

St. Louis' Fastest Growing Occupations 2005-2007

St. Louis is projected to have more than 76,000 job openings from by 2007. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in St. Louis include seven occupations that are education-related, seven construction and extraction occupations and three computer and mathematical occupations. Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 8.99 percent from 2005 to 2007.

Nineteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth and wages. Despite having a fast growth rate, Home Health Aides have a lower grade due to lower than average wages. (St. Louis' top 20 fastest growing occupations were identified as those with the highest percent change from 2005-2007 with a minimum of ten Average Annual Openings.)

SOC	Occupation Title	2005 Estimated Employment	2007 Projected Employment	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
15-1081	Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	3,290	3,590	8.99	181	\$62,200	A+
31-1011	Home Health Aides	2,770	3,000	8.24	147	\$18,940	C+
47-2044	Tile and Marble Setters	270	280	7.17	13	\$42,510	B-
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	5,250	5,620	7.17	241	\$21,850	B
15-1032	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	3,000	3,210	6.96	129	\$73,380	A+
47-2181	Roofers	770	830	6.59	43	\$38,690	B+
25-1124	Foreign Language and Literature Teachers, Postsecondary	220	230	6.39	12	\$57,770	B-
47-2151	Pipelayers	270	290	6.32	15	\$45,470	A-
47-2051	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	2,170	2,300	6.28	109	\$44,350	A-
11-9031	Education Administrators, Preschool and Child Care Center/Program	370	400	6.15	20	\$44,290	B+
47-2071	Paving, Surfacing, and Tamping Equipment Operators	560	590	6.10	25	\$43,320	B+
25-1125	History Teachers, Postsecondary	180	190	6.08	10	\$63,690	B
25-1032	Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	200	210	6.03	11	\$79,630	B
15-1031	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	7,400	7,840	6.02	282	\$77,890	A+
31-9092	Medical Assistants	3,780	4,010	6.00	182	\$24,090	B
25-1126	Philosophy and Religion Teachers, Postsecondary	420	440	5.98	22	\$61,370	A-
47-2171	Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers	550	590	5.96	27	\$54,920	A-
47-3011	Helpers—Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters	270	290	5.95	19	\$46,990	A-
25-1066	Psychology Teachers, Postsecondary	310	320	5.90	16	\$68,910	A-
25-1121	Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	510	540	5.88	26	\$54,960	A-

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 St. Louis. An occupation's combination of scores on these three factors determines its grade.