

**Occupational Profile  
Physical Therapists  
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32308**

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
130	170	190	250
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
40	30.8	60	31.6
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
Yes	1:1	Yes	1:1
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$27.94	\$26.54	\$28.95	\$27.96

**Job Description:**

Physical Therapists provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease. They restore, maintain, and promote overall fitness and health. Their patients include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries, and cerebral palsy. Therapists examine patients' medical histories, then test and measure their strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, muscle performance, respiration, and motor function. They also determine patients' ability to be independent and reintegrate into the community or workplace after injury or illness.

**Average Education Required**

Most of these occupations require a four-year bachelor's degree, but some do not.

**Related Occupations**

Physical therapists rehabilitate persons with physical disabilities. Others who work in the rehabilitation field include occupational therapists, speech pathologists, audiologists, orthotists, prosthetists, and respiratory therapists.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8060	Hospitals	32.2%
8040	Offices of Other Health Practitioners	29.2%
8080	Home Health Care Services	20.5%
8010	Offices & Clinics Of Medical Doctors	3.6%
7360	Personnel Supply Services	2.7%
8820	Self-employed & Unpaid Family Workers	2.6%
8050	Nursing and Personal Care Facilities	2.6%

**Skills Required**

- Judgment and Decision Making -- Weighing the relative costs and benefits of a potential action
- Reading Comprehension -- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Critical Thinking -- Using logic and analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches
- Active Listening -- Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
- Speaking -- Talking to others to effectively convey information
- Science -- Using scientific methods to solve problems
- Service Orientation -- Actively looking for ways to help people
- Identification of Key Causes -- Identifying the things that must be changed to achieve a goal