



# Southwest Region TOP 50

Careers in the Southwest Region with the most job openings between 2004-2014  
For a complete listing of occupations, wages, and skills information, visit the MERIC website at:

[www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)

Occupation	Total Openings	Average Annual Wage	Education/Experience Typically Required	Grade	WorkKeys® Scores		
					AM	LI	RI
<b>Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources</b>							
Dietitians & Nutritionists	23	\$37,630	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	5	5
<b>Architecture and Construction</b>							
Cost Estimators	74	\$36,620	Work experience in a related occ.	A-	6	6	5
<b>Art, A/V Technology, and Communications</b>							
Printing Machine Operators	112	\$32,510	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
<b>Business, Management, and Administration</b>							
General & Operations Managers	308	\$76,020	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus exp.	A-	5	5	5
First-Line Supervisors of Office & Administrative Support Workers	195	\$34,730	Work experience in a related occ.	A-	4	4	5
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	73	\$45,860	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	4	5
Compensation, Benefits, & Job Analysis Specialists	22	\$35,440	Bachelor's degree	A-	4	4	5
<b>Education and Training</b>							
Training & Development Specialists	38	\$33,870	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	4	5
<b>Finance</b>							
Insurance Sales Agents	268	\$55,720	Bachelor's degree	A+	5	5	6
Accountants & Auditors	258	\$62,680	Bachelor's degree	A+	6	5	5
Bill & Account Collectors	114	\$22,680	Short-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
Securities, Commodities, & Financial Services Sales Agents	45	\$94,050	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	5	5
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, & Investigators	31	\$34,080	Long-term on-the-job training	A-	5	4	5
Personal Financial Advisors	23	\$38,100	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	5	5
<b>Health Science</b>							
Registered Nurses	723	\$47,480	Associate degree	A+	4	4	5
Dental Assistants	109	\$22,270	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	85	\$37,050	Associate degree	A-	4	4	4
Respiratory Therapists	72	\$35,800	Associate degree	A-	4	5	5
Pharmacists	66	\$85,340	First professional degree	A-	6	5	6
Occupational Therapists	50	\$50,810	Master's degree	A-	4	4	6
Dental Hygienists	47	\$57,280	Associate degree	A-	3	4	5
Medical & Health Services Managers	37	\$67,630	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus exp.	A-	5	5	5
Physical Therapists	29	\$56,260	Master's degree	A-	4	5	6
Physician Assistants	25	\$79,170	Bachelor's degree	A-	4	4	6
Medical & Public Health Social Workers	34	\$35,430	Bachelor's degree	A-	4	4	4
<b>Human Service</b>							
Directors, Religious Activities & Education	25	\$35,640*	Bachelor's degree	A-	4	5	5
Substance Abuse & Behavioral Disorder Counselors	16	\$35,270	Master's degree	A-	3	4	5
<b>Information Technology</b>							
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	67	\$46,910	Bachelor's degree	A-	6	5	5
Computer Support Specialists	62	\$33,520	Associate degree	A-	5	4	5
Network & Computer Systems Administrators	57	\$43,240	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	5	5
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	52	\$65,830	Bachelor's degree	A-	7	5	5
Computer Systems Analysts	50	\$55,370	Bachelor's degree	A-	5	5	5
Computer & Information Systems Managers	47	\$73,770	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus exp.	A-	6	5	5
<b>Law, Public Safety, and Security</b>							
Fire Fighters	110	\$22,730	Long-term on-the-job training	A-	4	5	4
First-Line Supervisors of Police & Detectives	29	\$42,010	Work experience in a related occ.	A-	5	5	5
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	284	\$40,740	Work experience in a related occ.	A-	5	4	4
Machinists	120	\$25,200	Long-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
<b>Marketing, Sales, and Service</b>							
Sales Rep., Wholesale & Manuf., except Technical & Scientific Products	500	\$41,270	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A+	5	4	5
Customer Service Representatives	324	\$23,220	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
Sales Rep, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products	108	\$75,590	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A+	4	4	4
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	61	\$37,630	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
Sales Managers	42	\$68,490	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus exp.	A-	5	5	5
Public Relations Specialists	37	\$35,480	Bachelor's degree	A-	0	5	5
Marketing Managers	22	\$71,000	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus exp.	A-	5	5	5
Market Research Analysts	16	\$63,840	Bachelor's degree	A-	6	5	5
<b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics</b>							
Industrial Engineers	52	\$48,320	Bachelor's degree	A-	7	5	6
<b>Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics</b>							
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1,344	\$33,580	Moderate-term on-the-job training	A-	3	4	3
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	214	\$23,380	Short-term on-the-job training	A-	4	4	4
Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	127	\$28,120	Postsecondary vocational training	A-	5	5	5
First-Line Supervisors of Transport & Material-Moving & Vehicle Operators	64	\$45,830	Work experience in a related occ.	A-	4	4	5

\* Statewide wage data used as a proxy for suppressed regional wage data.

#### Career Clusters:

Based on the National Career Clusters with occupations assigned to primary career clusters.

Some occupations may be in multiple clusters, therefore, primary cluster status was established.

#### WorkKeys® Skills Scores:

Range - least complex (3) to most complex (7)

AM - Applied Mathematics (Level 3-7)

LI - Locating Information (Level 3-6)

RI - Reading for Information (Level 3-7)