

Workforce Solutions

# *The Buzz*

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**The Buzz is a monthly newsletter from Workforce Solutions- Employer Service Division and is issued to provide local labor market information that is timely and meaningful to our partners in the Employer Service Division of Workforce Solutions.**

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# Workforce Solutions

## The Energy Boom Effect

Driven by the growth of the energy industry, construction in The Energy Corridor continues to outpace almost all other markets in the United States. In addition to the Construction industry, the Oil & Gas industry impacts; Manufacturing, Transportation, Technical Services, Educational Services and other markets as it expands. What is happening in Houston is very consequential and continues to build to accommodate a growing workforce in various industries throughout the Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast region.

## What Are Employers Telling Us?

The **Transportation** system plays an important role in the booming economy. As many Oil & Gas plants expand, there is a need to move goods to and from the region's ports and the need to move oil field equipment. The trucking industry's growth is at a local and national level, the problem is finding skilled drivers.

- Skilled drivers who work for the oil and gas industry can earn salaries in the



\$80,000 range

- As demand increases and more drivers are needed, employers expect to add nearly 100,000 in the next decade to keep pace
- Pay packages are enhanced to retain drivers
- The shortage of skilled drivers has driven up costs and forced companies to lower standards

As a result of the shortage, companies are working closely with colleges to offer scholarships for Commercial Truck Drivers in order to keep up with demand. The **Education** enrollment is on the increase as workers seek new skills or to upgrade their skills. This includes, but is not limited to, training for **Technical Services** as the energy trend also impacts engineering services.

- Firms design new pipelines, pumping stations, and chemical plants to transport and process crude oil
- Oil & Gas company has a difficult time finding certified riggers. They have plenty of riggers apply but they lack the necessary certification
- Now, more than every, digital literacy is a standard job requirement. Employers demand basic computer and internet skills
- San Jacinto is offering computer training October 20 - November 25



The **Construction** industry suffers from a limited talent pool of skilled construction workers as high schools eliminate their shop classes. Employers' focus is now on training opportunities for their current and new incoming staff members.

- Many gas processing plants are designed with excess capacity to prepare for the natural gas demand anticipated in the 2015 - 2016 time frame.
- ExxonMobil's campus impacts The Woodlands' submarket as it expands and transforms over 20 million acres into office, hotel, residential, and retail developments
- 71 buildings are under construction and about three fourths of new space is already pre-leased
- The nations publicly traded oil and gas companies continue to eye Houston for relocation and expansion

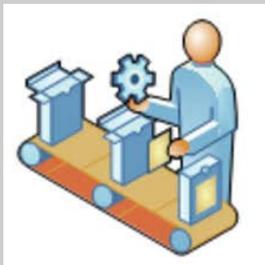


The demand for this sector is predicted to add 6,100 jobs through the end of the year. As the construction throughout Houston takes effect on the workforce growth, **Production & Manufacturing** companies increase their workforce need.

- Machinery manufacturing has added 33,100 jobs this year
- Manufacturing companies are receiving an increasing demand for fabricated metal products
- Manufacturing companies in Liberty County are expressing dire need for skilled craftsmen

## Production & Manufacturing Resurgence

The following are current On-the-Job Training opportunities with job sites near these Workforce Solutions Career Offices.



### East End

- **Entry-Level Machine Operator** - pay rate is \$11 per hour. Requires HS/GED, ability to lift 50 lbs. frequently, and 1 year of work-related experience

### Lake Jackson

- **Vessel Fitter**- pay rate is \$18 per hour. Requires HS/GED and 3 years of welding or fitting experience

### Rosenberg & Katy

- **Blow Mold Process Technician** - pay rate is \$10.50 per hour. Requires HS/GED and 3 years of welding or fitting experience

### Wharton



- **CNC Machinists** - pay rate is \$10.00 per hour. No formal education is required only 2 years of machinist experience

Waller

- **Lead Welder III** - pay rate between \$17.50 - \$28.00 per hour. Requires HS/GED, 5 years of welding experience, and previous supervisory experience

Liberty

- **Draw Machine Operator** - Requires HS/GED and 3 months of work-related experience

For more information on any of these job opportunities please contact the local Workforce Solutions Business Consultants.

## Economic Development



There is \$35 billion in new projects and expansions planned by energy and chemical companies through 2015. This will create approximately 265,800 jobs. There is a need for collaboration between the Recruiters who actively refer job seekers, Business Consultants working directly with employers to deliver a better understanding of employer wants and needs, and the employers dedicated to strengthening their talent pipeline. The Workforce Solutions Market Analysts actively study economic and social trends so that we can continue to use solid workforce data to implement effective and efficient strategies tailored to each employer's specific needs.

[wrksolutions.com](http://wrksolutions.com)  
[wrksolutionsonline.com](http://wrksolutionsonline.com)

## Spread the word!

Did you know that employers can have their new hire training costs reimbursed?

Find out how employers can get their share of the On-the-Job Training dollars. [Click Here](#)

### References:

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## Did You Know?

- About 100 drivers are retiring each day
- There are approximately 30,000 to 35,000 unfilled truck driver jobs
- With 15,385 candidates seeking employment in Construction and Extraction, there is a lot of competition to fill the 2,484 current job openings in this category
- Labor statistics data anticipates that under the high production scenario these contributions continue to increase:
  - Support for almost 1,147,000 jobs
  - Contribution to US GDP of \$120 billion

