

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a denim shirt. The background is blurred, showing other people in a professional setting.

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

INTRODUCTION

Workforce Solutions collects and organizes local economic data to help employers meet their human resource needs and individuals build careers. We regularly provide a list of occupations that are currently in high demand along with careers that will be in high demand in the future throughout the Houston-Galveston area.

In this booklet, you will find median salaries and wages, average annual job openings and employment growth projections for the best-paying, high-skill, high-growth jobs available in the local area.

The symbols located in parentheses to the right of each occupation title indicate whether it is supported by Career Training (*) and/or Career Advancement Training (\$) Workforce Solutions scholarships. The gray symbol located to the left of the occupation title indicates which field of high school endorsements that occupation qualifies for: Business & Industry, STEM or Public Service.

We encourage readers to use this booklet as a starting point to discuss with your advisors, counselors, mentors, and trusted family the career that's right for you. Start planning for your future today!

**Many occupations
in this booklet
are supported by
scholarships. For more
information, contact
a Workforce Solutions
counselor at 1.888.469.
JOBS (5627). For more
details on career options,
visit [wrksolutions.com/
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exploration](http://wrksolutions.com/for-individuals/career-exploration).**

www.wrksolutions.com 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

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ABOUT THE JOBS LISTED IN THIS PUBLICATION

High-skill, high-growth jobs are those that offer the best employment opportunities for Gulf Coast residents now and in the immediate future based on criteria set forth by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. Occupations meeting some but not all of the criteria have also been included based on the best regional labor market intelligence available. All wages shown are from 2019. Employment and wage data for select occupations is provided by EMSI and Chmura Economics.

Criteria used to identify these occupations are:

- Projected employment for 2028 equal to or greater than the average for all occupations in the region. (> 1,797)
- Projected growth rate equal to or greater than the average of all occupations in the region. (> 14.2%)
- Minimum education requirements of a postsecondary degree or certificate, moderate on-the-job training, long-term on-the-job training, or work experience in a related occupation.
- Median hourly wages equal to or greater than the median for all occupations in the region. (> \$19.44)



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS



Cost Estimators (*\$)

Cost estimators prepare cost estimates for product manufacturing, construction projects, or services to aid management in bidding on or determining the price of a product or service. They may specialize according to particular service performed or type of product manufactured.

Median Annual Salary:	\$74,341/Year
Employment Growth:	18.6%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	650



Market Research Analysts/Marketing Specialists (*\$)

These professionals research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service, or they create a marketing campaign. They may also gather the same information on competitors.

Median Annual Salary:	\$66,539/Year
Employment Growth:	27.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,008



Logisticians (*\$)

Logisticians analyze and coordinate an organization's supply chain. They manage the entire life cycle of a product – how a product is acquired, distributed, allocated, and delivered. Logisticians also oversee activities such as purchasing, transportation, inventory, and warehousing.

Median Annual Salary:	\$78,954/Year
Employment Growth:	19.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	515



Accountants/Auditors (*\$)

Accountants and auditors ensure that a company is run efficiently, its public records are kept accurately, and its taxes are paid properly and timely.

Median Annual Salary:	\$75,901/Year
Employment Growth:	16.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	4,225



Management Analysts (*\$)

Management analysts, often called management consultants, recommend ways to improve an organization's efficiency. They advise managers on how to make organizations more profitable through reduced costs and increased revenues.

Median Annual Salary:	\$98,079/Year
Employment Growth:	24.7%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,534



Business & Industry



STEM



Public Services

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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS



Tax Preparers (*\$)

A tax preparer assists clients in filing their income tax returns. They meet with clients during the tax preparation process to review financial records, complete all tax forms, and ensure completed forms follow tax laws and regulations.

Median Wage:	\$49,597/Year
Employment Growth:	18.5%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	223



FUN FACTS!

MARKETING SPECIALISTS

Marketing and branding date as far back as ancient times. As early as 200 BCE, Chinese merchants packaged and branded their products signaling family status, quality, grading, and upholding traditional values.

Source: <https://fairgaze.com/interested-article/some-interesting-facts-about-market-research-analyst.htm>



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COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL



Computer System Analysts (*\$)

Computer systems analysts automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. They may also analyze or recommend commercially available software.

Median Annual Salary:	\$106,435/Year
Employment Growth:	8.6%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,208



Information Security Analysts (*\$)

Information security analysts plan and carry out security measures to protect an organization's computer networks and systems. Their responsibilities are continually expanding as the number of cyberattacks increases.

Median Annual Salary:	\$104,643/Year
Employment Growth:	31.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	200



Software Developers, Applications (*\$)

Applications software developers design, build, customize, test, and maintain general computer applications software or specialized utility programs, such as the "apps" on your phone.

Median Annual Salary:	\$105,448/Year
Employment Growth:	17.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,323



Software Developers, Systems Software (*\$)

Systems software developers design and test programs like operating systems-level software, compilers, and network distribution software that integrate numerous applications.

Median Annual Salary:	\$101,400/Year
Employment Growth:	11.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	473



Database Administrators (*\$)

Database administrators are responsible for the evaluation of database software purchases, supervising any modifications to existing software to meet company standards. The main priority of this position is ensuring the security of company data.

Median Annual Salary:	\$97,484/Year
Employment Growth:	13.4%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	207



Network and Computer Systems Administrators (*\$)

These administrators support the efficiency and security of an organization's local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and internet systems by maintaining computer connections within the larger network.

Median Annual Salary:	\$92,754/Year
Employment Growth:	9.4%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	663



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COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL



Computer User Support Specialists (*\$)

Computer user support specialists, also called help-desk technicians, provide technical help to non-IT computer users. They can usually help users remotely, but they also may make site visits so that they can solve a problem in person.

Median Wage:	\$53,286/Year
Employment Growth:	16%
Minimum Education:	Some college, no degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,479



Operation Research Analysts (*\$)

Operations research analysts use advanced mathematical and analytical methods to help organizations investigate complex issues, identify and solve problems, and make better decisions. Most research analysts work with specific systems, such as business, accounting, financial, scientific, or engineering.

Median Annual Salary:	\$77,570/Year
Employment Growth:	38.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	260

FUN FACTS!

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

Job opportunities for software developers exist in virtually every industry, but job satisfaction varies widely. A 2016 survey by Stack Overflow found that developers who work in gaming are more likely to love their job than anyone else. Developers in manufacturing and finance are most likely to work with legacy code, and developers in defense are likely to love their boss.

Source: <https://insights.stackoverflow.com/survey/2016>



Business & Industry



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ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING



Architects, Excluding Landscape and Naval (*\$)

Architects are responsible for designing the buildings where people live, work, play, learn, shop, and eat. They work on public or private projects, design indoor and outdoor spaces, and can be commissioned to design anything from a single room to entire building complexes.

Median Annual Salary:	\$82,542/Year
Employment Growth:	24.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	290



Surveyors (*\$)

Install or repair heating, central air conditioning, or refrigeration systems, including oil burners, hot-air furnaces and heating stoves.

Median Wage:	\$67,232/Year
Employment Growth:	20.2%
Minimum Education:	Intern Residency
Typical On-the-Job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	154



Aerospace Engineers (*\$)

Aerospace engineers design and test nearly all vehicles that fly (e.g. aircrafts, space crafts, satellites, and missiles) to ensure functionality. Many engine and design specifications from aerospace engineers often lead to advancements in other technologies like automotive and consumer goods.

Median Annual Salary:	\$128,300/Year
Employment Growth:	10.5%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	188



Biomedical Engineers (*\$)

Biomedical engineers handle the research, design, production, and testing of projects such as artificial organs, prostheses, instrumentation, and medical information systems aimed at improving the healthcare field.

Median Annual Salary:	\$91,280/Year
Employment Growth:	2.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	16



Chemical Engineers (*\$)

Chemical engineers create usable products out of raw materials, taking the science from the textbooks to the real world. They can specialize in specific processes (e.g. oxidation or polymerization) or a field (e.g. biotechnology or life sciences).

Median Annual Salary:	\$137,320/Year
Employment Growth:	17.8%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	391



Civil Engineers (*\$)

Civil engineers plan, design, and oversee construction and maintenance of building structures and facilities, such as roads, railroads, airports, bridges, harbors, channels, dams, irrigation projects, pipelines, power plants, and water and sewage systems.

Median Annual Salary:	\$93,020/Year
Employment Growth:	20.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,041



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ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING



Electrical Engineers (*\$)

Electrical engineers design, develop, test, or supervise the manufacturing and installation of electrical equipment, components, or systems. They generally focus on power supply and power generation as opposed to electronics engineers, who work on applications of electricity to control systems or process signals.

Median Annual Salary:	\$100,240/Year
Employment Growth:	19.5%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	373

Electronics Engineers, Excluding Computer (*\$)

Electronics engineers design and develop electronic equipment, including broadcast and communications systems, such as portable music players and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices.

Median Annual Salary:	\$104,980/Year
Employment Growth:	10.2%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	213

Environmental Engineers (*\$)

Environmental engineers work to develop solutions for environmental problems using biology and chemistry. Increasing public health awareness is shifting efforts more towards problem prevention and is expected to increase demand for environmental engineers.

Median Annual Salary:	\$100,120/Year
Employment Growth:	22%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	128

Health and Safety Engineers, Excluding Mining Safety (*\$)

Health and safety engineers design efficient procedures and systematic approaches that abide by industrial regulations and promote worksite safety.

Median Wage:	\$23.89/Hour
Employment Growth:	11.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Typical On-the-Job Training:	Full Apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	113

Industrial Engineers (*\$)

Industrial engineers devise techniques to eliminate wastefulness in the production process. They manage various parts of the production system to maintain internal and national standards as they maximize efficiency and minimize costs.

Median Annual Salary:	\$116,060/Year
Employment Growth:	20.2%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	473

Marine Engineers/Naval Architects (*\$)

Also called marine design engineers or marine mechanical engineers, marine engineers and naval architects build, design, and maintain the interior and structure of marine vessels. Working on land and at sea, they often act as the project managers during ship construction, maintaining communication and accurate schematics between other engineers, architects, and workers.

Median Annual Salary:	\$92,820/Year
Employment Growth:	28.2%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	51

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING



Materials Engineers (*\$)

Materials engineers develop new materials or improve old ones, working to create and test the components of various products to increase their efficacy. Studying chemical and physical structures and properties, they are responsible for making things stay together and work.

Median Annual Salary:	\$98,240/Year
Employment Growth:	16.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	78

Mechanical Engineers (*\$)

As one of the most diverse engineering disciplines, mechanical engineering covers the design, building, developing, and testing of just about any mechanical device. Often working with other engineering disciplines, mechanical engineers can be like a connective tissue between engineers due to their broad base of knowledge.

Median Annual Salary:	\$95,580/Year
Employment Growth:	17.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	748

Mining and Geological Engineers, Excluding Mining Safety Engineers(*\$)

Mining and geological engineers conduct sub-surface surveys to identify the characteristics of potential land or mining development sites; inspect areas for unsafe geological conditions, equipment and working conditions; and coordinate mine safety programs.

Median Annual Salary:	\$57,100/Year
Employment Growth:	25.9%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	19

Petroleum Engineers (*\$)

Petroleum engineers design and develop methods to extract oil and natural gas from deposits or reservoirs below the surface of the earth. In addition, old wells that seem dried up can sometimes still be mined from if a petroleum engineer can design a new method of extraction (e.g. hydraulic fracturing or fracking).

Median Annual Salary:	159,840/Year
Employment Growth:	10.6%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	965

Architectural and Civil Drafters (*\$)

Architectural drafters draw structural features and details for buildings and other construction projects. Civil drafters prepare topographical maps used in construction and civil engineering projects, such as highways, bridges, and dams.

Median Annual Salary:	\$58,424/Year
Employment Growth:	17%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	425

Mechanical Drafters (*\$)

Mechanical drafters prepare layouts that show the details for a variety of machinery and mechanical tools and devices, such as medical equipment. They also sometimes create production molds.

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,332/Year
Employment Growth:	6.6%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	230

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING



Civil Engineering Technicians (*\$)

Civil engineering technicians help civil engineers to plan, design, and build highways, bridges, utilities, and other infrastructure projects. They also help plan, design, and build commercial, industrial, residential, and land development projects.

Median Annual Salary:	\$49,520/Year
Employment Growth:	19.5%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	317

Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technicians (*\$)

Electrical and electronics engineering technicians work with electrical engineers to design, build, repair, calibrate, and modify electrical components, circuitry, controls, and machinery for evaluation and use in design decisions.

Median Annual Salary:	\$70,384/Year
Employment Growth:	14.9%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	367

Mechanical Engineering Technicians (*\$)

Mechanical engineering technicians help mechanical engineers design, develop, test, and manufacture mechanical devices, including tools, engines, and machines. They may make sketches and rough layouts, record and analyze data, make calculations and estimates, and report their findings.

Median Annual Salary:	\$67,810/Year
Employment Growth:	17%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	177

Surveying/Mapping Technicians (*\$)

Surveying and mapping technicians collect data and make maps of the earth's surface. Surveying technicians visit sites to take measurements of the land. Mapping technicians use geographic data to create maps. They both assist surveyors, cartographers, and photogrammetrists.

Median Wage:	\$42,875/Year
Employment Growth:	19.7%
Minimum Education:	High School Diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	406

FUN FACTS!

ARCHITECTS

Did you know? From 1912 to 1948, architecture was an Olympic sport! The Olympic games hosted competitions in architectural design, sculpture, painting, literature, and music in reference to the culture of the ancient Olympians. Although the events themselves were not athletic, the entries were inspired by a sport.

Source: https://www.architectmagazine.com/technology/this-week-in-tech-when-architecture-was-an-olympic-event_o

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

LIFE, PHYSICAL, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Chemists (*\$)

Chemists study substances at the atomic and molecular levels and analyze the ways in which the substances interact with one another. They use their knowledge to develop new and improved products and to test the quality of manufactured goods.

Median Annual Salary:	\$86,521/Year
Employment Growth:	14.3%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	223



Geological and Petroleum Technicians (*\$)

Geological and petroleum technicians install field equipment that pinpoint potential sources of natural gas and petroleum. They perform data collection field work and lab analysis of the geological data.

Median Annual Salary:	\$53,322/Year
Employment Growth:	10.4%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	318



Geoscientists, Excluding Hydrologists and Geographers (*\$)

Geoscientists is the broad terminology for a group of earth science specialists who study physical aspects of the earth. Geoscientists often explore for oil, gas, minerals, or underground water, or they explore for in waste disposal, land reclamation, or other environmental problems.

Median Annual Salary:	\$154,423/Year
Employment Growth:	8.1%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	605



Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists (*\$)

Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists diagnose and treat mental disorders and learning disabilities. They design and implement behavior modification programs, and, through observation, interviews, and tests, monitor the client's progress on a regular basis to ensure their needs are met.

Median Annual Salary:	\$71,174/Year
Employment Growth:	16.8%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	208

FUN FACTS!

PSYCHOLOGISTS

Charles Darwin, biologist and naturalist widely known for his theory of evolution, was also an early experimental psychologist. He conducted one of the first studies on how people recognize emotion in faces, and his contributions inspired an entire branch of psychology known as evolutionary psychology.

Source: <https://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2009/05/sci-brief>



Business & Industry



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, AND LEGAL SERVICES



Educational, Guidance, School, and Vocational Counselors (*\$)

Counselors help students by encouraging academics and providing career and personal/social development guidance to help maximize academic achievements.

Median Annual Salary:	\$66,294/Year
Employment Growth:	14.8%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	777



Healthcare Social Workers (*\$)

Healthcare social workers provide individuals, families, and groups with the psychological support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses. Services include advising family caregivers, providing patient education and counseling, and making referrals for other services.

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,120/Year
Employment Growth:	26%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	314



Lawyers (*\$)

Lawyers advocate their clients' interests by drawing up legal documents, arguing in civil or criminal litigation, or simply advising their clients on the best legal courses of action.

Median Annual Salary:	\$135,080/Year
Employment Growth:	12.1%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,015



Paralegals/Legal Assistants (*\$)

Paralegals assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating situations, or prepping legal documents surrounding a legal proceeding.

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,530/Year
Employment Growth:	16.9%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	855

FUN FACTS!

HEALTHCARE SOCIAL WORKERS

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, professional social workers are the nation's largest group of mental health services providers. In fact, federal law and the National Institutes of Health recognize social work as one of the five core mental health professions.

Source: <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Facts/Social-Workers>



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EDUCATION, LIBRARY, ARTS, AND MEDIA SERVICES



Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary (*\$)

Health specialties teachers are professors who teach courses in the health field such as dentistry, laboratory technology, medicine, pharmacy, public health, therapy, and veterinary medicine. It excludes nursing instructors and biological science teachers.

Median Annual Salary:	\$169,746/Year
Employment Growth:	17.2%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	640



Instructional Coordinators (*\$)

Preschool teachers teach kids below the age of 5 about reading, writing, science, and other subjects in daycare or official schools.

Median Annual Salary:	\$55,683/Year
Employment Growth:	12.8%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,405



Kindergarten through High School Teachers, Excluding Special Education (*\$)

All other careers rely upon teachers to provide students with a solid base for their educational development and a launch point for their social development. Teaching is a growing field at all levels of learning, especially in the Gulf Coast region.

Median Annual Salary:	\$56,400/Year
Employment Growth:	12.6%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	7,160



Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School (*\$)

Career and technical education (CTE) teachers guide students in pursuing real-world training with hands-on skills that put them directly on a path for their chosen career.

Median Annual Salary:	\$58,140/Year
Employment Growth:	11.4%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	186



Special Education Teachers, Preschool through High School (*\$)

Special education teachers adapt general education curriculum for educationally and physically disabled students as well as inform parents and guardians about skills and resources they can use to help their child.

Median Annual Salary:	\$53,760/Year
Employment Growth:	12.2%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,014



Librarians (*\$)

Librarians administer libraries and library services to provide resources that expand the human mind. Typical duties include scanning books; performing in-depth, strategic research; and synthesizing, analyzing, editing, and filtering information.

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,686/Year
Employment Growth:	10.1%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	233



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EDUCATION, LIBRARY, ARTS, AND MEDIA SERVICES



Instructional Coordinators (*/\$)

Instructional coordinators oversee school curriculums and teaching standards making sure everything lives up to part. Most instructional coordinators work in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, professional schools, or educational support services or for state and local governments.

Median Annual Salary:	\$68,034/Year
Employment Growth:	15%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	436



Interpreters/Translators (*/\$)

Interpreters and translators facilitate communication between parties who speak two different languages. This includes spoken languages and sign languages. Interpreters work with the spoken communication while the translators work with the written communication.

Median Annual Salary:	\$49,917/Year
Employment Growth:	27.8%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,810

FUN FACTS!

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Before he was president, Lyndon B. Johnson was a teacher. When he was in his early 20s, he taught at three different schools, including Sam Houston High School as a public speaking teacher. In 1931, his debate team won the district championship.

Source: <http://www.lbjlibrary.org/lyndon-baines-johnson/timeline/>



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HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Chiropractors (*\$)

Chiropractors care for patients with health problems of the neuromusculoskeletal system, which includes nerves, bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons. They use spinal adjustments and manipulation to manage patients' health concerns, such as back and neck pain.

Median Annual Salary:	\$90,280/Year
Employment Growth:	5.7%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	22



Dentists, General (*\$)

Dentists help individuals by diagnosing and treating diseases having to do with the teeth or inside the mouth. They try to prevent possible diseases causing cavities and gingivitis by guiding patients on how to care for their teeth and gums or by advising on dietary changes that can improve oral health.

Median Annual Salary:	\$149,282/Year
Employment Growth:	20%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	143



Optometrists (*\$)

Optometrists examine the eyes and other parts of the visual system. They also diagnose and treat visual problems and manage diseases, injuries, and other disorders of the eyes. They prescribe eyeglasses or contact lenses as needed.

Median Annual Salary:	\$107,920/Year
Employment Growth:	9.8%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional
Annual Average Job Openings:	38



Anesthesiologists (*\$)

Anesthesiologists administer drugs (anesthetics) that reduce or eliminate the sensation of pain during an operation or other medical procedure. During surgery, they adjust the amount of anesthetic as needed and monitor the patient's heart rate, body temperature, blood pressure, and breathing. They also provide pain relief for patients in intensive care, women in labor, and patients suffering from chronic pain.

Median Annual Salary:	\$264,520/Year
Employment Growth:	13.7%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	66



Internists, General (*\$)

Internists, also known as general internal medicine physicians, diagnose and provide nonsurgical treatment for a range of problems that affect internal organs and systems such as the stomach, kidneys, liver, and digestive tract. Their patients are mostly adults. They may specialize, such as in gastroenterology or endocrinology.

Median Annual Salary:	\$159,140/Year
Employment Growth:	8.6%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	56



Obstetricians and Gynecologists (*\$)

Obstetricians and gynecologists (OBGYNs) provide care and counsel to women regarding pregnancy, childbirth, and the female reproductive system. They also diagnose and treat health issues specific to women, such as cervical cancer, ovarian cysts, and menopause symptoms..

Median Annual Salary:	\$173,560/Year
Employment Growth:	5.9%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	12



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Pediatricians, General (*\$)

Pediatricians provide care for infants, children, teenagers, and young adults. Most pediatricians administer vaccinations and treat common illnesses, minor injuries, and infectious diseases. Some pediatricians specialize in serious medical conditions that commonly affect younger patients, such as autoimmune disorders.

Median Annual Salary:	\$148,020/Year
Employment Growth:	11.8%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	35



Psychiatrists (*\$)

Psychiatrists are primary mental health physicians. They diagnose and treat mental illnesses through a combination of personal counseling (psychotherapy), psychoanalysis, hospitalization, and medication. Psychiatrists may prescribe medications to correct chemical imbalances that cause some mental illnesses.

Median Annual Salary:	\$123,460/Year
Employment Growth:	25.3%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	252



Surgeons (*\$)

The surgeon is responsible for the preoperative diagnosis of the patient, for performing the operation, and for providing the patient with postoperative surgical care and treatment. The surgeon is also looked upon as the leader of the surgical team.

Median Annual Salary:	\$249,240/Year
Employment Growth:	4.6%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	42



Physician Assistants (*\$)

A physician assistant or physician associate (PA) is a healthcare practitioner who practices medicine in collaboration with or under the (indirect) supervision of a physician, depending on state laws (equivalent to a nurse practitioner). Their scope of practice varies by jurisdiction and healthcare setting.

Median Annual Salary:	\$112,880/Year
Employment Growth:	37.4%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	214



Podiatrists (*\$)

Podiatrists provide medical and surgical care for people with foot, ankle, and lower leg problems. They diagnose illnesses, treat injuries, and perform surgery involving the lower extremities.

Median Annual Salary:	\$150,760/Year
Employment Growth:	0.8%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	7



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HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Occupational Therapists (*\$)

Occupational therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills as well as general independence to persons with disabilities or developmental delays.

Median Annual Salary:	\$86,064/Year
Employment Growth:	19.4%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	158



Physical Therapists (*\$)

Physical therapists plan routines and exercises to assist individuals in adapting to loss of mobility or relieving pain due to a physically disabling condition.

Median Annual Salary:	\$88,825/Year
Employment Growth:	24.7%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	233



Respiratory Therapists (*\$)

Respiratory therapists generally work in hospitals and nursing homes with patients who are experiencing cardiological or pulmonary dysfunctions or other breathing difficulties.

Median Annual Salary:	\$60,194/Year
Employment Growth:	31.5%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	241



Speech-Language Pathologists (*\$)

Speech-language pathologists, or speech therapists, assess and treat patients with difficulties in oral communication. Speech therapists also research speech-language problems to adapt creatively to each patient's needs.

Median Annual Salary:	\$69,793/Year
Employment Growth:	32.8%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	273



Registered Nurses (*\$)

Registered nurses (RNs) administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients in a more administrative role. RNs often develop and implement the patient's plan of care.

Median Annual Salary:	\$80,433/Year
Employment Growth:	23%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	4,536



Nurse Anesthetists (*\$)

Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) work in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists, and other professionals to ensure the safe administration of anesthesia. Some of their responsibilities include providing pain management, assisting with stabilization services, and overseeing patient recovery.

Median Annual Salary:	\$168,182/Year
Employment Growth:	28.5%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	176



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Nurse Practitioners (*/*\$)

Nurse practitioners (NPs) can prescribe medication, examine patients, diagnose illnesses, and provide treatment, much like physicians do. In 20 states, nurse practitioners have what's referred to as "full practice authority," meaning that they do not have to work under the supervision of a doctor. In the remaining states, while NPs still have more authority than RNs, they must have a medical doctor sign on certain patient care decisions.

Median Annual Salary:	\$119,190/Year
Employment Growth:	35.3%
Minimum Education:	Master's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	305



General/Family Practitioners (*/*\$)

General and family medicine practitioners, also sometimes referred to as primary care physicians, address health maintenance and assess and treat conditions that occur in everyday life. These conditions include sinus and respiratory infections, intestinal ailments, and broken bones. Family medicine physicians typically have patients who may include all members of the same household.

Median Annual Salary:	\$210,200/Year
Employment Growth:	20.2%
Minimum Education:	Doctoral or professional degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Internship/Residency
Annual Average Job Openings:	130



Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technologists (*/*\$)

Laboratory technologists conduct complex laboratory tests and analyze the results in pursuit of an early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Median Annual Salary:	\$53,100/Year
Employment Growth:	19.7%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	3,056



Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technicians (*/*\$)

Medical and clinical laboratory technicians perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. They may work under the supervision of a medical technologist.

Median Annual Salary:	\$53,100/Year
Employment Growth:	19.6%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,936



Dental Hygienists (*/*\$)

Dental hygienists clean teeth, examine patients for signs of oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventive dental care. A few states allow hygienists with additional training, sometimes called dental therapists, to provide some restorative services, such as extracting primary teeth and placing temporary crowns.

Median Annual Salary:	\$74,964/Year
Employment Growth:	26.5%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	297



Cardiovascular Technologists/Technicians (*/*\$)

Cardiovascular technologists and technicians perform and analyze tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic purposes. They may also assist in electrocardiograms, cardiac catheterization, pulmonary functions, lung capacity, and similar tests.

Median Annual Salary:	\$52,296/Year
Employment Growth:	16.4%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	125



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HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (*\$)

A diagnostic medical sonographer, or ultrasound technician, is a person who uses ultrasound machines to view and interpret images with sound waves for the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions. One of the most common uses for ultrasound testing is in the field of obstetrics to view the developing fetus for signs of any abnormal conditions and to determine a closer approximation of the age of the fetus.

Median Annual Salary:	\$72,444/Year
Employment Growth:	30.3%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	148



Licensed Practical/Licensed Vocational Nurses (*\$)

Licensed practical and vocational nurses (LPNs and LVNs) care for ill, injured, or convalescent patients and evaluate their conditions throughout the process. As a part of the nursing team, they often perform more hands-on care with patients.

Median Wage:	\$47,967/Year
Employment Growth:	24.4%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,647



Radiologic Technologists (*\$)

Radiologic technologists perform a wide range of diagnostic imaging specialties that include x-rays and fluoroscopic imaging for patients.

Median Annual Salary:	\$65,364/Year
Employment Growth:	24.9%
Minimum Education:	Associate's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	385



Medical Records and Health Information Technicians (*\$)

Data between patients, physicians, and their staff is kept secure to uphold a high quality of care. These technicians organize, compile, process, and maintain patient information for accurate record databases.

Median Wage:	\$42,611/Year
Employment Growth:	21.8%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Annual Average Job Openings:	379



Surgical Technologists (*\$)

Surgical technologists, also called operating room technicians, assist with operations. They prepare operating rooms, arrange equipment, and help doctors during surgeries.

Median Wage:	\$54,037/Year
Employment Growth:	22.6%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Annual Average Job Openings:	338



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL



Occupational Health/Safety Specialists (*/\$)

Occupational health and safety specialists analyze many types of work environments and work procedures. They inspect workplaces for adherence to health, safety, and environmental regulations. They also design programs to prevent disease or injury to workers and damage to the environment.

Median Annual Salary:	\$76,628/Year
Employment Growth:	18%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Annual Average Job Openings:	370



FUN FACTS!

PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Women were the pioneers of physical and occupational therapy in the United States. During World War I, female civilian employees of the U.S. Army – called “reconstruction aides” – were tasked with rehabilitating injured soldiers. Their techniques paved the way for the modern profession.

Source: <https://www.medicalmuseum.mil/index.cfm?p=media.news.article.2017.12142017>



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

SALES, OFFICE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT



Insurance Sales Agents (*\$)

Insurance sales agents may work for a single insurance company or an insurance brokerage to sell life, property, casualty, health, automotive, or other types of insurance.

Median Wage:	\$47,854/Year
Employment Growth:	11.9%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	872



Sales Engineers (*\$)

Sales engineers sell complex scientific and technological products or services to businesses. They must have extensive knowledge of the products' parts and functions and must understand the scientific processes that make these products work.

Median Annual Salary:	\$113,834/Year
Employment Growth:	23.4%
Minimum Education:	Bachelor's degree
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	467



Billing and Posting Clerks (*\$)

Billing and posting clerks calculate charges and generate bills, which they then prepare to send to customers. They review documents such as purchase orders, sales tickets, charge slips, and hospital records to calculate fees or charges due.

Median Wage:	\$40,684/Year
Employment Growth:	19.9%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,361



Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks (*\$)

Production, planning, and expediting clerks coordinate and expedite the flow of work and materials within or between departments of an establishment according to production schedule. They also maintain contact with vendors to ensure supplies and equipment are shipped on time.

Median Wage:	\$49,114/Year
Employment Growth:	15.8%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,198

FUN FACTS!

INSURANCE SALES AGENTS

America's insurance history predates the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Our country's oldest, continuously active insurance company, Philadelphia Contributionship, was founded in 1752 by Benjamin Franklin and others, and sold fire insurance to homeowners. The company even employed chimney sweeps to clean the chimneys of insured homes.

Source: <https://www.fool.com/retirement/2018/12/27/10-hard-to-believe-and-interesting-insurance-facts.aspx>



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

CONSTRUCTION AND EXTRACTION



Construction/Extraction Worker Supervisors (*\$)

Construction/extraction worker supervisors oversee the construction activities that take place on the worksite. They are heavily involved in planning, organizing, and controlling projects.

Median Wage:	\$63,820/Year
Employment Growth:	17.3%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Annual Average Job Openings:	3,221



Carpenters (*\$)

Carpenters construct, repair, and install building frameworks and structures made from wood and other materials. Some insulate office buildings or install drywall or kitchen cabinets in homes. Others focus on production or commercial work to help construct tall buildings or bridges, installing wooden concrete forms for cement footings or pillars.

Median Wage:	\$43,894/Year
Employment Growth:	17.1%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,446



Other Construction Equipment Operators (*\$)

Construction equipment operators operate and repair various types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, and front-end loaders.

Median Wage:	\$46,129/Year
Employment Growth:	18.3%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,623



Electricians (*\$)

Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures in a variety of settings to ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

Median Wage:	\$57,166/Year
Employment Growth:	18.3%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,777



Insulation Workers, Mechanical (*\$)

Insulation workers, also called insulators, install and replace the materials used to insulate buildings and their mechanical systems. Insulators generally work indoors in residential and commercial settings. Mechanical insulators work both indoors and outdoors.

Median Wage:	\$50,988/Year
Employment Growth:	12.4%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	192



Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (*\$)

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry fluids (water, steam, natural gas, etc.). This also includes sprinkler fitters.

Median Wage:	\$55,773/Year
Employment Growth:	19.3%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,883



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

CONSTRUCTION AND EXTRACTION



Reinforcing Iron/Rebar Workers (*\$)

Reinforcing iron and rebar workers position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms for purposes of reinforcement. Those who work with reinforcing steel (rebar) are sometimes called rod busters, in reference to rods of rebar.

Median Wage:	\$52,514/Year
Employment Growth:	27%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	277



Sheet Metal Workers (*\$)

Sheet metal workers fabricate or install products that are made from thin metal sheets, such as ducts used in heating and air conditioning systems. In addition to installing sheet metal, some workers install nonmetallic materials such as fiberglass and plastic board.

Median Wage:	\$44,995/Year
Employment Growth:	19.7%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	393



Structural Iron/Steel Workers (*\$)

When building tall structures such as skyscrapers, structural iron and steel workers erect steel frames and assemble the cranes and derricks that move materials and equipment around the construction site. They connect pre-cut steel columns, beams, and girders, using tools like shears, torches, welding equipment, and hand tools.

Median Wage:	\$45,986/Year
Employment Growth:	21.7%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Full apprenticeship
Annual Average Job Openings:	484



Construction/Building Inspectors (*\$)

Construction and building inspectors ensure that construction meets local and national building codes and ordinances, zoning regulations, and contract specifications.

Median Wage:	\$66,499/Year
Employment Growth:	20.7%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	607



Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas (*\$)

Rotary drill operators operate or set up drills needed to remove underground gas and oil or core samples for testing during oil and gas exploration. They measure work site dimensions, monitor pressure gauges, and move levers and throttles to control rotary table speed.

Median Wage:	\$58,058/Year
Employment Growth:	14.5%
Minimum Education:	No formal credentials
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	471



Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining (*\$)

Service unit operators control equipment to increase oil flow from producing wells or to remove stuck pipe, casing, tools, or other obstructions from drilling wells.

Median Wage:	\$43,253/Year
Employment Growth:	13.5%
Minimum Education:	No formal credentials
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,054



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR



Bus and Truck Mechanics/Diesel Engine Specialists (*\$)

These professionals diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks, or they maintain and repair any type of diesel engines, primarily automobile or marine engines.

Median Wage:	\$50,566/Year
Employment Growth:	14%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	857



Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Excluding Engines (*\$)

Mobile heavy equipment mechanics diagnose and repair mobile tools and vehicles used in construction, logging, and surface mining.

Median Wage:	\$49,316/Year
Employment Growth:	20%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	797



HVAC Mechanics and Installers (*\$)

Climate control systems are found in virtually every home and business, especially in Texas where the summers are hot and humid. HVAC mechanics and installers work to install or repair these systems in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. The demand for qualified HVAC mechanics and installers with advanced skills is on the rise as newer systems become more high-tech.

Median Wage:	\$47,846/Year
Employment Growth:	19.6%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	950



Industrial Machinery Mechanics (*\$)

Industrial machinery mechanics install, maintain, and repair equipment in factories, refineries, and pipeline distribution systems.

Median Wage:	\$61,849/Year
Employment Growth:	12.1%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,383



Maintenance Workers, Machinery (*\$)

Machinery maintenance workers maintain and repair factory equipment and other industrial machinery, such as conveying systems, production machinery, and packaging equipment.

Median Wage:	\$43,629/Year
Employment Growth:	16.3%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	261

FUN FACTS!

DIESEL ENGINE SPECIALISTS

The diesel engine was invented by Rudolph Diesel in 1892. The first vehicular diesel engines appeared in America in the 1920s. After World War II, the number of diesel engine trucks rose dramatically with development of the Interstate Highway System in 1956. Many early diesel engine specialists were soldiers who had been trained as mechanics during the war.

Source: <https://dieselmecanicguide.com/brief-history-diesel-mechanic-field/>



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MATERIAL MOVING



CNC Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic (*\$)

Computer numerical control (CNC) machines utilize a process in which pre-programmed computer software dictates the movement of factory tools and machinery. CNC operators are responsible for stocking materials and running parts. They ensure specific directions are followed in order to create an end product that meets the required specifications.

Median Wage:	\$40,956/Year
Employment Growth:	8.4%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	467



Machinists (*\$)

Machinists set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments to make or repair machine tools or to maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.

Median Wage:	\$46,559/Year
Employment Growth:	19.9%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	12 months or more
Annual Average Job Openings:	1,452



Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (*\$)

These professionals use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld/join metal components, or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Median Wage:	\$47,876/Year
Employment Growth:	16.1%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	2,659



Chemical Plant/Systems Operators (*\$)

Chemical plant and system operators inspect and monitor the system of machines in the plant and control their operations.

Median Wage:	\$73,150/Year
Employment Growth:	2.4%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	400



Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers (*\$)

Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers are tasked with operating the pumps and adding chemical solutions in synchronized groups that regulate the quality and flow of crude oil into a distributable form.

Median Wage:	\$79,008/Year
Employment Growth:	3.5%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	545



Flight Attendants (*\$)

Flight attendants represent the airline by providing personal services of food, drinks, and answering questions to ensure the passengers' comfort and safety throughout the flight.

Median Wage:	\$53,800/Year
Employment Growth:	17.1%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	6,552



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MATERIAL MOVING



Heavy/Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (*/*\$)

Heavy truck and tractor-trailer truck drivers drive and (un)load a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, and they transport goods, often over long distances, across state lines, or even out of the country.

Median Wage:	\$44,524/Year
Employment Growth:	14.7%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 1 month
Annual Average Job Openings:	5,714



Water Vessel Captains, Mates, and Pilots (*/*\$)

Water vessel workers, sometimes called merchant mariners, operate and maintain vessels that take cargo and people over water. Captains have overall command of a vessel. Mates direct the operation of a vessel while the captain is off duty. Pilots guide ships in harbors, on rivers, and on other confined waterways.

Median Wage:	\$73,586/Year
Employment Growth:	17.9%
Minimum Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award
Annual Average Job Openings:	249



Crane and Tower Operators (*/*\$)

Crane and tower operators operate mechanical boom and cable or tower and cable equipment to lift and move materials, machines, or products in many directions and altitudes. They determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload.

Median Wage:	\$55,488/Year
Employment Growth:	18.2%
Minimum Education:	High school diploma
Typical On-the-job Training:	Less than 12 months
Annual Average Job Openings:	273

FUN FACTS!

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

Flight attendants are the ultimate safety specialists. They receive extensive training to handle virtually any kind of emergency that can happen in the air, including medical emergencies, fires, and evacuations in all kinds of conditions. They can even take voluntary training in self-defense and survivalist skills.

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/plane-emergency-flight-attendants-training-2018-4>



Business & Industry



STEM



Public Services

Career Training helps individuals train toward a new occupation. Occupations supported by Career Training dollars are denoted by (*).

Career Advancement Training helps individuals build on existing skills within an occupation. Occupations supported by Career Advancement Training dollars are denoted by (\$).

Workforce Solutions

THE HARD FACTS

INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER POPULAR CAREER CHOICES



Below, you will find information about some popular career choices among Gulf Coast residents that were not covered in this booklet. These careers may be much more competitive, may not be as in demand locally, may not provide as high or as reliable income, or may not have as strong growth projections as our high-skill, high-growth listings. We encourage you to compare this information to that of the high-skill, high-growth jobs. You may find you can apply your talent and pursue your passion through an alternate pathway.

PROFESSION / INDUSTRY	MEDIAN WAGE	EMPLOYMENT GROWTH	MINIMUM EDUCATION	ANNUAL AVERAGE JOB OPENINGS
Actor	\$18.32	1.1%	Some college, no degree	74
Hair Stylist and Cosmetologist	\$10.63	1%	Postsecondary non-degree award	2,122
Travel Agent	\$16.88	-1.7%	High school diploma or equivalent	133
Professional Athlete	\$29.04	1.9%	None	28
Musician or Singer	\$29.42	1.5%	None	432
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$27.69	1.3%	High school diploma or equivalent	285
Veterinarian	\$65.43	2.6%	Doctoral or professional degree	113
Photographer	\$18.61	1%	High school diploma or equivalent	254
Dancer	\$18.17	1.5%	None	40

*Data provided by JobsEQ Occupation Projections 2020-2030 report for the 13-county Gulf Coast region. Data is as of Q4 2020.

If you're passionate about pursuing a career in any of the above fields or any profession not covered in this booklet, we're here to help. Visit wrksolutions.com/find-a-location or call 1-888-469-5627 to speak with a Workforce Solutions career counselor near you or use the below resources to learn the skills and education you'll need to succeed in the profession you love:

My Next Move

www.mynextmove.org

Texas Career Check

texascareercheck.com

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Industries at a Glance

www.bls.gov/iag/home.htm

Job Corps

www.jobcorps.gov



www.wrksolutions.com 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

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