



HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

IN THE GULF COAST REGION

INTRODUCTION

Every two years, Workforce Solutions compiles a list of occupations that are now in demand in the Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast region, or ones that will be in the future. Looking at a variety of data, we're able to project which jobs are expected to have the most growth over the next 10 years. This guide introduces you to those occupations, organized by industry.

In addition, you will also find:

- the median hourly wage (based on 2011 industry standards),
- the current number of jobs in our region and the number of anticipated jobs in 2020, and
- the employment growth for each occupation as a percentage.

Criteria used to identify these occupations are:

- Projected employment for 2020 equal to or greater than the average for all occupations in the region.
- Projected growth rate equal to or greater than the average of all occupations in the region.
- Minimum education requirements of a postsecondary degree or certificate, long-term on-the-job training or work experience in a related occupation.
- Median hourly wages equal to or greater than the median for all occupations in the region.

There are also indicators of which occupations are supported by Workforce Solutions' scholarships.

This guide is a great first step for students setting out on a career path and adults looking to make a change. For further details about each occupation, individual profiles, called "Focus On" guides, are available online at www.wrksolutions.com. You'll also find other career planning resources and information about financial aid.

We encourage you to visit one of our career offices and talk with a counselor about your career options. To locate the office nearest you, call **1-888-469-JOBS (5627)**, or find one on our Web site under Career Office Locations.

For more information on occupations supported by scholarship contact a Workforce Solutions counselor at 1-888-469-JOBS (5627).

Scholarship amounts may vary based on need and individual circumstances. For some educational programs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher, Workforce Solutions will only award scholarships to help finance the last two years of the program of study.

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/ program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas Numbers: 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) 1-800-735-2988 (voice) or 711

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL TEACHERS

Teachers who work in the public school education system teach grades kindergarten through 12. Some teachers can work in private or charter schools, which may serve special needs or gifted children.

SUBSET: BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION, SECONDARY SCIENCE AND MATH TEACHER \$

Median Hourly Wage:	N/A
Jobs in 2010:	103,760
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	152,220
Employment Growth:	46.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	7,365
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree



POSTSECONDARY TEACHERS

Postsecondary teachers instruct students in a wide range of subjects after high school. In addition, many do research in their area of specialization.

SUBSET: NURSING INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHERS, POSTSECONDARY \$

Median Hourly Wage:	N/A
Jobs in 2010:	30,410
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	37,350
Employment Growth:	22.8%
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,180
Minimum Education:	Master's/Doctoral degree

EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL, & SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Counselors cover a wide scope of activities for students ranging from encouragement of academics, career and personal/social development, to helping students maximize their academic achievements.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$27.93
Jobs in 2010:	6,250
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	8,540
Employment Growth:	36.6%
Annual Average Job Openings:	365
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

\$ Occupations supported by scholarship

* Annual Average Job Openings includes the total number of jobs available due to replacement or growth per year.

* Median hourly wage is based on 2011 industry standards

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SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION

WELDERS, CUTTERS, SOLDERERS, & BRAZERS \$

Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers can use their skills to pursue careers in high-demand occupations such as: welder-pipefitter and other pipe trades, structural welder, welder-fitter, maintenance mechanics, scaffold builders, and millwrights.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$17.93
Jobs in 2010:	15,510
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	19,650
Employment Growth:	26.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	830
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training

ELECTRICIANS \$

Electricians are in short supply and demand continues to grow in response to an ever-increasing population and as a growing number of baby boomers retire. The shortage of electricians translates into outstanding career opportunities to individuals entering into the workforce.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$21.43
Jobs in 2010:	14,030
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	16,790
Employment Growth:	19.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	655
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS, & STEAMFITTERS \$

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters are among the largest and highest-paid construction occupations. Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters install, maintain, and repair many different types of pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$23.60
Jobs in 2010:	10,420
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	12,610
Employment Growth:	21.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	520
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, & REFRIGERATION MECHANICS & INSTALLERS \$

Qualified heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers are in short supply, and there are many job opportunities working with systems in private homes and in commercial offices, industrial complexes, manufacturing plants, restaurants, hotels, and more.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$20.05
Jobs in 2010:	6,390
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	8,420
Employment Growth:	31.8%
Annual Average Job Openings:	320
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training

COST ESTIMATORS

Cost estimators compile and analyze cost estimates for projects in manufacturing, construction projects, and services to assist with bidding or price determinations.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$31.53
Jobs in 2010:	3,900
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	5,020
Employment Growth:	28.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	185
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

MOBILE HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, EXCEPT ENGINES

Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$17.60
Jobs in 2010:	3,650
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	4,770
Employment Growth:	30.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	205
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training



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ENERGY – PETROCHEMICAL, POWER, OIL/GAS, MANUFACTURING

ENGINEERS

Engineers design, develop, test, or supervise manufacturing projects and work in the chemical, civil, computer hardware, electrical, electronic, industrial, mechanical, petroleum, and other industries.

SUBSET: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, PETROLEUM ENGINEERS, MINING AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERS \$

Median Hourly Wage:	N/A
Jobs in 2010:	47,870
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	58,880
Employment Growth:	23.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,245
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

GEOSCIENTISTS, EX. HYDROLOGISTICS & GEOGRAPHERS \$

Geoscientists study the composition, structure, and other physical aspects of the earth for the purpose of oil and gas exploration. Some find additional opportunities in education, mining, government, and the environmental industry.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$61.63
Jobs in 2010:	4,670
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	6,370
Employment Growth:	36.4%
Annual Average Job Openings:	310
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

GEOLOGICAL & PETROLEUM TECHNICIANS \$

Geological and petroleum technicians assist scientists to find indications of potential sources of oil and gas through the collection and examination of geological data or through the use of electrical, sonic, or nuclear measuring instruments.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$22.79
Jobs in 2010:	2,310
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	3,100
Employment Growth:	34.2%
Annual Average Job Openings:	160
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

ELECTRICAL POWER-LINE INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS \$

Install or repair cables or wires used in electrical power or distribution systems. May erect poles and light or heavy duty transmission towers.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$24.72
Jobs in 2010:	3,050
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	4,020
Employment Growth:	31.8%
Annual Average Job Openings:	205
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

CHEMICAL PLANT & SYSTEM OPERATORS \$

Chemical plant and system operators operate, monitor and troubleshoot the manufacturing process used to make many products.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$32.92
Jobs in 2010:	5,290
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	5,500
Employment Growth:	4.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	195
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

PETROLEUM PUMP SYSTEM OPERATORS, REFINERY OPERATORS, & GAUGERS \$

Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers control the operation of petroleum refining or processing units. This task is performed by operating steam or electric-driven pumps to circulate crude, semi processed, and finished petroleum products, water, and chemical solution through processing, storage, and shipping departments.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$30.93
Jobs in 2010:	6,840
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	7,370
Employment Growth:	7.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	280
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training



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ENERGY– PETROCHEMICAL, POWER, OIL/GAS, MANUFACTURING CONTINUED ...



ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS \$

Electrical engineers design, develop, test, or supervise the manufacturing and installation of electrical equipment, components, or systems. Electrical engineers generally focus on power supply and power generation and electronics engineers work on applications of electricity to control systems or process signals.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$29.89
Jobs in 2010:	4,230
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	4,830
Employment Growth:	14.2%
Annual Average Job Openings:	140
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANICS \$

Industrial mechanics perform a wide variety of duties, such as preventive maintenance, detecting breakdown conditions before they happen, making machinery adjustments, and repairing equipment using blueprints, sketches, diagrams, and a variety of tools.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$23.23
Jobs in 2010:	11,630
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	16,460
Employment Growth:	41.5%
Annual Average Job Openings:	710
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

MACHINISTS \$

Machinists are highly-skilled manufacturing workers. They use power-operated tools to produce precision metal or plastic parts.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$18.95
Jobs in 2010:	11,850
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	14,850
Employment Growth:	25.3%
Annual Average Job Openings:	520
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

BOILERMAKERS

Boilermakers install and maintain boilers, pressure vessels, blast furnaces, storage and process tanks, stacks and other containers that hold liquids and gases under high pressure.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$22.40
Jobs in 2010:	1,350
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	1,560
Employment Growth:	15.6%
Annual Average Job Openings:	70
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training

SERVICE UNIT OPERATORS, OIL, GAS, & MINING \$

A service unit operator's responsibility is to maintain or increase oil/gas flow from producing wells.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$18.58
Jobs in 2010:	6,570
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	8,930
Employment Growth:	35.9%
Annual Average Job Openings:	375
Minimum Education:	Moderate-term on-the-job training

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HEALTH SERVICES

REGISTERED NURSES \$

A registered nurse (RN) is a nurse who has graduated from a nursing program at a university or college and has passed a national licensing exam. A registered nurse helps individuals, families, and groups to achieve health and prevent disease.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$34.43
Jobs in 2010:	43,870
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	60,620
Employment Growth:	38.2%
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,470
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

LICENSED PRACTICAL & LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES \$

Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), referred to as licensed practical nurses in some other states, care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$21.28
Jobs in 2010:	14,600
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	18,920
Employment Growth:	29.6%
Annual Average Job Openings:	820
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training

DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

There are two types of doctors or physicians: the doctor of medicine (M.D.) and the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). Most doctors are M.D.s who treat all types of diseases and injuries. Dentists help individuals in many ways by diagnosing and treating diseases, repairing smiles, relieving pain, and giving teeth to those without.

Median Hourly Wage:	N/A
Jobs in 2010:	13,300
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	16,830
Employment Growth:	26.5%
Annual Average Job Openings:	645
Minimum Education:	Doctoral degree & license

PHARMACISTS

Pharmacists count pills, fill prescriptions and provide proper selection and dosage of medications, interactions, and side effects of medications.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$53.15
Jobs in 2010:	5,130
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	6,560
Employment Growth:	27.9%
Annual Average Job Openings:	275
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree & license

MEDICAL RECORDS & HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIANS

Medical records/health information technicians' duties include compiling, processing, and maintaining medical records in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$17.64
Jobs in 2010:	3,890
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	5,100
Employment Growth:	31.1%
Annual Average Job Openings:	200
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS \$

Radiologic technologists perform imaging tests to assist in diagnosing patients. Some radiologic technologists specialize in computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Median Hourly Wage:	\$26.27
Jobs in 2010:	3,760
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	5,300
Employment Growth:	41.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	215
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

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HEALTH SERVICES CONTINUED...

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS \$

Speech-language pathologists, or speech therapists as they are often called, diagnose and treat individuals with problems related to speech and language that are a result of a variety of causes such as brain injury, stroke, developmental delays or disorders, learning disabilities, and many other things.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$29.94
Jobs in 2010:	2,780
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	3,820
Employment Growth:	37.4%
Annual Average Job Openings:	160
Minimum Education:	Master's degree

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS \$

Physical therapy is the method of treatment that varies case by case and can be anything from therapeutic exercise and functional training to the use of adaptive devices and equipment or even various forms of electrotherapy.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$39.38
Jobs in 2010:	2,960
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	4,030
Employment Growth:	36.1%
Annual Average Job Openings:	140
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree & license

MEDICAL & CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS \$

Medical and clinical laboratory technologists perform and analyze complex chemical, biological, hematological, immunologic, microscopic, and bacteriological medical tests.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$26.89
Jobs in 2010:	3,320
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	4,120
Employment Growth:	24.1%
Annual Average Job Openings:	145
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS \$

Respiratory therapy is a health care profession in which specialists work with patients who are experiencing cardiology or pulmonary dysfunction.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$26.54
Jobs in 2010:	2,640
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	3,760
Employment Growth:	42.4%
Annual Average Job Openings:	160
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS \$

Occupational therapy promotes health by enabling people to perform meaningful and purposeful activities. Occupational therapists work with individuals who suffer from a mentally, physically, developmentally, and/or emotionally disabling condition by utilizing treatments that develop, recover, or maintain clients' activities of daily living.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$36.28
Jobs in 2010:	1,890
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	2,600
Employment Growth:	37.6%
Annual Average Job Openings:	105
Minimum Education:	Master's degree



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PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS \$

Computer systems analysts solve computer problems and apply computer technology to meet the needs of an organization. They analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems, and review computer systems capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$40.12
Jobs in 2010:	11,020
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	13,520
Employment Growth:	22.7%
Annual Average Job Openings:	455
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, APPLICATIONS \$

Software developers, applications, design, build, customize, test, and maintain general computer applications software or specialized utility programs.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$43.98
Jobs in 2010:	8,690
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	10,730
Employment Growth:	23.5%
Annual Average Job Openings:	295
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

NETWORK & COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS \$

Network and computer systems administrators are professionals that analyze, design and test local area networks (LAN), wide area networks (WAN), Internet, intranet, and other data communications systems.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$34.43
Jobs in 2010:	6,720
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	8,910
Employment Growth:	32.6%
Annual Average Job Openings:	335
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, SYSTEMS SOFTWARE \$

Software developers, systems software, coordinate the construction, maintenance, and expansion of an organization's computer system.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$42.93
Jobs in 2010:	8,220
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	10,770
Employment Growth:	31.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	340
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

MARKET RESEARCH ANALYSTS

Market research analysts compile and evaluate statistical data, making recommendations to their client or employer on the promotion, distribution, design, pricing, and expansion of their products or services.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$28.49
Jobs in 2010:	4,670
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	6,600
Employment Growth:	41.3%
Annual Average Job Openings:	320
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree



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OTHER

ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS ^{\$}

Accountants and auditors ensure that a company is run efficiently, its public records are kept accurately, and its taxes are paid properly and on time.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$31.18
Jobs in 2010:	25,270
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	31,380
Employment Growth:	24.2%
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,155
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree



FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

Financial analysts study the performance of stocks, bonds, investments, and commodities to make investment recommendations.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$35.63
Jobs in 2010:	4,680
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	5,850
Employment Growth:	25.0%
Annual Average Job Openings:	220
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree

PARALEGALS & LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Paralegals, also referred to as legal assistants, assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents.

Median Hourly Wage:	\$23.86
Jobs in 2010:	4,730
Estimated Jobs in 2020:	6,280
Employment Growth:	32.8%
Annual Average Job Openings:	220
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree

^{\$} Occupations supported by scholarship

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* Median hourly wage is based on 2011 industry standards