

Missouri's Fastest Growing Occupations 2009-2011

Missouri is projected to have more than 150,500 job openings from 2009 to 2011. During this time, the 20 occupations with the fastest projected growth in the state include eight health care-related occupations and two financial-related occupations. Biomedical Engineers are projected to grow the most rapidly, increasing by 10.07 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, sixteen occupations are new to the top list, five of which are associated with medical services. (Missouri's 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! Biomedical Engineers	150	160	10.07%	11	\$67,180	B
NEW! Financial Examiners	690	740	7.09%	35	\$80,700	A-
Home Health Aides	13,220	14,070	6.45%	535	\$19,540	B
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	5,170	5,480	5.98%	237	\$74,790	A+
NEW! Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, & Relay	400	430	5.72%	18	\$61,940	B
NEW! Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	2,130	2,250	5.69%	98	\$67,090	A-
NEW! Animal Trainers	480	510	5.65%	22	\$28,510	D
Personal and Home Care Aides	18,450	19,360	4.91%	651	\$18,710	B
NEW! Athletic Trainers	360	380	4.71%	20	\$46,140	B
NEW! Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	5,610	5,860	4.45%	205	\$35,420	A-
NEW! Personal Financial Advisors	3,650	3,810	4.41%	113	\$91,280	A-
NEW! Compliance Officers, Except Ag., Construction, Health & Safety, & Trans.	4,540	4,740	4.40%	133	\$50,250	A-
NEW! Gas Plant Operators	210	220	4.37%	10	\$47,560	B
NEW! Biochemists and Biophysicists	270	280	4.09%	15	\$63,280	B
NEW! Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	230	230	4.00%	10	\$20,140	D
NEW! Physician Assistants	710	730	3.97%	25	\$65,590	A-
Pharmacy Technicians	10,350	10,750	3.86%	421	\$24,560	B
NEW! Museum Technicians and Conservators	780	810	3.59%	36	\$33,950	B+
NEW! Physical Therapist Aides	620	640	3.38%	18	\$21,920	D
NEW! Dental Assistants	5,090	5,260	3.38%	168	\$33,100	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 the state. An occupation's combination of scores on these three factors determines its grade.

