An adequately trained workforce is essential for successful economic development – benefiting business, government, and labor. By understanding the current and future demand for skilled labor, workforce and education agencies can target resources to meet this demand.

Employment

Occupations not requiring any education beyond high school are expected to account for the largest portion of 2018 employment. However, these jobs are expected to be among the slowest growing of all occupations.

Growth Openings

By 2018, Missouri’s economy will need to fill over 829,000 job openings due to growth or replacements.

Job openings in occupations requiring on-the-job training will be largely due to high levels of employee turnover, whereas jobs requiring postsecondary degrees will see more openings from business expansions.
Training In Demand

Fast growth in occupations means that they will provide a large share of new positions in the future, thereby providing better employment prospects and more favorable conditions for mobility and advancement.

Missouri’s fastest growing occupations in the next ten years are those that require education and/or training beyond high school.

The statewide average for growth across all occupational categories is 5.71 percent.

Education Pays

In general, jobs that require college training are among the highest paid and fastest growing.

Training resulting in high wage gains of more than $30,000 include: professional degrees, doctoral degree, and bachelor’s degrees plus work experience.

Training resulting in smaller wage gains of $17,000 or less include: short-term on-the-job training and moderate on-the-job training.

Data Sources: MERIC Long-term Occupational Projections, MERIC Occupational Employment and Wage Survey. Education and experience ratings reflect the typical training needed to obtain employment in the occupation using national averages, and do not reflect required training; produced by the US Department of Labor (BLS, ETA). Telephone: (866) 225-8113; Email: mericdata@drc.mo.gov