

# Kansas City's Fastest Growing Occupations 2008-2010

Kansas City is projected to have more than 36,000 job openings from 2008 to 2010. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in the region include six education-related occupations and three occupations that are health care-related. Fourteen of the top 20 fastest growing occupations are new to the list. Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 7.05 percent from 2008 to 2010.

Eighteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth and wages. (Kansas City's top 20 fastest growing occupations were identified as those with the highest percent change from 2008-2010 with a minimum of ten Average Annual Openings.)

Occupation	2008 Estimated Employment	2010 Projected Employment	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	1,220	1,310	7.05%	66	\$65,830	A+
<b>NEW!</b> Rail Car Repairers	330	350	7.01%	18	\$40,030	B+
<b>NEW!</b> Cargo and Freight Agents	400	420	5.53%	22	\$41,730	B+
Social and Human Service Assistants	720	760	5.40%	27	\$25,850	B-
<b>NEW!</b> Business Teachers, Postsecondary	280	290	5.07%	11	\$74,730	A-
<b>NEW!</b> Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	970	1,020	5.03%	40	\$101,740	A+
<b>NEW!</b> Interpreters and Translators	380	390	4.79%	18	\$38,920	B+
<b>NEW!</b> Personal and Home Care Aides	1,760	1,840	4.66%	69	\$18,120	C+
<b>NEW!</b> Baggage Porters and Bellhops	280	300	4.61%	11	\$23,140	B-
<b>NEW!</b> Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	490	510	4.53%	19	\$56,440	A-
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	1,410	1,480	4.39%	49	\$73,550	A+
<b>NEW!</b> Detectives and Criminal Investigators	570	590	4.25%	24	\$49,050	A-
<b>NEW!</b> Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School	1,360	1,420	4.11%	55	\$43,790	A-
Pharmacy Technicians	2,000	2,090	4.09%	96	\$23,810	B
Medical Assistants	1,320	1,370	3.71%	39	\$25,740	B
<b>NEW!</b> Special Education Teachers, Middle School	570	590	3.70%	22	\$43,580	B+
<b>NEW!</b> Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	710	740	3.67%	24	\$41,050	B+
<b>NEW!</b> Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	310	320	3.61%	15	\$26,150	B-
Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors	280	290	3.60%	10	\$36,520	B+
<b>NEW!</b> Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	14,290	14,760	3.30%	474	\$16,480	C+

Data Sources: MERIC Short-term Occupational Projections, MERIC Occupational Employment and Wage Survey, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Career Grades are assigned by analyzing an occupation's percent change, total openings and average wage relative to all other occupations in the region. An occupation's combination of scores on these three factors determines its grade.