

INTRODUCTION

Workforce Solutions collects and organizes local economic data for both employers and employees to become more competitive in the global economy. We regularly provide a list of careers currently in high demand along with careers that will be in high demand in the future throughout the Houston-Galveston area.

This booklet contains the 2017 update describing some of the top fifty best-paying, high-skill, high-growth jobs available in the area, and what you must do to qualify for them. Pulling from a variety of data, we have provided median salary information, average annual job openings and the percent of employment growth projections to 2024 for each occupation for the Gulf Coast Region.

There are also indicators of which occupations are supported by Workforce Solutions' speculative scholarships and which high school educational endorsement each occupation is linked to. The symbols to the right of each occupation confirm which are supported by our Career Training (*) or Career Advancement Training (\$) scholarships. The symbols to the left indicate one of three fields of endorsement that occupation qualifies under: Business & Industry, STEM, or Public Service. Get started early, start now.

For more information on occupations supported by scholarship contact a Workforce Solutions counselor at 1.888.469.JOBS (5627).

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

PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS & TECHNICAL SERVICES





Accountants & Auditors (*/\$)

Accountants and auditors ensure that a company is run efficiently, it's public records are kept accurately, and its taxes are paid properly and timely.

\$78,000/Year Median Annual Salary: Employment Growth: 21.6% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 1,920



Computer Systems Analysts (*/\$)

Computer Systems Analysts automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. They may also analyze or recommend commercially available software.

Median Annual Salary: \$93,000/Year Employment Growth: 27.7% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 730



Engineers, Aerospace, Elec., Mech., Environ., All Other (*/\$)

All engineers research, design, create, and test project equipment to prevent and control possible causes of hazards from their projects.

Median Annual Salary: \$104,000 / Year Employment Growth: 18.9% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 1.015



Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians (*/\$)

Electrical and electronics engineering technicians work with electrical engineers to design, build, repair, calibrate, and modify electrical components, circuitry, controls, and machinery for evaluation and use in design decisions.

Median Wage: \$27.91/hour Employment Growth: 14.8% Minimum Education: Associate's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 210



Insurance Claims & Policy Processing Clerks

Insurance claims and policy processing clerks process and modify insurance policies, obtain information from policyholders on claims forms, applications and related documents, and update company records.

\$17.84/hour Median Wage: Employment Growth: 25.7% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months Annual Average Job Openings: 255



Insurance Sales Agents

Insurance sales agents may work for a single insurance company or an insurance brokerage to sell life, property, casualty, health, automotive, or other types of insurance.

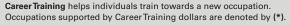
\$20.80/hour Median Wage: Employment Growth: 25.8% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months Annual Average Job Openings: 475



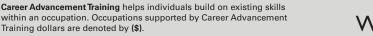








Training dollars are denoted by (\$).





PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS & TECHNICAL SERVICES (Continued)





Lawyers

Lawyers advocate their client's interests by drawing up legal documents, arguing in civil or criminal litigation, or simply advising their clients on the best legal courses of action.

Median Annual Salary: \$161,000/Year Employment Growth: 22.4% Minimum Education: Doctoral or professional degree Annual Average Job Openings: 580



Paralegals & Legal Assistants (*/\$)

Paralegals assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating situations, or prepping legal documents surrounding a legal proceeding.

Median Annual Salary: \$57,000/Year Employment Growth: 27.4% Minimum Education: Associate's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 280



Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists

Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service, or create a marketing campaign. They may gather the same information on competitors, as well.

Median Annual Salary: \$68,000/Year
Employment Growth: 32.1%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 310



Personal Financial Advisors

Personal financial advisors aid clients in adopting healthy money habits by encouraging positive financial objectives and investments using their knowledge tax and investment strategies, securities, insurance, pension plans, and real estate.

Median Annual Salary:\$81,000/YearEmployment Growth:34.8%Minimum Education:Bachelor's degreeTypical On-the-Job Training:12 months or moreAnnual Average Job Openings:250



Network and Computer Systems Administrators (*/\$)

Administrators support the efficiency and security of an organization's local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and Internet systems, by maintaining the computers and connections within the larger network.

Median Annual Salary: \$90,000/Year
Employment Growth: 17.2%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 260

FUN FACTS!

ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

Did you know that around 15% of special agents employed by the FBI today are Certified Public Accountants? The FBI considers accountants a crucial part of their team since they included a dozen bank examiners in their first investigative team of 34 people in 1908.

Source: FBI https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/fbi-forensic-accountants



Business & Industry

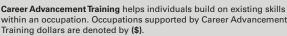


STEM



Public Services

CareerTraining helps individuals train towards a new occupation.
Occupations supported by CareerTraining dollars are denoted by (*).





PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS & TECHNICAL SERVICES (Continued)





Applications Software Developers (*/\$)

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

Median Annual Salary: \$105,000/Year
Employment Growth: 23.2%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 435



Systems Software Developers (*/\$)

Systems software developers design and test programs like operating systems-level software, compilers, and network distribution software that integrate numerous applications into a larger system.

Median Annual Salary: \$105,000/Year
Employment Growth: 19.1%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 280

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

CONSTRUCTION







Civil Engineers (*/\$)

Civil engineers plan, design, and oversee construction and maintenance of building structures, and facilities, such as roads, railroads, airports, bridges, harbors, channels, dams, irrigation projects, pipelines, power plants, and water and sewage systems.

Median Annual Salary: \$106,000/Year
Employment Growth: 26.5%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 620



Cost Estimators (*/\$)

Prepare cost estimates for product manufacturing, construction projects, or services to aid management in bidding on or determining price of product or service. May specialize according to particular service performed or type of product manufactured.

Median Annual Salary:\$67,000/YearEmployment Growth:25.1%Minimum Education:Bachelor's degreeAnnual Average Job Openings:265



Business & Industry

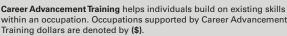


STEM

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CONSTRUCTION (Continued)





Electricians (*/\$)

Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures, in a variety of settings, to ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

\$22.45/hour Median Wage: Employment Growth: 30.8% High school diploma Minimum Education: Typical On-the-Job Training: Full Apprenticeship Annual Average Job Openings:



Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters (*/\$)

Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry fluids (water, steam, natural gas, etc.). Includes sprinklerfitters.

\$23.89/hour Median Wage: Employment Growth: 28.2% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: Full Apprenticeship Annual Average Job Openings:



Heating, AC, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers (*/\$)

Install or repair heating, central air conditioning, or refrigeration systems, including oil burners, hot-air furnaces, and heating stoves.

Median Wage: \$22.47/hour Employment Growth: 33.4% Minimum Education: Postsecondary vocational training Typical On-the-Job Training: 12 months or more Annual Average Job Openings: 285



Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers

Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Median Wage: \$22.22/hour Employment Growth: 15.1% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months Annual Average Job Openings: 825



Operating Eng. & Other Construction Equipment Operators (*/\$)

Operate and repair various types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or frontend loaders. These machinese help to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour pavement.

Median Wage: \$18.59/hour Employment Growth: 22.7% High school diploma Minimum Education: Less than 12 months Typical On-the-Job Training: Annual Average Job Openings: 410

FUN FACTS!

WELDERS

every car must be welded perfectly to stay in one

Source: NASCAR http://www.nascar.com/



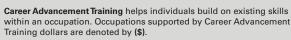
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HEALTHCARE





Biomedical Engineers (*/\$)

Biomedical Engineers handle the research, design, production, and testing of projects such as artificial organs, prostheses, instrumentation, and medical information systems aimed at improving the healthcare field.

\$76,000/Year Median Annual Salary: Employment Growth: 35.7% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings:



Medical Records & Health Information Technicians

Data between patients, physicians and their staffs is kept secure to uphold a high quality of care. These technicians organize, compile, process, and maintain this patient information for accurate record databases.

\$18.56/hour Median Wage: Employment Growth: 31.8% Minimum Education: Postsecondary non-degree Annual Average Job Openings: 215



Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses (*/\$)

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses (LPNs & LVNs) care for ill, injured or convalescent patients and evaluate their conditions through the process. As a part of the nursing team, they often do more hands-on care with patients.

Median Wage: \$23.26/hour Employment Growth: 32.7% Minimum Education: Postsecondary non-degree Annual Average Job Openings:



Occupational Therapists (*/\$)

Occupational therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills, as well as general independence, to persons with disabilities or developmental delays.

Median Annual Salary: \$89,000/Year Employment Growth: 34.0% Minimum Education: Master's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 85



Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Laboratory technologists conduct complex laboratory tests and analyze the results in pursuit of an early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Median Annual Salary: \$61,000/Year Employment Growth: 31.2% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 175



Physical Therapists (*/\$)

Physical therapists plan routines and exercises to assist individuals in adapting to loss of mobility or relieving pain due to a physically disabling condition.

Median Annual Salary: \$89,000/Year Employment Growth: 33.5% Minimum Education: Doctoral or professional degree Annual Average Job Openings:



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Occupations supported by CareerTraining dollars are denoted by (*). Career Advancement Training helps individuals build on existing skills within an occupation. Occupations supported by Career Advancement Training dollars are denoted by (\$).

Career Training helps individuals train towards a new occupation.



HEALTHCARE (Continued)





Physicians, including Dentists

There are two types of physicians: the doctor of medicine (MD) and the doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO). MDs treat all types of diseases and injuries. DOs, or dentists, diagnose, treat diseases, and relieve pain of and around teeth.

Median Annual Salary: \$160,000/Year
Employment Growth: 32.3%
Minimum Education: Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-Job Training: Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings: 945



Radiologic Technologists & Technicians (*/\$)

Radiologic technicians maintain equipment and perform x-rays or fluoroscopic imaging to diagnose patients. Technologists often have a wider range of diagnostic imaging specialties than technicians.

Median Wage: \$27.68/hour Employment Growth: 27.0% Minimum Education: Associate's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 180



Registered Nurses (*/\$)

Registered nurses (RNs) administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients in a more administrative role than LVNs. RNs often develop and implement the patient's plan of care.

Median Annual Salary: \$76,000/Year
Employment Growth: 33.6%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 2,655



Respiratory Therapists (*/\$)

Respiratory therapists generally work in hospitals and nursing homes with patients who are experiencing cardiology or pulmonary disfunctions or other breathing difficulties.

Median Annual Salary: \$59,000/Year
Employment Growth: 31.8%
Minimum Education: Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 130



Speech-Language Pathologists (*/\$)

Speech-language pathologists, or speech therapists, assess and treat patients with difficulties in oral communication. Speech Therapists also research speech-language problems to adapt creatively to each patient's needs.

Median Annual Salary: \$79,000/Year
Employment Growth: 34.2%
Minimum Education: Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 160

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): <u>www.stutteringhelp.org/</u> and www.speechbuddv.com



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OIL & GAS AND RELATED MANUFACTURING





Chemical Plant and System Operators (*/\$)

Chemical plant and system operators inspect and monitor the system of machines in the plant and control their operations.

Median Wage: \$31.97/hour Employment Growth: 18.7% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: 12 months or more Annual Average Job Openings: 185



Health & Safety Eng., Excluding Mining Safety Eng. & Inspectors (*/\$)

Health and safety engineers design efficient procedures and systematic approaches that abide by industrial regulations and promote a worksite safety.

Median Annual Salary: \$104,000/Year Employment Growth: 18.7% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 70



Engineers, Chem., Industrial, Materials, Marine, and Petrol (*/\$)

All engineers research, design, create, and test project equipment to prevent and control possible causes of hazards from their projects.

Median Annual Salary: \$116,000/Year
Employment Growth: 11.0%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 850



Industrial Machinery Mechanics (*/\$)

Industrial machinery mechanics install, maintain and repair equipment in factories, refineries and pipeline distribution systems.

Median Wage:\$26.57/hourEmployment Growth:27.5%Minimum Education:High school diplomaTypical On-the-Job Training:12 months or moreAnnual Average Job Openings:600



Geoscientists, Excluding Hydrologists & Geographers (*/\$)

Geoscientists is the broad terminology for a group of Earth science specialists who study physical aspects of Earth. Geoscientists often in explore for oil, gas, minerals, or underground water; or in waste disposal, land reclamation, or other environmental problems.

Median Annual Salary: \$131,000/Year
Employment Growth: 9.6%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 250



Machinists (*/\$)

Machinists set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.

Median Wage:\$21.49/hourEmployment Growth:0.7%Minimum Education:High school diplomaTypical On-the-Job Training:12 months or moreAnnual Average Job Openings:405

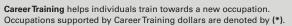


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STEN







OIL & GAS AND RELATED MANUFACTURING (Continued)





Petroleum Pump System Ops., Refinery Ops., & Gaugers (*/\$)

Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers are tasked with operating the pumps and adding chemical solutions in synchronized groups that regulate the quality and flow of crude oil into a distributable form.

Median Wage: \$32.93/hour Employment Growth: 12.5% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: 12 months or more Annual Average Job Openings: 220



Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, & Mining

Service unit operators control equipment to increase oil flow from producing wells or to remove stuck pipe, casing, tools, or other obstructions from drilling wells.

Median Wage: \$23.50/hour
Employment Growth: -16.8%
Minimum Education: No Formal Credentials
Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings: 270



Geological & Petroleum Technicians

Geological and petroleum technicians install field equipment that pinpoint potential sources of natural gas and petroleum. These technicians do both data collection field work and laboratory analysis of the geological data.

Median Wage: \$35.37/hour Employment Growth: -3.0% Minimum Education: Associate's degree Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months Annual Average Job Openings: 125



Mining & Geological Eng., Including Mining Safety Eng.

Mining and geological engineers conduct sub-surface surveys to identify the characteristics of potential land or mining development sites, inspect areas for unsafe geological conditions, equipment, and working conditions, as well as coordinate mine safety programs.

Annual Salary: \$152,000/Year
Employment Growth: -10.0%
Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings: 20

FUN FACTS!

OPERATORS & MECHANICS

Crude Oil is known as the "mother of all commodities," and since Texas is the leading state in crude oil reserves and production, this state is always looking for more mechanics and operators every year

Source: US Energy Information Administration https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=TX



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EDUCATION





Career & Technical Ed. Teachers, Secondary **School** (*/\$)

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teachers guide students in pursuing real-world training with hands-on skills that put them directly on a path for their chosen career.

\$61.000/Year Median Annual Salary: 20.6% Employment Growth: Bachelor's degree Minimum Education: Typical On-the-Job Training: Internship/Residency Annual Average Job Openings:



Educational, Guidance, School, & Vocational Counselors (*/\$)

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

Median Annual Salary: \$60.000/Year Employment Growth: 26.9% Minimum Education: Master's degree Annual Average Job Openings: 225



Kinder., Elem., Middle, Secondary Teachers, Excluding Special Ed. (*/\$)

All other careers rely upon teachers to provide students with a solid base for their educational development and a launch point for their social development. So, especially in this region, teaching is a growing field at all levels of learning.

Median Annual Salary: \$58.000/Year Employment Growth: 27.0% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Typical On-the-Job Training: Internship/Residency Annual Average Job Openings: 3,850



Preschool Teachers, Excluding Special Ed.

Preschool teachers focus on aiding social, physical, and intellectual development in preschool aged students (often below the age of 5) who grow at different speeds and in different ways.

Median Annual Salary: \$23,000/Year Employment Growth: 23.6% Minimum Education: Associate's degree Annual Average Job Openings:



Special Ed. Teachers, Preschool thru High **School** (*/\$)

Special Education Teachers adapt general education curriculums for educationally and physically handicapped students as well as inform parents and guardians about skills and resources they can use to help their child.

Median Annual Salary: \$60,000/Year Employment Growth: 27.0% Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree Typical On-the-Job Training: Internship/Residency Annual Average Job Openings: 250

FUN FACTS!

CAREER & TECH. ED. TEACHERS

CTE teachers are needed both in the Gulf Coast and nation-wide. The number of students earning sub baccalaureate credentials in CTE fields rose 71

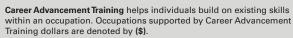


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Public Services

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TRANSPORTATION





Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists (*/\$)

Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines, primarily automobile or marine engines.

Median Wage: \$22.61/hour Employment Growth: 28.6% Minimum Education: High school diploma Typical On-the-Job Training: 12 months or more Annual Average Job Openings: 310



Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines (*/\$)

Mobile heavy equipment mechanics diagnose and repair mobile tools and vehicles used in construction, logging, and surface mining.

Median Wage:\$23.81/hourEmployment Growth:22.2%Minimum Education:High school diplomaTypical On-the-Job Training:12 months or moreAnnual Average Job Openings:215



Flight Attendants

Flight Attendants represent the airline by providing personal services of food, drinks, and answering questions to ensure the passengers' comfort and safety throughout the flight.

Median Wage: \$24.73/hour
Employment Growth: 27.5%
Minimum Education: High school diploma
Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings: 290



Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers

Drive and (un)load a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) transport goods, often over long distances, across state lines, or even out of the county.

Median Annual Salary: \$39,000/Year
Employment Growth: 23.0%
Minimum Education: Postsecondary non-degree
Typical On-the-Job Training: Less than 1 month
Annual Average Job Openings: 1,695

FUN FACTS!

HEAVY & TRACTOR-TRAILER DRIVERS

Did you know that Sean Connery, the first Bond (James Bond), was raised by a proud Scottish man and truck driver?

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/25/world/sean-connery-fast-facts/index.html



Business & Industry



STEM





THE HARD FACTS

INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER POPULAR CAREER CHOICES



Below are the jobs that Gulf Coast residents 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	\$20.92	18.50%	Some college, no degree	50
Dancers	\$8.65	18.2%	High school diploma or equivalent	10
Musicians and Singers	\$19.41	21.70%	High school diploma or equivalent	150
Estheticians	\$11.13	26.80%	Postsecondary non-degree award	45
Photographers	\$16.48	12.1%	High school diploma or equivalent	60
Graphic Designers	\$20.79	20.10%	Bachelor's Degree	165
Architects, Except Landscape & Naval	\$36.91	24.70%	Bachelor's Degree	130
Cosmetologists ¹	\$9.77	24.70%	Postsecondary non-degree award	550
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$20.02	36.80%	High school diploma or equivalent	140
Athletes and Sports Competitors	NA	25.0%	High school diploma or equivalent	10
Travel Agents	\$17.73	17.10%	High school diploma or equivalent	40
Pediatricians	\$72.83	24.10%	Doctoral or professional degree	40
Home Health Aides	\$9.02	49.10%	No formal educational credential	745
Social Workers	\$39.83	22.90%	Bachelor's degree	30
Psychologists ²	\$50.42	23.30%	Dctoral or professional degree	80
Veterinarians	\$45.34	21.70%	Doctoral or professional degree	35
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	\$38.06	12.50%	Bachelor's Degree	0
Nanny	\$9.26	20.70%	High school diploma or equivalent	1,130
Interior Designer	\$25.81	24.80%	Bachelor's Degree	390

¹ Certificates awarded in the region per year: 1,453. Annual Average Job Openings includes the total number of jobs available due to replacement or growth per year. Median hourly wage is based on 2015 industry standards.



² Degrees awarded in the region per year: 1,585.