



2020 Occupational Outlook for Rhode Island

Job openings result from the need to replace workers who leave an occupation and the need to fill vacancies created by business expansion. During the 2010-2020 projection period, it is estimated that employers will need to find workers to fill over 170,000 job openings. Nearly one-third of the projected job openings are attributed to the economic growth that is expected to occur during the projection period. The remaining openings are due to replacement needs resulting from employee turnover.

Several occupational groups are expected to grow at above average (10.7%) rates. Among the fastest growing occupational groups are Healthcare Support (19.7%), Computer and Mathematical (18.3%), Personal Care and Service (17.5%), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (15.8%). Each of these occupational groups is expected to generate over 2,300 new jobs during the projection period.

Occupational declines result from decreasing industry employment and from technological modifications. While all occupational groups are projected to have job gains: Farming, Fishing, & Forestry (0.4%); Production (3.2%); and Protective Service (4.8%) occupations are all projected to have less than a 5 percent change in employment. It is important to note that while job gains are below average, there will still be a demand for over 11,000 workers in these occupational groups resulting from new jobs and the need to replace workers who leave their jobs.

Among the major occupational groups, the greatest number of expected job openings resulting from economic growth and employee turnover will occur in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (+23,095), Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+22,705), and Sales and Related Occupations (+20,233).

Occupational Group	Employment		Net Change	Percent Change	Openings Due To	
	2010	2020			Growth	Replacements
Total Occupations	488,178	540,550	52,372	10.7%	54,695	115,672
Management	24,230	25,815	1,585	6.5%	1,719	5,165
Business & Financial Operations	21,845	25,175	3,330	15.2%	3,332	4,418
Computer & Mathematical	11,945	14,135	2,190	18.3%	2,190	2,330
Architecture & Engineering	7,829	8,401	572	7.3%	623	1,786
Life, Physical, & Social Science	3,813	4,355	542	14.2%	543	1,019
Community & Social Service	10,241	11,603	1,362	13.3%	1,362	2,261
Legal	3,776	4,017	241	6.4%	246	666
Education, Training, & Library	31,721	34,809	3,088	9.7%	3,092	6,890
Arts, Design, Sports, & Media	8,540	9,409	869	10.2%	926	2,226
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	35,503	41,097	5,594	15.8%	5,600	7,027
Healthcare Support	20,964	25,102	4,138	19.7%	4,152	2,916
Protective Service	10,777	11,299	522	4.8%	546	2,834
Food Preparation & Serving Related	43,673	49,422	5,749	13.2%	5,759	16,946
Building & Grounds:						
Cleaning & Maintenance	17,941	19,439	1,498	8.3%	1,541	3,229
Personal Care & Service	17,581	20,654	3,073	17.5%	3,076	4,151
Sales & Related	48,505	53,617	5,112	10.5%	5,232	15,001
Office and Administrative Support	79,181	84,280	5,099	6.4%	6,080	17,015
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	718	721	3	0.4%	10	216
Construction & Extraction	18,541	21,295	2,754	14.9%	2,755	4,115
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	16,894	18,364	1,470	8.7%	1,544	3,804
Production	30,221	31,191	970	3.2%	1,697	5,830
Transportation & Material Moving	23,739	26,350	2,611	11.0%	2,670	5,827