

Missouri's Top Openings

2008-2010

Missouri is projected to have more than 155,000 job openings from 2008 to 2010. During this time, the 20 occupations with the most projected total openings in the state include five food preparation and serving occupations and three occupations that are sales-related. Job openings are classified as "Growth" or "Replacement" openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy, while replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements, but are not new jobs.

Cashiers are projected to have the most openings from 2008 to 2010, though almost all the openings are projected to be replacements. This occupation has a Grade D due to the lack of growth in the occupation, and lower than average wages. Registered Nurses, on the other hand, have more openings due to growth than replacements indicating strong future demand in that occupation in the state. The combination of its above average total openings, fast growth, and higher than average wages for Registered Nurses merit its Grade A career outlook. Overall, thirteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations have a Grade A or B outlook in terms of having above average openings, growth, and wages.

SOC	Occupation	2008 Estimated Employment	2010 Projected Employment	Total Openings	Total Openings		Average Annual Wage	Career Grade
					Openings Due to Growth	Openings Due to Replacement		
41-2011	Cashiers	80,380	78,640	10,169	0	10,169	\$17,720	C
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	54,750	54,730	6,489	0	6,489	\$16,870	C+
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	87,740	86,880	6,013	0	6,013	\$24,520	B-
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	78,580	80,090	4,126	1,510	2,616	\$16,480	C+
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	94,710	93,640	3,486	0	3,486	\$26,320	B-
29-1111	Registered Nurses	58,180	60,020	3,402	1,840	1,562	\$54,710	A+
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	45,180	43,200	3,102	0	3,102	\$24,770	D
39-9011	Child Care Workers	31,420	32,240	2,756	821	1,935	\$18,550	B
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	42,100	42,410	2,639	309	2,330	\$30,260	B
35-3022	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	9,100	9,090	2,066	0	2,066	\$17,350	C+
39-9021	Personal and Home Care Aides	19,870	20,970	1,738	1,100	638	\$18,120	B
43-5081	NEW! Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	29,860	28,720	1,705	0	1,705	\$22,470	D
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	46,680	46,410	1,675	0	1,675	\$21,400	B-
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	23,110	23,170	1,549	59	1,490	\$20,350	B
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	22,750	23,350	1,512	609	903	\$42,020	A-
53-3032	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	46,190	44,110	1,494	0	1,494	\$37,400	B-
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	35,820	35,240	1,490	0	1,490	\$57,180	A-
31-1012	NEW! Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	37,800	38,730	1,484	931	553	\$20,820	B
35-9031	NEW! Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	6,970	6,980	1,431	9	1,422	\$16,910	C+
25-2031	NEW! Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Ed.	19,750	19,990	1,417	240	1,177	\$43,670	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.