

FOCUS ON

PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND STEAMFITTERS

1 OF 4

Houston Gulf Coast Region*

GET IN THE PIPELINE OF A REWARDING CAREER AS A PLUMBER, PIPEFITTER OR STEAMFITTER

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters are among the largest and highest paid construction occupations. Most people are familiar with plumbers. However, taking a closer look we find that plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters install, maintain, and repair many different types of pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. Work could be in a residential home, in commercial buildings, at manufacturing plants, water treatment plants, power plants, industrial manufacturing companies, and the list goes on! Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters are in short supply in the Gulf Coast region as well as at the state and national level. Demand continues to grow in response to an ever-increasing population and as a growing number of baby boomers retire. The shortage of plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters translates into outstanding career opportunities to individuals entering into the workforce.

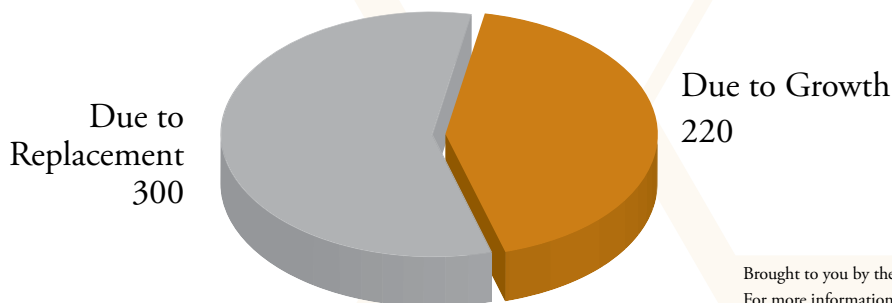
Factors contributing to the shortage:

- a growing population
- a workforce that is approaching retirement age
- the underrated value of vocational education

REPLACEMENT DEMAND FOR PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND STEAMFITTERS AS THEY RETIRE OR EXIT THE OCCUPATION IS GREATER THAN DEMAND DUE TO GROWTH.



Annual Job Openings – Gulf Coast Region

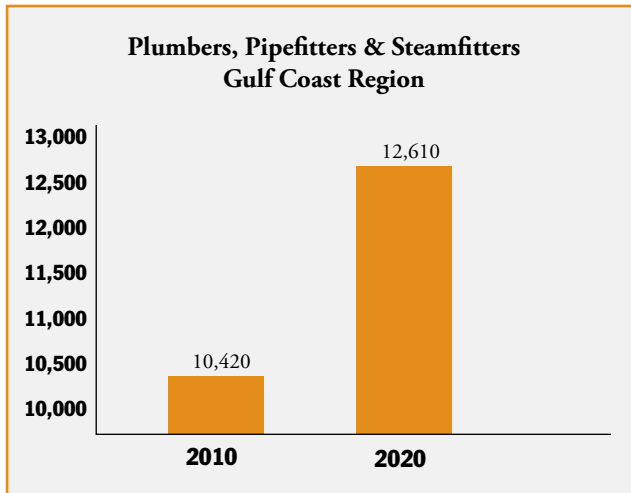


Brought to you by the Education Committee of The Gulf Coast Workforce Board.
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Latest data available. June 2013.

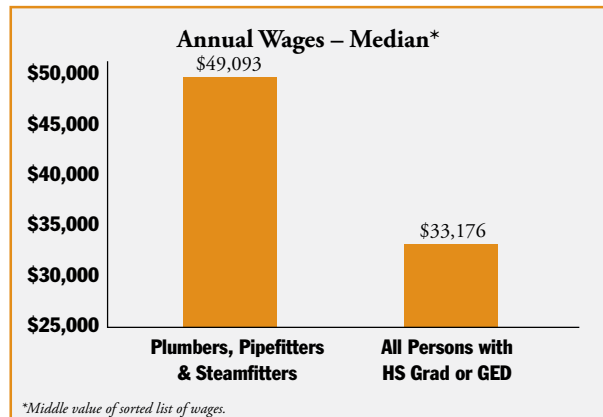
*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

FOCUS ON PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND STEAMFITTERS

THE GULF COAST REGION EXPECTS TO NEED MORE THAN 12,000 PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND STEAMFITTERS BY THE YEAR 2020.



IN 2011, PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS, AND STEAMFITTERS EARNED AN AVERAGE OF \$23.53 PER HOUR IN THE GULF COAST REGION. EARNINGS FOR THIS OCCUPATION ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN PERSONS WITH SIMILAR EDUCATION LEVELS!



SO WHAT KINDS OF PLUMBER, PIPEFITTER, AND STEAMFITTER CAREERS ARE THERE?

- Residential construction, maintenance, and repair
- Commercial construction, maintenance, and repair
- Industrial construction, maintenance, and repair

PATHWAY TO BECOMING A PLUMBER, PIPEFITTER, OR STEAMFITTER

Remember, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters work both indoors and out; at construction sites, in homes, and in businesses or factories. Work may be strenuous at times. Some may have to travel to jobsites. Many get paid to learn the trade through apprenticeship programs. In the Gulf Coast region, there are three options for plumber, pipefitter, and steamfitter training:

- Apprenticeship programs through unions or based on merit (non-union) — combined on-the-job training with related classroom instruction
- Training programs at community colleges
- Training programs at vocational-technical institutes

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PREPARING FOR A CAREER AS A PLUMBER, PIPEFITTER OR STEAMFITTER*

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	Career-Related Electives: Technology Systems (Modular Lab Based)
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	Career-Related Electives: Construction Systems
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Principles of Technology I	Technology Applications	
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	Career-Related Electives: Energy, Power, and Transportation Systems or Power Technology or Manufacturing Systems
	Mathematical Models with Applications	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	Career-Related Electives: Research Design and Development or Manufacturing Technology
	Algebra II	Fine Arts	
	Engineering		

*Source: AchieveTexas.org

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT MAY OFFER TRAINING DEPENDING ON DEMAND

- Brazosport College
- Houston Community College System
- Lee College

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

- Plumbers Local Union No. 68
<http://www.plu68.com/>
- Pipefitters Local Union No. 211
<http://pflocal211.com/>
- Associated Builders and Contractors
<http://abchouston.org>



MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- American Residential Service
- Austin Industrial
- BE & K
- Du-West Plumbing
- Fluor Daniel
- Gowan Inc.
- Humphrey Co.
- Industrial Specialists
- The Infinity Group
- Jacobs Field Services
- Kellogg Brown & Root
- Letsos Co.
- Miken Specialties
- Mundy Company
- Onyx Industrial Services
- Protherm Services Group
- Raven Mechanical
- Shaw Maintenance
- Turner Industries
- Rescue Rooter
- Way Holding Co.
- Zachry Construction

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