

Occupations in Texas

Several of the most postsecondary-intensive occupational clusters are expected to grow rapidly in Texas through 2020. Healthcare occupations will grow by 25 percent and comprise 7.5 percent of total employment in 2020. Education occupations will grow by 15 percent and reach 6.7 percent of employment, and STEM's 14 percent growth will bring it to 5.5 percent of projected employment. Food and personal services, which already employed 16.8 percent of the workforce in 2010, is expected to grow by 14 percent. The two largest occupational clusters are also expected to grow between 2010 and 2020. Sales and office support, which already employed 27.9 percent of Texans in 2010, should see 10 percent growth between 2010 and 2020, and blue collar, with 23.5 percent of state employment, will grow 17 percent.

59% OF JOBS IN TEXAS WILL REQUIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN 2020 (UP FROM 57% IN 2010)

Table 19: Snapshot of Education Demand for Total Jobs in Texas (2010 And 2020)

	2010	2020	% in 2020
High school or less	4,986,000	5,982,400	41%
Some college	2,715,700	3,416,200	24%
Associate's	774,700	1,119,500	8%
Bachelor's	2,123,000	2,815,600	19%
Graduate	924,800	1,163,400	8%
Total	11,524,200	14,497,100	100%

In 2020, 59 percent of all Texas jobs will require some postsecondary training.

Between 2010 and 2020, Texas is projected to add 4.4 million job vacancies both from new job opportunities and from vacancies due to retirement. Of these vacancies, 2.6 million will favor candidates with postsecondary qualifications; 1.9 million will go to high school graduates and high school dropouts.

Texas ranks 5th in the South in the proportion of its 2020 jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, 9th in the proportion requiring a graduate degree, and 2nd in jobs for high school dropouts.

Arkansas > Natural resources > Growth in high-tech

Arkansas has been relatively sheltered from the nation's tumultuous business cycle in recent years. Though modestly increasing after the recession, Arkansas' unemployment rate has not risen above the national average since early 2008.

By 2010 the state's real GDP had risen above its 2007 pre-recession levels. However, its per-capita real GDP (\$31,500 as of 2010) remains among the lowest in the South.

Industry in Arkansas

The largest shares of Arkansas' workers were in government and public education services (17.4%), wholesale and retail trade services (14.5%), manufacturing (14.0%), and health-care services (11.4%), as of 2008.⁸⁵ Several sectors are expected to experience extremely rapid employment growth through 2020, including educational services (42.8%), professional and business services (27.5%), and healthcare services (27.1%). Unlike many other southern states, Arkansas has no sectors expected to decline in employment, although a few, including natural resources and manufacturing, are expected to grow slowly, around 5 percent over the next several years.

In 2010 the top four contributors to the state's real GDP were wholesale and retail trade services (15.7%), financial services (15.5%), manufacturing (14.1%), and government and public education services (13.8%). Healthcare services contributed 7.7 percent. Several sectors suffered serious declines in output during the recession; construction, manufacturing, transportation and utilities services, and information services declined by between 12 and 18 percent from 2007 to 2010. In contrast, natural resources, professional and business services, and financial services all grew by double digits in spite of the recession.

As in Texas and Oklahoma, natural resources output grew from 2007 to 2010, rising 22.2 percent, mainly due to greater extraction of oil and natural gas. In 2008, crude oil output in Arkansas had a market value of \$413.4 million.⁸⁶

The state's top 16 private employers are mostly in healthcare and manufacturing. In healthcare, the largest employers are Baxter Regional Medical Center, Conway Regional Medical Center, White County Medical Center, and White River Medical Center. Top employers among manufacturers include Cargill, Inc., Domtar Corporation, A.W., Inc., Evergreen Packaging, Paloma Industries, Smithfield Foods, and Superior Industries International. Other major employers represent a variety of sectors: Emerson Electric Company (transportation and utilities services), Fred's, Inc. and Target Corporation (wholesale and retail trade services), Simmons First National Corporation (financial services), Windstream Corporation (information services), and Securitas Security Services (administrative and support services).

However, existing major employers do not necessarily represent Arkansas' emerging economic opportunities. In 2010 Inc.com identified 12 Arkansas-based companies as among the nation's 5000 fastest-growing. The highest-ranked was Rockfish Interactive (#445), which provides high-tech professional and business services. Arkansas is also trying to expand its "green" technology sector, primarily through wind energy. In late 2010 Mitsubishi Power Systems started construction on a \$100 million wind turbine plant, which is projected to create hundreds of jobs.⁸⁷ The University of Arkansas has developed programs to train its workforce in areas such as systems engineering and information sciences, biomedical engineering, cell and molecular biology, and molecular biotechnology.

85. Arkansas Economic Report 2010

86. <http://www.aipro.org/EconomicImpactStudy.pdf>

87. <http://arkansasnews.com/2010/10/07/mitsubishi-breaks-ground-on-fort-smith-plant/>

Occupations in Arkansas

Overall employment in Arkansas is expected to grow by 11.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, the fourth-fastest rate in the South. Not surprisingly given the importance of manufacturing, blue-collar workers make up the largest percentage of the workforce (30.6%), followed by sales and office support (25.3%) and food and personal services (15.1%). Projected growth rates for these three occupation groups through 2020 are 9 percent, 10 percent, and 16 percent, respectively. Jobs in STEM, healthcare and education are expected to expand the fastest, at rates of 16 percent, 21 percent and 21 percent, respectively, to comprise 18.5 percent of the Arkansas workforce by 2020.

51% OF JOBS IN ARKANSAS WILL REQUIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN 2020 (DOWN FROM 52% IN 2010)

Table 20: Snapshot of Education Demand for Total Jobs in Arkansas (2010 And 2020)

	2010	2020	% in 2020
High school or less	596,300	697,400	49%
Some college	294,800	323,500	23%
Associate's	94,500	108,300	8%
Bachelor's	186,800	214,000	15%
Graduate	76,700	87,900	6%
Total	1,249,100	1,431,100	100%

By 2020, 51 percent of all jobs in Arkansas will require some postsecondary training.

Between 2010 and 2020, the state will have 433,900 job vacancies both from new job opportunities and from vacancies due to retirement. Of these vacancies, 222,400 will favor candidates with postsecondary qualifications, in contrast to 211,500 for high school graduates and high school dropouts.

Arkansas ranks 13th in the South in the proportion of its 2020 jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, 11th in the proportion requiring a graduate degree, and 3rd in jobs for high school dropouts.

Louisiana > Lasting Katrina syndrome > Low education

Hurricane Katrina devastated the state of Louisiana's population and geography, as well as its economy; unemployment jumped from 4.9 percent in August 2005 to 11.2 percent the following month. In response, Congress passed the Hurricane Katrina Unemployment Relief Act of 2005, which allocated \$400 million to Louisiana and its neighbors.⁸⁸ Though unemployment rested at 11 percent or above from September to November of 2005, Congressional funding and other relief efforts made an impact, helping reduce the rate to 6

88. <http://thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d109:1:./temp/~bdEou5:@@D&summ2=m&/home/LegislativeData.php?n=BSS;c=109>