

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>

percent in December, then 4.5 percent by January 2006. Louisiana's rate has remained lower than the national rate in recent years, staying almost two points below it during the recession. Despite increasing in the post-recession period to peak at 8.1 percent in March 2011, Louisiana's unemployment rate has declined since then.

Between 2007 and 2010, the state's real GDP actually grew by a remarkable 5.3 percent. Its 2010 per capita GDP was \$43,100. The state's economic growth will be somewhat limited by its relatively low level of education demand of 51 percent (50th in the nation) by 2020, which reflects a lower share of high-wage, high-growth occupations and industries.

Industry in Louisiana

Three sectors led state employment in 2010. Government and public education services employs 18.7 percent of Louisiana workers, followed by wholesale and retail trade services (15%) and healthcare services (11%). It is projected that the fastest-growing sectors by employment through 2020 will be healthcare services (21.1% growth) and construction (16.3%). Construction, in particular, has been strengthened by post-Katrina recovery spending, including Go Zone funds. Manufacturing employs 7.5 percent of the workforce, but that figure is expected to decline to 5.9 percent through 2020.

Louisiana's top five sectors in real GDP contributions in 2010 were manufacturing (16.6%), natural resources (15.8%), financial services (13.6%), wholesale and retail trade services (11.2%), and government and public education services (10.3%). An increase in natural resource extraction made a prominent contribution to real GDP, with the sector's real output growing by 55.4 percent between 2007 and 2010. However, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the subsequent regulation of offshore drilling will limit additional growth in this sector. Others that grew rapidly during the recession include financial services (19.2%) and healthcare services (13%). However, manufacturing, personal services, and construction all declined by more than 7 percent.

The state and federal governments accounted for five of Louisiana's top ten employers: Fort Polk/Joint Readiness Training Center, Barksdale Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Louisiana State University (LSU), and the LSU Health Sciences Board. The other five leading employers are private companies: Wal-Mart, Turner Industries Group, Northrop Grumman, Ochsner Clinic Foundation, and Harrah's Entertainment.

Occupations in Louisiana

Unfortunately, the number of jobs in Louisiana is expected to increase by just 7.7 percent between 2010 and 2020, the second-slowest rate in the South after West Virginia. Louisiana's two largest occupational clusters, blue collar and sales and office support, which comprise over half of the state's workforce, are expected to grow by 11 and 12 percent, respectively. In contrast, healthcare (8.4% of the workforce in 2008) and food and personal services (17.1%) are expected to grow by 25 and 20 percent, respectively.

The state is also rapidly expanding younger industries. According to Tech America's 12th annual Cyberstates report, Louisiana is one of the ten fastest-growing states for high-tech industries, due in part to the expansion of digital media, aerospace, and advanced materials. Hold Cube, which provides tech-based marketing services, is an example of strong growth in this field; it was ranked number 95 in Inc.com's 2010 list of America's fastest-growing companies.

52% OF JOBS IN LOUISIANA WILL REQUIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN 2020 (UP FROM 50% IN 2010)

Table 21: Snapshot of Education Demand for Total Jobs in Louisiana (2010 And 2020)

| | 2010 | 2020 | % in 2020 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| High school or less | 1,016,600 | 1,146,600 | 48% |
| Some college | 449,400 | 528,100 | 22% |
| Associate's | 132,400 | 155,600 | 6% |
| Bachelor's | 319,100 | 423,100 | 18% |
| Graduate | 127,700 | 150,100 | 6% |
| Total | 2,045,200 | 2,403,500 | 100% |

By 2020, 52 percent of all jobs in Louisiana will require some postsecondary training.

Between 2010 and 2020, the state will create 728,700 job vacancies both from new jobs and from retirement. There will be 381,100 job vacancies for individuals with postsecondary credentials, in contrast to 347,600 for high school graduates and high school dropouts.

Louisiana ranks eighth in the South in the proportion of its 2020 jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, 15th in jobs that will require a graduate degree, and 7th in jobs for high school dropouts.