quarterly Sector Reports

Hiring Lab analyzes the latest Indeed data each quarter to provide labor market insights for the Transportation, Retail, Business-to-Business, Tech, and Healthcare sectors. We examine trends in job postings, wage growth, worker churn, and occupational categories to inform employers and job seekers about changes in employment across these sectors.



About Daniel Culbertson

Daniel is a senior economist with Indeed Hiring Lab, focused on the US labor market. He regularly provides labor market insights to Indeed's customers and has deep expertise in analyzing labor market trends across vertical industries. Previously, Daniel specialized in regional analysis and forecasting as an economist with Moody's Analytics. He holds a Master's Degree in Economics.

About Indeed Hiring Lab

Indeed Hiring Lab creates innovative data insights on the global labor market that inspire new conversations about the state of work. As the economic research arm of Indeed, the world's number one job site, Hiring Lab is driven by a team of leading economists and data scientists who provide real-time thought leadership on global labor market conditions, including hiring trends, salary information, popular skills, and employer benefits. Hiring Lab analyzes millions of data points across time collected from Indeed's proprietary job postings, resumes, and job seeker behaviors to reveal emerging trends in the United States and across the world.

The unique insights generated by Hiring Lab inform talent management, employment, and labor policy decisions for businesses, researchers, academics, and job seekers alike. Hiring Lab partners with a range of policy-making organizations and NGOs, including the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, and the Bank of Canada, to produce timely, incisive research. Hiring Lab data is also regularly cited in prominent business publications such as The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Reuters, The Globe and Mail, Der Spiegel, and The Financial Times. Hiring Lab economists regularly speak about labor market trends at leading industry, policy, and academic conferences.

For more labor market insights from Indeed Hiring Lab, please visit hiringlab.indeed.com or data.indeed.com to view fresh labor market data across various global markets.