

Career Exploration Resource Guide

At Workforce Solutions we strive to help employers meet their human resource needs and individuals build careers, so both can compete in the global economy.

There are a number of career choices for customers to choose, but recognizing which occupations lead to sufficient wages and adequate employment opportunities can be challenging. To help customers prepare for good job opportunities we have developed a career exploration resource guide for demand occupations in the Gulf Coast region.

These resources provide critical labor market information on selected occupations about salaries, job openings, job growth and education and training requirements. Customers may use these tools to help them make informed decisions about career choices and occupational training opportunities.

Visit www.wrksolutions.com/careerexploration for more information.

- **Demand Occupation Lists**

Lists present detailed labor market information about demand occupations in the Gulf Coast region.

- **Where the Jobs Are** – A comprehensive list of occupations projected to offer *the largest number* of employment opportunities now and in the immediate future.

How to use the Where the Jobs Are list:

It is no secret that the more job openings there are in a specific occupation, the greater the chance for a customer to find employment if they possess the skills and qualifications. The Where the Jobs Are list is a fantastic resource to use for customers interested in locating occupations that present the greatest employment opportunities. There is additional labor market information to help customers weigh their options as they review the list. Customers can use ONET to find out more information about an occupation, WorkInTexas.com to locate employer openings and our education and training vendor network to locate potential training opportunities.

- **High-Skill, High-Growth Occupations** – A condensed list of occupations projected to offer *the best employment* opportunities based on projected openings, growth, salary, and education requirements. This list also indicates which occupations Workforce Solutions will support with education and training scholarships. Visit our [Training & Education](#) page to locate approved education and training vendor programs.

How to use the High-Skill, High-Growth Occupations list:

Sometimes customers do not want to research through hundreds of occupations and piles of labor market data to figure out the best jobs. We have done this research for customers and compiled it all into our High-Skill, High-Growth Occupations list. Use this list with customers who are interested in quickly identifying the top occupations in the region and comparing key labor market factors. The occupations on this list represent jobs that have growth, openings and salaries greater than average for the region! Customers may also be eligible for a Workforce Solutions scholarship to train towards or improve their skills within one of these occupations! Provide this list to customers as a resource for them to review.

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- **[High-Skill, High-Growth Booklet](#)**

The booklet repackages the information found on the High-Skill, High-Growth Occupations list in a more reader-friendly format. The booklet also contains brief descriptions about each occupation, provides useful facts about certain occupations, and offers interesting labor market information about other popular career choices that may not be considered high-skill or high-growth. Customers and staff may research approved education and training vendor programs by visiting our [Training & Education](#) page.

How to use the High-Skill, High-Growth Booklet:

The booklet is a more detailed, attractive version of the High-Skill, High-Growth list. It is best used when presenting information to a customer or group of customers about the occupations which are most-in-demand in our region. This is a great career exploration tool to display at a staff member's desk or in a common resource area. Individuals may even review the online version of the booklet or print their own copy from our website.

- **[Industry/Occupation Profiles](#)**

The Industry/Occupation Profiles present an in-depth look at our high-skill, high-growth occupations. Each profile goes beyond simple labor market information to offer a more detailed view of each occupation, to include suggested high school coursework, training providers and major employers who hire individuals within the respective occupation.

How to use the Industry/Occupational Profiles:

For customers who want to explore detailed information about the best occupations in the region, use the Occupational Profiles. Our labor market analysts and industry experts put together an insider's view of each of our high-skill, high-growth occupations. This is not general information; they have customized each profile for the Gulf Coast region! Customers may view the information online or print their own copy to delve into at their leisure.

- **[Job Family Chart](#)**

The charts provide graphical representations of different occupations within high-demand industries. At a glance, customers can view how important labor market elements, such as salary and job openings, compare to other occupations within the same industry. We have started with the construction industry, but welcome your feedback as we work on developing guides for other industries.

How to use the Job Family Chart:

The job family charts are best used with customers who are interested in starting a new occupation or doing something different and don't know where to begin. When customers are unsure about potential career options and paths that exist within an industry, these charts provide important labor market information about several occupational choices to help them compare and make informed decisions.

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- **Additional Resources for Individuals**

Check out some of our other career exploration tools for both individuals and educators!

- **Workforce Solutions YouTube Career Videos** – These videos provide a closer look at each of our high-skill, high-growth occupations. Use the videos if you would like to see occupations in action! Think of it as a virtual field trip or job shadow.
- **Choices Planner** – The planner helps customers build comprehensive portfolios based on interests, values, skills, and experience to explore potential career matches and locate training and employment opportunities.

How to use the Choices Planner:

The Choices planner is an intensive tool ideally used with customers who are first thinking about career options or who would like to make a career change. Customers will answer a number of different questions and participate in several activities as they work towards finding their best career matches.

- **The Princeton Review Career Quiz** – There are 24 questions on personal interests to help measure career compatibility. It groups people into a color code and provides compatible occupations. The occupations listed are generated from The Princeton Review's *Guide to Your Career*.
- **Keirsev Temperament Sorter** – Measuring personality, there are 70 questions dealing with feelings toward specific situations and personal preferences. It groups personalities into four areas, each containing four subgroups. This helps to identify personal strengths and weaknesses.

- **Additional Resources for Educators**

- **Occupational Poster Series** – Our posters provide large visual representations of our high-skill, high-growth occupations. Complete with labor market information and descriptions about each occupation, these posters can be printed in 8 1/2 x 11 flyer sizes or as large as 11x17 or 22x34.

How to use the Occupational Posters:

The occupational posters present images of individuals working within our high-skill, high-growth occupations. Coupled with the descriptions and important labor market information, the posters provide a much clearer picture of each of our targeted occupations. Many organizations print large versions of these posters to display in common areas frequented by customers.

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- **When I Grow Up**

The When I Grow Up curriculum offers career lessons, activities and resources for educators, parents and young people in grades Pre-K – 12. The curriculum uses fun and exciting activities to expose young people to a variety of high-skill, high-growth career possibilities and important labor market information.

How to use When I Grow Up:

The lessons were originally designed for educators to use with students; however, organizations, staff, parents and young people, are encouraged to use the lessons too! They are best when used with groups, but some of the lessons work remarkably well with individuals.

The [High School](#) curriculum has a number of lessons which focus on skills identification, career exploration and employability and job search skills. The [When I Grow Up Workbook \(Digital, PDF\)](#) not only illuminates many of these lessons in a cool, interactive way, but it also helps students translate their interests and values into potential career options.

There are a number of other resources to explore within the curriculum, such as, [Texas Reality Check](#), [The Hard Facts](#), [My Next Move](#) and the [My Future, My Way Workbook](#).

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