

HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS IN THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA

Summer 2023




Workforce Solutions

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PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE CONNECTING INTERESTS & GOALS TO OPPORTUNITY

High-skill, high-growth jobs offer the best current and future employment opportunities in the Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast region. The information in this book is compiled to help you understand and explore these in-demand careers and includes:

- Salaries and wages
- Average annual job openings
- Estimated job growth 2020-2030
- Education and training needed
- Skills required to be successful

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and its operating affiliate, Workforce Solutions, are dedicated to keeping the Gulf Coast region a great place to do business, work, and live. Our employer-driven, people-focused approach elevates the economic and human potential of the region to attract and retain the best employers, afford everyone the dignity of a job, and remain indispensable to the global economy. As the public workforce system for the 13-county Greater Houston region, we partner with the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database – WorkInTexas.com where job seekers and employers can connect.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board proudly serves Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.



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BUSINESS & FINANCIAL HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Human Resource Specialist

Manages employee relations by hiring, training, and onboarding new employees.

Skills for Success: Communication, decision-making, organization

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,567
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.8%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,540
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Cost Estimators

Reviews data to assess the time, money, materials, and labor needed to make a product or provide a service.

Skills for Success: Analytical, mathematics, detail-oriented

Median Annual Salary:	\$71,960
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	14.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	493
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners

Organizes a variety of social and professional events, including weddings, educational conferences, and business conventions.

Skills for Success: Creativity, organization, communication skills

Median Annual Salary:	\$48,145
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	22.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	257
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Logisticians

Analyzes and coordinates the complete supply chain from the movement of supplies, materials, and products from acquisition to delivery.

Skills for Success: Analytical, problem-solving, AI/automation knowledge

Median Annual Salary:	\$77,026
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	48.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	629
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Market Research Analysts/Marketing Specialists



Determines sales of a product or service to support marketing campaigns.

Skills for Success: analytical, communication, critical thinking

Median Annual Salary:	\$62,435
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	31.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,216
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Management Analysts

Uses data and research to improve the performance of a company or organization.

Skills for Success: analytical, data analysis, project management

Median Annual Salary:	\$89,684
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	21.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,172
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
On-the-job training:	Less than 5 years



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BUSINESS & FINANCIAL HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Accountants and Auditors

Records, analyzes, and prepares financial documents, including tax returns and risk analysis for an organization or a client.

Skills for Success: Organization, data analysis, business acumen

Median Annual Salary:	\$79,540
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	17.4%
Average Annual Job Openings:	3,649
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Financial and Investment Analysts

Analyzes financial and investment information to provide guidance and recommendations for companies or individuals.

Skills for Success: Technical, accounting, interpersonal, communication, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$77,161
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.4%
Average Annual Job Openings:	937
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.



Marketing Managers

Plans and executes marketing strategies for a company's products or services.

Jobs to Prepare You: Marketing Specialists, Marketing Analysts, Marketing and Sales Associates

Median Annual Salary:	\$127,362
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	502
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years



Purchasing Managers

Oversees and coordinates the procurement of the products, goods, equipment, and services that a business needs to operate.

Jobs to Prepare You: Procurement Analyst, Purchasing Agent

Median Annual Salary:	\$128,987
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	209
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years



Financial Managers

Produces financial statements, forecasts, and business activity reports and then examines reporting to reduce costs and maximize profits.

Jobs to Prepare You: Financial Analyst, Accounting Assistant, Financial Advisor, Investment Banking Analyst

Median Annual Salary:	\$152,039
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	28.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,379
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years



Human Resources Managers

Develops recruitment strategies, implements systems for managing staff benefits, payroll, and onboarding new employees.

Jobs to Prepare You: Human Resources Specialist

Median Annual Salary:	\$127,241
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	309
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years



COMPUTER & MATHEMATICAL HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Information Security Analysts

Responsible for protecting computer systems, networks, and data from potential threats and breaches.

Skills for Success: Analytical, problem-solving, technical, communications

Median Annual Salary:	\$101,380
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	39.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	296
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree

Computer User Support Specialists

Provide technical assistance and support to computer users within an organization.

Skills for Success: Time management, customer service, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$48,391
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	13.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,123
Typical Education:	Some college/no degree

Software Developers

Designs, codes, tests, and maintains software applications/ensuring the quality, reliability, and performance of software applications.

Skills for Success: Analytical, problem-solving, communication, collaboration

Median Annual Salary:	\$101,975
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	27.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	2,532
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree

Computer Systems Analysts

Analyzes an organization's computer systems and processes to design, develop, and improve information systems.

Skills for Success: Analytical, business acumen, project management

Median Annual Salary:	\$102,092
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	11.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,236
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree

Web and Digital Interface Designers

Responsible for creating visually appealing and user-friendly interfaces for websites, mobile applications, and other digital platforms.

Skills for Success: Creativity, attention to detail, graphic design

Median Annual Salary:	\$67,095
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	199
Typical Education:	Associate's degree

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.

Computer and Information System Managers

Responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing computer-related activities within an organization.

Jobs to Prepare You: Software Developer/Engineer, Data Analyst, Project Manager

Median Annual Salary:	\$159,459
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	613
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years

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ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Industrial Engineers

Optimize complex systems and processes to improve an organization's proficiency, productivity, and quality.

Skills for Success: Systematic thinking, project planning, process improvement

Median Annual Salary:	\$99,980
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	29.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	483
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Marine Engineers and Naval Architects

Specialize in the design, construction, and maintenance of ships, boats, submarines, and other marine vessels.

Skills for Success: Problem solving, attention to detail, project management

Median Annual Salary:	\$127,961
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	28.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	19
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Chemical Engineers

Apply principles of chemistry, physics, and engineering to design, develop, and optimize chemical processes, systems, and products.

Skills for Success: Mathematics, science, design

Median Annual Salary:	\$154,811
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	277
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Civil Engineers

Design, construct, and maintain infrastructure and systems that are essential for society.

Skills for Success: Adaptability, problem solving, collaboration

Median Annual Salary:	\$98,025
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,078
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Materials Engineers

Specialize in the study, development, and application of materials used in various industries.

Skills for Success: Critical thinking, attention to detail, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$126,778
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	61
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Bioengineers & Biomedical Engineers

Work to combine engineering principles with biomedical sciences to design and create equipment, devices, computer systems, and software.

Skills for Success: Problem solving, technical, analytical

Median Annual Salary:	\$79,175
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	23.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	23
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



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ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Industrial Engineering Technicians

Support engineers in solving problems affecting manufacturing layout or production.



Skills for Success: Process analysis and improvement, project management, critical thinking

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,497
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	23.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	225
Typical Education:	Associate's degree



Calibration Technicians

Perform calibration, routine inspection, testing and maintenance to ensure accuracy and reliability.



Skills for Success: Communication, attention to detail, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$58,998
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	21.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	513
Typical Education:	Associate's degree



Architects

Design and prepare plans for construction or renovation of buildings and structures, ensuring functionality, safety, and creative vision.



Skills for Success: Creativity, critical thinking, visualization

Median Annual Salary:	\$92,109
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	280
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Mechanical Engineering Technicians

Help Mechanical Engineers in development, testing, and maintenance of mechanical systems and devices.



Skills for Success: Critical thinking, adaptability, problem solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$60,706
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	155
Typical Education:	Associate's degree

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.



Architectural and Engineering Managers

Oversee and coordinate the activities of architectural and engineering teams, manage projects, and ensure the successful execution of projects.



Jobs to Prepare You: Architect, Engineer, Project Management

Median Annual Salary:	\$165,758
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	514
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years

LIFE, PHYSICAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Medical Scientists*

Investigate diseases, develop experiments, conduct research and improve healthcare through studies.

Skills for Success: Critical thinking, problem solving, data analysis

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,246
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	269
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree



Chemists

Conduct chemical analysis or experiments in laboratories for quality control or to develop new products.

Skills for Success: Chemistry, analytical, critical thinking

Median Annual Salary:	\$87,660
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.4%
Average Annual Job Openings:	201
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Geoscientists

Analyze all physical aspects of Earth's composition to help predict natural hazards, manage natural resources, and address environmental issues.

Skills for Success: Data collection, mapping, research

Median Annual Salary:	\$163,784
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	23.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	464
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Geological and Hydrologic Technicians

Work alongside geoscientists and engineers by assisting in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of geological and hydrological data.

Skills for Success: Data collection, analysis, problem solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$76,488
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	387
Typical Education:	Associate's degree



Clinical, Counseling and School Psychologists*

Specialize in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and support of individuals with mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

Skills for Success: Active listening, empathy, critical thinking

Median Annual Salary:	\$78,814
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	13%
Average Annual Job Openings:	178
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree



Occupational Health and Safety Specialists

Promote and maintain a safe and healthy work environments by identifying and improving safety and health hazards.

Skills for Success: Detail oriented, problem solving, communication

Median Annual Salary:	\$78,362
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	21%
Average Annual Job Openings:	446
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree

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EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION & LIBRARY HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Preschool, Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers

Instruct students in academic subjects, foster their intellectual and social development, and prepare them for future success.

Skills for Success: Collaboration, communication, empathy

Median Annual Salary:	\$59,642
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	12.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	8,703
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Librarians and Media Collections Specialists

Help people find information and use resources, catalog and locate materials.

Skills for Success: Information technology, literacy skills, organization

Median Annual Salary:	\$62,424
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	13.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	268
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree



Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary*

Provide instruction in disciplines like nursing, medical assisting and technology, public health, or other health-related programs.

Skills for Success: Interpersonal, communication, continuous learning

Median Annual Salary:	\$158,455
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	30.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	483
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree



Instructional Coordinators*

Develop, implement, and evaluate curriculum and instructional materials.

Skills for Success: Data analysis, research, technology integration

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,360
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	14.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	499
Typical Education:	Master's degree

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HEALTHCARE HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners*



Diagnose, treat, and prevent illnesses and injuries in patients.

Skills for Success: Critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making

Median Annual Salary:	\$119,810
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	492
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree



Dental Hygienists



Assist dentists by cleaning and polishing teeth, taking dental x-rays, applying treatments, and patient education.

Skills for Success: Compassion, attention to detail, patient education

Median Annual Salary:	\$75,896
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	29.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	338
Typical Education:	Associate's degree



Nurse Practitioners*



Diagnose and treat medical conditions, order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe medications, and provide patient education and counseling.

Skills for Success: Emotional resilience, critical thinking, problem solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$123,458
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	59.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	462
Typical Education:	Master's degree



Speech-language Pathologists*



Specialize in the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of communication, voice and speech disorders, and swallowing difficulties.

Skills for Success: Compassion, empathy, analytical skills

Median Annual Salary:	\$78,047
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	34.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	279
Typical Education:	Master's degree



Respiratory Therapists



Care for patients who have trouble breathing by diagnosing, providing interventions and administering treatments.

Skills for Success: Communication, patient education, emergency response

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,236
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	36.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	300
Typical Education:	Associate's degree



Diagnostic Medical Sonographers



Operate ultrasound equipment, perform scans on patients, and work closely with physicians to interpret and analyze the images.

Skills for Success: Patient care, critical thinking, problem solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$77,036
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	30.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	195
Typical Education:	Associate's degree

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HEALTHCARE HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS


Radiologic Technologists & Technicians

 Perform imaging procedures such as X-rays, computed tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), mammograms, and fluoroscopy.

Skills for Success: Patient care, communication, technical proficiency

Median Annual Salary:	\$62,881
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	443
Typical Education:	Associate's degree


Physical Therapists*

 Provide treatment plans for patients' with physical conditions by interventions to improve mobility, relieve pain, and restore or enhance physical function.

Skills for Success: Communication skills, manual dexterity, physical stamina

Median Annual Salary:	\$99,759
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	23.8%
Average Annual Job Openings:	241
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree


Physical Therapist Assistants

 Assist in implementing treatment plans, conducting therapeutic exercises, performing modalities, and documenting patient progress.

Skills for Success: Physical stamina, problem-solving, critical thinking

Median Annual Salary:	\$71,899
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	35.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	252
Typical Education:	Associate's degree


Dentists*

 Diagnose, treat, and prevent oral health problems.

Skills for Success: Manual dexterity, diagnostic skills, management skills

Median Annual Salary:	\$163,655
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	23.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	154
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree

Medical Assistants

 Perform administrative and clinical tasks such as scheduling appointments, managing records, taking vitals and preparing patients for examinations.

Skills for Success: Multitasking, confidentiality, empathy

Median Annual Salary:	\$36,763
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	29.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	2,785
Typical Education:	Post-secondary nondegree award

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.

Medical & Health Service Managers

Oversee the administrative and operational aspects of healthcare facilities, ensuring efficient operations, quality patient care, and compliance with regulations.

Skills for Success: Strategic planning, decision-making, teamwork

Median Annual Salary:	\$103,848
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	44.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,267
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	Less than 5 years

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SALES & RELATED HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Insurance Sales Agents

Help individuals and businesses assess their insurance needs, provide information for different coverage options, and assist them in selecting appropriate coverage.

Skills for Success: Sales and persuasion, customer service, relationship-building

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,980
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	11.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	738
Typical Education:	High School Diploma or Equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Sales Representatives of Service

Promote and sell services in various industries, such as telecommunications, healthcare, financial services, consulting, and technology.

Skills for Success: Negotiation, persuasion, relationship-building

Median Annual Salary:	\$60,113
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	3,269
Typical Education:	High School Diploma or Equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Sales Representatives of Wholesale & Manufacturing

Sell goods and products, such as consumer goods, industrial equipment, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and more, on behalf of wholesalers, manufacturers, or distributors.

Skills for Success: Adaptability, persuasion, relationship-building

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,015
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	17.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	3,616
Typical Education:	High School Diploma or Equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Sales Engineers

Technical professionals with sales skills who promote and sell complex and technical products or services.

Skills for Success: Technical expertise, business acumen, relationship-building

Median Annual Salary:	\$104,336
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	17.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	252
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



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INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE & REPAIR HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Specialize in the maintenance, repair, and troubleshooting of distinct types of mobile heavy equipment used in construction, mining, forestry, agriculture, and other industries.

Skills for Success: Troubleshooting, attention to detail, physical strength

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,246
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	34.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	788
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	1 year or more

Bus & Truck Mechanics

Specialize in the maintenance, repair, and servicing of buses, trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles.

Skills for Success: Mechanical aptitude, physical stamina, safety consciousness

Median Annual Salary:	\$49,625
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	16.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	779
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	1 year or more

Industrial Machinery Mechanics

Work in manufacturing facilities, power plants, and other industrial settings, ensuring that machinery operates efficiently and safely.

Skills for Success: Mechanical aptitude, problem solving, continuous learning

Median Annual Salary:	\$60,735
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	31.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,793
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	1 year or more

Security & Fire Alarm Systems Installers

Responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repair of security and fire alarm systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

Skills for Success: Troubleshooting, communications, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,614
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	29.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	260
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year

Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers

Work on high-voltage transmission lines, as well as lower voltage distribution lines that deliver electricity to homes, businesses, and other structures.

Skills for Success: Safety awareness, physical strength, mechanical aptitude

Median Annual Salary:	\$76,299
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	22.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	296
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	1 year or more

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers

Specialize in the installation, maintenance, and repair of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems.

Skills for Success: Physical stamina, customer service, mechanical

Median Annual Salary:	\$49,087
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	21.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,100
Typical Education:	Post-secondary nondegree award



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CONSTRUCTION & EXTRACTION HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Oil & Gas Roustabouts

Work on offshore platforms, drilling rigs, and other oil and gas facilities performing a variety of manual labor tasks to support drilling and production operations.

Skills for Success: Physical stamina, manual dexterity, safety awareness

Median Annual Salary:	\$45,643
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	27.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	899
Typical Education:	No formal educational credential
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters

Skilled tradespeople who work with pipes, fixtures, and related systems for water, gas, and steam distribution.

Skills for Success: Manual dexterity, physical fitness, customer service

Median Annual Salary:	\$56,182
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	22.5%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,412
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	Formal apprenticeship



Electricians



Work in various settings, including residential, commercial, and industrial environments specializing in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical systems.

Skills for Success: Physical fitness, manual dexterity, adaptability

Median Annual Salary:	\$52,204
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	27.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	2,402
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	Formal apprenticeship



Sheet Metal Workers

Fabricate, install, and maintain sheet metal products and systems.

Skills for Success: Mathematics, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,870
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.9%
Average Annual Job Openings:	340
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	Formal apprenticeship



Operating Engineers & Construction Equipment Operators

Work in various settings, such as building sites, road construction, and excavation projects operating and maintaining heavy machinery and equipment used in construction projects.

Skills for Success: Spatial awareness, hand-eye coordination, safety consciousness

Median Annual Salary:	\$46,972
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,840
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Reinforcing Iron & Rebar Workers

Specialize in the installation and placement of reinforcing steel bars (rebar) and other materials used to strengthen concrete structures.

Skills for Success: Mathematics, spatial awareness, teamwork

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,312
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	218
Typical Education:	Post-secondary nondegree award
On-the-job training:	Formal apprenticeship

CONSTRUCTION & EXTRACTION HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Oil & Gas Service Unit Operators

Operate and maintain specialized equipment used in the exploration, production, and servicing of oil and gas wells.

Skills for Success: Safety consciousness, mechanical aptitude, physical fitness

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,295
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	672
Typical Education:	No formal educational credential
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Construction & Building Inspectors

Inspect structures to determine structural soundness and compliance with building codes.

Skills for Success: Physical strength, manual dexterity, safety awareness

Median Annual Salary:	\$76,661
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	12.8%
Average Annual Job Openings:	648
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Oil & Gas Rotary Drill Operators

Operate and oversee the operation of rotary drilling equipment used in the exploration and production of oil and gas.

Skills for Success: Safety consciousness, mechanical aptitude, physical strength

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,363
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	309
Typical Education:	No formal educational credential
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year

Many occupations in this booklet are supported by scholarships for training or undergraduate education (associate or bachelor's degree) needed to qualify for a job or advance in a career. For information contact Workforce Solutions at **1.888.469.JOBS(5627)** or visit wrksolutions.com/careerexploration.

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.



First-line Supervisors of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers

Manage and lead the construction workforce to ensure that projects are completed safely, efficiently, and according to specifications.

Jobs to Prepare You: Construction Worker, Foreman or Team Leader, Construction Quality Control Inspector, Construction Scheduler

Median Annual Salary:	\$66,497
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.4%
Average Annual Job Openings:	2,863
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
Work experience:	5 or more years



Construction Managers

Work closely with architects, engineers, subcontractors, and other stakeholders to ensure the completion of projects, within budget, and to the required quality standards.

Jobs to Prepare You: Estimator, Construction Project Coordinator, Contract Administrator, Construction Scheduler

Median Annual Salary:	\$98,969
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	22.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,942
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year





PRODUCTION HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Machinists

Produce precision metal parts and components according to specific designs and specifications.

Skills for Success: Manual dexterity, mathematics, mechanical aptitude

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,944
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	27.4%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,344
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	1 year or more



Chemical Plant & System Operators

Monitor equipment, regulate process parameters, and ensure the safe and efficient production of chemicals or other products.

Skills for Success: Mechanical aptitude, analytical, problem solving, safety consciousness

Median Annual Salary:	\$81,190
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	8.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	522
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators & Gaugers

Monitor and control pumps, valves, tanks, and gauges to ensure the safe and efficient flow of petroleum throughout the production and distribution process.

Skills for Success: Record-keeping, mechanical aptitude, attention to detail

Median Annual Salary:	\$80,064
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	13.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	590
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year

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Welders, Cutters, Soldiers & Brazers

Use specialized equipment and techniques to fuse metal pieces together, create strong and durable bonds, and perform precision cutting operations.

Skills for Success: Hand-eye coordination, safety consciousness, physical stamina

Median Annual Salary:	\$49,118
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	24.3%
Average Annual Job Openings:	2,556
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year



Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Tool Operators

Operate CNC machines in various industries, including manufacturing, aerospace, automotive, and electronics.

Skills for Success: Programming, mathematics, mechanical aptitude

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,082
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	15.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	489
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.



Industrial Production Managers

Work closely with engineers, supervisors, and other team members to optimize production processes, allocate resources, and implement process improvements.

Jobs to Prepare You: Supply Chain Coordinator, Continuous Improvement Specialist, Production Supervisor

Median Annual Salary:	\$126,202
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	406
Typical Education:	Bachelor's degree
Work experience:	5 or more years



TRANSPORTATION HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Heavy & Tractor-trailer Truck Drivers

Operate large trucks to transport goods over long distances spending long hours on the road, often traveling across different states or regions.

Skills for Success: Safety awareness, navigation, physical stamina

Median Annual Salary:	\$47,518
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	6,718
Typical Education:	Postsecondary nondegree award



Captains, Mates & Pilots of Water Vessels

Navigate and operate various types of watercraft, such as ships, boats, ferries, or barges in compliance with maritime regulations.

Skills for Success: Navigation, communication, emergency response

Median Annual Salary:	\$111,098
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	1.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	150
Typical Education:	Post-secondary nondegree award
Related work experience:	Less than 5 years



Crane & Tower Operators

Operate and control various types of cranes and tower equipment used in construction, manufacturing, shipping, and other industries.

Skills for Success: Concentration, hand-eye coordination, physical fitness

Median Annual Salary:	\$64,168
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.0%
Average Annual Job Openings:	342
Typical Education:	High School Diploma or Equivalent
On-the-job training:	More than 1 month but less than 1 year
Related work experience:	Less than 5 years

THE MANAGEMENT TRACK

Occupations on this page prepare you for leadership roles like the management positions below, which typically have higher pay and growth potential.



Transportation, Storage and Distribution Managers

Oversee and coordinate the movement and storage of goods within a company or organization by optimizing the supply chain.

Jobs to Prepare You: Supply Chain Analysts, Freight Coordinator, Inventory Control Specialist

Median Annual Salary:	\$101,855
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	20.2%
Average Annual Job Openings:	385
Typical Education:	High school diploma or equivalent
Work experience:	5 or more years

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ARTS, DESIGN, ENTERTAINMENT, & MEDIA HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Public Relations Specialists

Develop and implement strategic communication strategies to effectively convey messages to the public, media, and other stakeholders.

Skills for Success: Communication, writing ability, relationship building

Median Annual Salary: \$59,635
 Employment Growth 2020-2030: 18.1%
 Average Annual Job Openings: 652
 Typical Education: Bachelor's degree



Interpreters and Translators

Convert spoken or written content from one language to another, ensuring accurate and culturally appropriate communication.

Skills for Success: Multilingual, cultural knowledge, professionalism

Median Annual Salary: \$43,179
 Employment Growth 2020-2030: 38.7%
 Average Annual Job Openings: 512
 Typical Education: Bachelor's degree

REALITY CHECK

Compared to other careers in this magazine, the jobs below are often very competitive and have relatively few positions available despite their fast projected growth. For instance, there are fewer than 250 professional athletes across the entire Houston region of 7.5 million people. Earnings can also be highly uncertain, given the freelance nature. They often lack benefits such as health insurance and retirement plans, which become increasingly important as we progress in our careers. We encourage anyone planning for their professional future to consider their interests and the risks and rewards of any career.

PROFESSION / INDUSTRY	MEDIAN WAGE	EMPLOYMENT GROWTH	TYPICAL EDUCATION	ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS
Musicians/Singers	\$32.49 hourly	15.9%	No formal credential or long-term on-the-job training	384
Photographers	\$32.49 hourly	24.5%	High school diploma/moderate on-the-job training	215
Actors	\$23.42 hourly	31.8%	Some college, no degree/long-term on-the-job training	43
Athletes & Sports Competitors	No data available	45.4%	No formal credential or long-term on-the-job training	53
Social Media Content Creators	*No median wage is available for this emerging occupation. However, anecdotal stories suggest it takes at least two years or more to start earning an income as an influencer on YouTube or TikTok.			



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COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Healthcare Social Workers*

Provide individuals and families with psychological support needed to cope with chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses.

Skills for Success: Case management, counseling, support, advocacy

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,860
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	19.1%
Average Annual Job Openings:	298
Typical Education:	Master's degree



Educational, Guidance and Career Counselors*

Provide guidance and support to individuals in educational settings, helping them navigate academic, personal, and career-related challenges.

Skills for Success: Active listening, problem solving, collaboration

Median Annual Salary:	\$61,492
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	16.6%
Average Annual Job Openings:	705
Typical Education:	Master's degree

LEGAL HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOBS



Lawyers*

Provide legal advice and representation to individuals, businesses, or organizations.

Skills for Success: Analytical, research, critical thinking, persuasion

Median Annual Salary:	\$133,328
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	18.7%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,117
Typical Education:	Doctoral or professional degree



Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Provide valuable support to lawyers and law firms by assisting with various legal tasks.

Skills for Success: Research, writing, organization

Median Annual Salary:	\$59,375
Employment Growth 2020-2030:	22.8%
Average Annual Job Openings:	1,335
Typical Education:	Associate's degree

**Not eligible for education and training scholarships from Workforce Solutions.*



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HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-GROWTH JOB SELECTION

High-skill, high-growth jobs are selected based on regional labor market information and criteria set by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, which include:

- 50% or more of total occupational employment found in targeted industries.
- Projected employment in the year 2030 greater than or equal to the average ($\geq 1,802$ jobs) for all occupations in the region.
- Projected growth rate greater than or equal to the average of all occupations ($\geq 17.6\%$) in the region.
- Education and training requirements which range from moderate on-the-job training (lasting more than one month but less than a year) combined with a high school diploma up to advanced degrees that require many years of specialized training typical of physicians.
- Median hourly wages greater than or equal to the 2021 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics' median wage ($\geq \$21.32$) for all occupations in the region.
- Occupations on the previous 2021 High-Skill, High-Growth Occupation List that meet at least four of the five conditions listed above.

All wage information is based on 2021 OEWS data provided by the Texas Workforce Commission except where noted.