

Employment

EMTs and paramedics held about 201,000 jobs in 2006. Most career EMTs and paramedics work in metropolitan areas.

Volunteer EMTs and paramedics are more common in small cities, towns, and rural areas. These individuals volunteer for fire departments, emergency medical services, or hospitals and may respond to only a few calls per month. About 30 percent of EMTs or paramedics belong to a union.

Paid EMTs and paramedics were employed in a number of industries. About four out of ten worked as employees of private ambulance services. About three out of ten worked in local government for fire departments, public ambulance services, and emergency medical services. Another two out of ten worked full time in hospitals within the medical facility or responded to calls in ambulances or helicopters to transport critically ill or injured patients.

The remainder worked in various industries providing emergency services.

SOURCE: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm> 2008-09 Occupational Outlook Guide