

Kansas City's Top Openings

2010-2012

Kansas City is projected to have just less than 23,900 job openings from 2010 to 2012. During this time, the 20 occupations with the most projected total openings in the region include six food preparation and serving occupations and four occupations that are sales-related. Job openings are classified as “Growth” or “Replacement” openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Cashiers are projected to have the most openings from 2010 to 2012, though almost all the openings are projected to be replacements. This occupation has a Grade C due to the lack of growth in the occupation, and lower than average wages. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer, on the other hand, have more openings due to growth than replacements indicating strong future demand in that occupation in the region. The combination of its above average total openings, fast growth, and higher than average wages for Registered Nurses merit its Grade A- career outlook. Overall, ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth, and wages.

Occupation	2010 Estimated Employment	2012 Projected Employment	Total Openings	Total Openings		Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
				Openings Due to Growth	Openings Due to Replacement		
Cashiers	12,760	12,940	1,690	176	1,514	\$19,440	C
Waiters & Waitresses	9,810	9,940	1,282	136	1,146	\$19,990	C
Retail Salespersons	14,090	14,230	980	146	834	\$24,902	B-
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Incl. Fast Food	14,250	14,660	908	415	493	\$17,976	C+
Customer Service Representatives	10,270	10,480	847	214	633	\$32,454	B
General & Operations Managers	8,950	8,840	490	0	490	\$97,036	B
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	6,230	6,510	488	285	203	\$37,734	A-
Laborers and Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	6,670	6,660	450	0	450	\$27,336	B-
Registered Nurses	11,750	11,910	438	183	255	\$64,965	A-
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	7,160	7,230	416	72	344	\$21,962	C
Elementary School Teachers, Excl. Special Education	7,760	7,850	413	85	328	\$47,860	B+
Office Clerks, General	11,820	11,910	399	92	307	\$31,254	B-
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, & Coffee Shop	1,500	1,520	380	22	358	\$18,868	C+
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Excl. Tech. & Sci. Products	6,240	6,300	334	61	273	\$60,843	A-
Child Care Workers	5,260	5,240	326	0	326	\$21,348	D
Accountants & Auditors	6,840	6,940	309	103	206	\$56,468	A
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	8,680	8,620	308	0	308	\$24,227	D
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, & Coffee Shop	1,350	1,370	306	21	285	\$18,727	C+
Cooks, Restaurant	4,050	4,110	298	67	231	\$21,893	C+
Food Preparation Workers	2,920	2,950	290	34	256	\$21,754	C

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.

