

St. Louis' Fastest Growing Occupations 2008-2010

St. Louis is projected to have more than 57,000 job openings from 2008 to 2010. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in the region include thirteen occupations that are education-related and two health care-related occupations. Home Health Aides are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 6.01 percent from 2008 to 2010.

Nineteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth, and wages. Out of the top 20 fastest growing list, 15 occupations are new to the top list. (St. Louis' top 20 fastest growing occupations were identified as those with the highest percent change from 2008-2010 with a minimum of ten Average Annual Openings.)

Occupation	2008 Estimated Employment	2010 Projected Employment	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
Home Health Aides	4,530	4,800	6.01%	169	\$19,020	C+
Pharmacy Technicians	3,410	3,610	5.98%	196	\$23,810	B
NEW! Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	900	940	5.47%	39	\$60,910	A-
NEW! Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	300	310	5.37%	13	\$70,800	A-
NEW! English Language and Literature Teachers, Postsecondary	560	590	5.34%	24	\$61,360	A-
NEW! Education Teachers, Postsecondary	400	420	5.32%	17	\$58,870	A-
NEW! Communications Teachers, Postsecondary	280	300	5.30%	12	\$62,720	A-
NEW! Psychology Teachers, Postsecondary	320	340	5.30%	14	\$65,130	A-
NEW! Business Teachers, Postsecondary	770	810	5.19%	32	\$74,730	A-
NEW! Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	390	410	5.14%	16	\$82,610	A-
NEW! Mathematical Science Teachers, Postsecondary	420	440	5.01%	18	\$60,070	A-
NEW! Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	320	340	4.98%	13	\$67,270	A-
NEW! Postsecondary Teachers, All Other	530	550	4.93%	21	\$72,470	A-
NEW! Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators	560	590	4.79%	24	\$32,730	B+
NEW! Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	450	470	4.67%	18	\$56,440	A-
Broadcast Technicians	430	450	4.41%	24	\$32,950	B+
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	2,720	2,840	4.38%	111	\$65,830	A+
NEW! Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School	2,270	2,370	4.14%	91	\$43,790	A-
Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors	660	690	4.08%	26	\$36,520	B+
NEW! Instructional Coordinators	330	340	4.00%	10	\$53,340	A-

Data Sources: MERIC Short-term Occupational Projections, MERIC Occupational Employment and Wage Survey, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Career Grades are assigned by analyzing an occupation's percent change, total openings and average wage relative to all other occupations in the region. An occupation's combination of scores on these three factors determines its grade.