

THE HARD FACTS:

INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER POPULAR CAREER CHOICES

Below are the jobs that students in middle school and high school most often state as their career goals. Compare the wages and available openings each year for these jobs with those of the other jobs in this magazine. You might find that you can pursue your skills, interests, values, and passion through another pathway that might make more money and have more job openings.

PROFESSION	MEDIAN WAGE	EMPLOYMENT GROWTH	MINIMUM EDUCATION	ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS
Actors	\$24.14	14.7%	Some college, no degree	15
Dancers	NA	20.0%	High school diploma or equivalent	5
Musicians and singers	\$20.96	15.7%	High school diploma or equivalent	115
Fashion designers	\$25.51	16.7%	High school diploma or equivalent	5
Photographers	\$10.90	8.0%	High school diploma or equivalent	55
Graphic designers	\$19.57	16.3%	Bachelor's degree	165
Architects, Except landscape & naval	\$34.83	18.5%	Bachelor's degree	15
Cosmetologists*	\$10.90	22.3%	Post-secondary non-degree award	490
Chefs and head cooks	\$23.06	16.0%	High school diploma or equivalent	35
Athletes and sports competitors	NA	31.1%	High school diploma or equivalent	10
Travel agents	\$17.36	-0.7%	High school diploma or equivalent	15
Pediatricians	\$75.58	31.5%	Doctoral or professional degree	40
Home health aides	\$8.89	50.9%	Less than high school	990
Social workers	\$18.45	19.9%	Bachelor's degree	155
Psychologists**	\$28.60	27.2%	Doctoral or professional degree	125
Veterinarians	\$44.26	29.2%	Doctoral or professional degree	60
Zoologists and wildlife biologists	\$25.71	14.3%	Bachelor's degree	10
Kindergarten teachers, except special education	NA	51.5%	Bachelor's degree	255
Lawyers	\$76.06	18.9%	Doctoral or professional degree	455

* Certificates awarded in the region per year: 1,453
 ** Degrees awarded in the region per year: 1,585

\$ 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

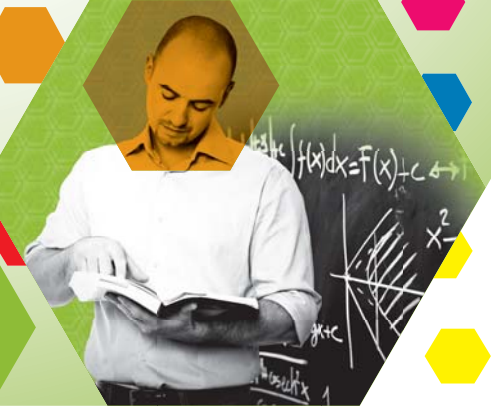
For more detail on career options with high wages and strong job growth in the region, visit www.wrksolutions.com/focuson

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

IN THE GULF COAST REGION

Introduction

Workforce Solutions regularly provides a list of careers currently in high demand along with careers that will be in demand in the future throughout the Houston-Galveston area. Below is the latest update describing some of the best-paying, high-skill, high-growth jobs available in our area, and what you must do to qualify for those jobs.



Education and Other



TEACHERS

This region's economic strength depends on its growing population and thriving industries. Because of this, we will need more special education, bilingual education, 6-12 science and math, and career and technical education teachers through 2020.

Median Wage: \$53,000
 Employment Growth: 46.7%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 7,365

POSTSECONDARY TEACHERS \$

Postsecondary teachers instruct students after high school and may do research in their area of specialization. The demand for technical and trade school instructors is particularly high.

Median Wage: \$61,000
 Employment Growth: 22.8%
 Minimum Education: Master's/Doctoral degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 1,180



SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Counselors help students by encouraging academics and providing career and personal/social development guidance to help maximize academic achievements.

Median Wage: \$27.93
 Employment Growth: 36.6%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 365

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 timely.

Median Wage: \$31.18
 Employment Growth: 24.2%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 1,155



PARALEGALS & LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Paralegals assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts or preparing legal documents.

Median Wage: \$23.86
 Employment Growth: 32.8%
 Minimum Education: Associate's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 220

FUN FACTS!

EDUCATION

It is projected that over the next 10 years, the Gulf Coast Region in and around Houston will have the highest number of job openings for elementary, middle, and high school teachers of any region in Texas, and more than 3x the number predicted for Dallas or San Antonio!

Source: Texas Workforce Commission/LCMI Employment Projections

For more detail on career options with high wages and strong job growth in the region, visit www.wrksolutions.com/focuson

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

IN THE GULF COAST REGION

Energy



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Specialty Construction



GEOSCIENTISTS \$

Geoscientists study the composition, structure and other physical aspects of the earth for the purpose of oil and gas exploration. Most geoscientists pursue advanced degrees.

Median Wage:	\$61.63
Employment Growth:	36.4%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	310

REFINERY OPERATORS \$

System administrators focus on how computers work within larger networks such as local area networks (LAN) and wide area networks (WAN). They are sometimes known as network administrators.

Median Wage:	\$30.93
Employment Growth:	7.7%
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training
Annual Average Job Openings:	280

GEOLOGICAL TECHNICIANS \$

Whether in an office or out in the field, geological technicians help scientists find potential sources of oil and gas through the collection and examination of geological data.

Median Wage:	\$22.79
Employment Growth:	34.2%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	160

RIG OPERATORS \$

The rig operator's responsibilities include moving heavy equipment, monitoring pressure and density plus many other specialized tasks.

Median Wage:	\$18.58
Employment Growth:	35.9%
Minimum Education:	Moderate-term, on-the-job training
Annual Average Job Openings:	375

CHEMICAL PLANT OPERATORS \$

Chemical plant operators analyze data to monitor the manufacturing process of various products and serve as troubleshooters.

Median Wage:	\$32.92
Employment Growth:	4.0%
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training
Annual Average Job Openings:	195

FUN FACTS! ENERGY

Geoscientists in Texas make more money than in any other state and in Houston they make the second-highest amount of money of any big city in the nation, just after another Texas city, Tyler!

Source: BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics (wages refer to mean wages in 2013).

<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes192042.htm>

ADVANCED WELDERS \$

Advanced welders with specialty skills are in short supply across various industries. Individuals with some postsecondary training and work experience achieve the highest success in this field.

Median Wage:	\$17.93
Employment Growth:	26.7%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training
Annual Average Job Openings:	830

ELECTRICIANS \$

Electricians install and replace wiring, and must be licensed by the state. Those who earn a master electrician's license have the highest earning potential.

Median Wage:	\$21.43
Employment Growth:	19.7%
Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training
Annual Average Job Openings:	655

PLUMBERS \$

Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters are needed everywhere to install, maintain and repair gas and water pipe systems. Getting a dual certification as a welder-pipefitter maximizes career opportunities.

Median Wage:	\$23.60	Minimum Education:	Long-term on-the-job training
Employment Growth:	21.0%	Annual Average Job Openings:	520

HVAC MECHANICS \$

HVAC mechanics and installers apply high-tech tools to diagnose and fix a wide variety of heating and cooling appliances and equipment.

Median Wage:	\$20.05
Employment Growth:	31.8%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training
Annual Average Job Openings:	320

COST ESTIMATORS

Cost estimators work for architectural or construction firms. Cost estimators compile and analyze costs for manufacturing and construction projects across various industries, including energy.

Median Wage:	\$31.53
Employment Growth:	28.7%
Minimum Education:	bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	185

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

IN THE GULF COAST REGION

Professional & Technical Services



COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS \$

Computer systems analysts aim to automate or improve existing technological systems, and review computer systems capabilities to best meet the needs of an organization.

Median Wage: \$40.12
 Employment Growth: 22.7%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 455

APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS \$

Applications software developers design, build, customize, test and maintain general computer applications software or specialized utility programs ... such as those "apps" on your phone.

Median Wage: \$43.98
 Employment Growth: 23.5%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 295

SYSTEMS SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS \$

Apps developers work on computer programs with a specific function (or application) and systems developers work on programs that might integrate numerous applications into a larger system.

Median Wage: \$42.93
 Employment Growth: 31.0%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 340

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS \$

System administrators focus on how computers work within larger networks such as local area networks (LAN) and wide area networks (WAN). They are sometimes known as network administrators.

Median Wage: \$34.43
 Employment Growth: 32.6%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 335

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 Wage: \$40.12
 Employment Growth: 22.7%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 455

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

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

Median Wage: \$35.63
 Employment Growth: 32.8%
 Minimum Education: Associate's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 220

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

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Energy (continued)



ENGINEERS \$

All engineers—chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, petroleum, process and others—handle the design, development, testing or supervision of various projects.

Median Wage: Between \$50,000 - \$100,000
 Employment Growth: 23.0%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 2,245

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS \$

Electrical and electronic engineering technicians install, maintain and repair electrical equipment needed in manufacturing plants, pipeline systems and other high-tech operations.

Median Wage: \$29.89
 Employment Growth: 14.2%
 Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
 Annual Average Job Openings: 140

INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANICS \$

Industrial machinery mechanics maintain plants and factories by detecting breakdown conditions, making machinery adjustments and repairing faulty equipment.

Median Wage: \$23.23
 Employment Growth: 41.5%
 Minimum Education: Long-term on-the-job training
 Annual Average Job Openings: 710

MACHINISTS \$

Machinists are highly-skilled manufacturing workers with extensive knowledge of many precision machine tools which they use to produce metal or plastic parts.

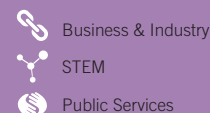
Median Wage: \$18.95
 Employment Growth: 25.3%
 Minimum Education: Long-term on-the-job training
 Annual Average Job Openings: 520

POWER-LINE INSTALLERS \$

Power-line installers install, maintain and repair the vast network of cable connections that run between power plants and consumers.

Median Wage: \$24.72
 Employment Growth: 31.8%
 Minimum Education: Long-term on-the-job training
 Annual Average Job Openings: 205

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Health Services



HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS

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Health Services (continued)



REGISTERED NURSES (RN) \$

Becoming a registered nurse for most hospital systems in the Gulf Coast region requires earning at least a BSN and passing a national licensing exam.

Median Wage:	\$34.43
Employment Growth:	38.2%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,470

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES (LVN) \$

Licensed vocational nurses account for one in every four nursing occupations in the Gulf Coast region and are on the career pathway to more advanced health care occupations.

Median Wage:	\$21.28
Employment Growth:	29.6%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary vocational training
Annual Average Job Openings:	820

MEDICAL RECORDS TECHNICIANS

Medical records technicians work in various health care environments and use complex proprietary database systems to manage, interpret and report data to maintain accurate records.

Median Wage:	\$17.64
Employment Growth:	31.1%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	200

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS \$

Medical and clinical laboratory technologists conduct complex laboratory testing for early diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

Median Wage:	\$17.64
Employment Growth:	31.1%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	200

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS \$

Radiologic technologists perform imaging tests to assist in diagnosing patients and are most easily associated with x-rays.

Median Wage:	\$26.27	Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Employment Growth:	41.0%	Annual Average Job Openings:	215

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS \$

Physical therapists help people adapt to the loss of bodily functions due to injuries or ailments.

Median Wage:	\$39.38
Employment Growth:	36.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree and license
Annual Average Job Openings:	140

SPEECH THERAPISTS \$

Speech therapists, also known as speech-language pathologists, diagnose and treat those with speech and language difficulties resulting from various medical problems.

Median Wage:	\$29.94
Employment Growth:	37.4%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	160

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS \$

Respiratory therapists generally work in hospitals and nursing homes with patients who are experiencing cardiology or pulmonary dysfunction.

Median Wage:	\$26.54
Employment Growth:	42.4%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	160

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS \$

Occupational therapists work with individuals who suffer from a disability. They utilize treatments that develop, recover or maintain clients' activities of daily living.

Median Wage:	\$36.28
Employment Growth:	37.6%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	105

PHARMACISTS

Pharmacists count pills, fill prescriptions and provide proper selection and dosage of medications, interactions and side effects of medications. Pharmacists often work in a 24/7 environment.

Median Wage:	\$53.15
Employment Growth:	27.9%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree and license
Annual Average Job Openings:	275

FUN FACTS!

SPEECH THERAPISTS

What do Nicole Kidman, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, Barbara Walters, and Emily Blunt have in common? They all overcame speech impediments with the help of speech therapists!

Source(s): www.stutteringhelp.org/
and www.speechbuddy.com