

St. Louis' Fastest Growing Occupations 2009-2011

St. Louis is projected to have more than 60,000 job openings from 2009 to 2011. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in the region include five occupations that are health care-related and four insurance-related occupations. Insurance Sales Agents are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 11.04 percent from 2009 to 2011.

Seventeen of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth, and wages. Out of the top 20 fastest growing list, 17 occupations are new to the top list. (St. Louis' top 20 fastest growing occupations were identified as those with the highest percent change from 2009-2011 with a minimum of ten average annual openings.)

Occupation	2009 Estimated Employment	2011 Projected Employment	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
NEW! Insurance Sales Agents	6,360	7,060	11.04%	492	\$60,210	A+
NEW! Personal Financial Advisors	1,490	1,620	8.73%	78	\$93,950	A+
NEW! Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	2,200	2,370	7.73%	109	\$38,310	A-
NEW! Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	2,600	2,780	7.08%	156	\$55,310	A+
Home Health Aides	4,870	5,200	6.82%	206	\$20,000	C+
NEW! Financial Examiners	270	290	6.27%	13	\$89,520	A-
NEW! Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	810	860	5.78%	38	\$68,670	A-
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	2,370	2,500	5.54%	103	\$78,060	A+
NEW! Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	1,990	2,100	5.37%	83	\$38,020	A-
NEW! Fire Fighters	1,950	2,050	5.24%	106	\$54,660	A
NEW! Compliance Officers, Except Ag., Construction, Safety, & Trans.	1,650	1,730	5.15%	55	\$50,560	A-
Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators	870	920	5.05%	40	\$42,040	B+
NEW! Personal and Home Care Aides	6,790	7,130	5.01%	243	\$19,450	C+
NEW! Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	900	950	4.98%	40	\$35,400	B+
NEW! Insurance Underwriters	950	990	4.96%	51	\$61,680	A-
NEW! Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors	1,850	1,940	4.93%	80	\$25,950	B
NEW! Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	2,660	2,780	4.78%	145	\$77,430	A+
NEW! Physician Assistants	270	280	4.44%	10	\$67,340	B
NEW! Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	580	600	4.33%	23	\$29,220	C
NEW! Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, & Relay	140	150	4.26%	10	\$64,650	B

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.

