

# Missouri's Fastest Growing Occupations 2008-2010

Missouri is projected to have more than 155,000 job openings from 2008 to 2010. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in the state include ten education-related occupations and three health care-related occupations. Home Health Aides are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 6.95 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, fifteen occupations are new to the top list, two of which are related to counseling services. (Missouri's 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   | 11,830                    | 12,650                    | 6.95%          | 498                     | \$19,020            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels            | 270                       | 290                       | 6.25%          | 16                      | \$54,500            | B            |
| Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts                    | 4,910                     | 5,200                     | 6.10%          | 241                     | \$65,830            | A+           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Sailors and Marine Oilers                               | 400                       | 420                       | 5.79%          | 27                      | \$28,740            | B-           |
| Pharmacy Technicians  | 9,560                     | 10,100                    | 5.60%          | 531                     | \$23,810            | B            |
| Personal and Home Care Aides  | 19,870                    | 20,970                    | 5.54%          | 869                     | \$18,120            | B            |
| Gaming Surveillance Officers and Gaming Investigators               | 230                       | 240                       | 5.22%          | 11                      | \$26,800            | D            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Marriage and Family Therapists                          | 380                       | 400                       | 5.21%          | 17                      | \$57,510            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Curators  | 240                       | 250                       | 5.08%          | 17                      | \$50,210            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Forensic Science Technicians                            | 220                       | 240                       | 4.91%          | 16                      | \$46,010            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary           | 1,820                     | 1,900                     | 4.79%          | 71                      | \$60,910            | A-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Foreign Language and Literature Teachers, Postsecondary | 500                       | 530                       | 4.79%          | 20                      | \$52,150            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors      | 1,710                     | 1,790                     | 4.73%          | 72                      | \$36,520            | B+           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Education Teachers, Postsecondary                       | 1,110                     | 1,160                     | 4.59%          | 43                      | \$58,870            | A-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Recreation and Fitness Studies Teachers, Postsecondary  | 350                       | 370                       | 4.52%          | 14                      | \$49,070            | B            |
| <b>NEW!</b> English Language and Literature Teachers, Postsecondary | 1,460                     | 1,530                     | 4.51%          | 55                      | \$61,360            | A-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Graduate Teaching Assistants                            | 1,410                     | 1,470                     | 4.48%          | 53                      | \$21,280            | B-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Communications Teachers, Postsecondary                  | 690                       | 720                       | 4.47%          | 27                      | \$62,720            | A-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary              | 1,080                     | 1,124                     | 4.46%          | 40                      | \$70,800            | A-           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary              | 6,720                     | 7,020                     | 4.42%          | 250                     | \$101,740           | 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 state. An occupation's combination of scores on these three factors determines its grade.