

CREVE COEUR / OLIVETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# The State of the St. Louis Workforce

Trends, Talent Gaps & Business Services  
Available Through Your Missouri Job Center

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Tim Dunville | Business Services Representative  
Family Workforce Centers of America — Missouri Job Center, St. Louis County

# What We Will Cover

01

## Regional Snapshot

Labor force, unemployment & GDP

02

## Industry & Employment Trends

Top sectors, job growth, 10-year shifts

03

## Talent Challenges

Skills gaps, hiring challenges, AI's impact

04

## In-Demand Occupations

Hottest jobs now and through 2032

05

## Missouri Job Center Services

How we serve YOUR business — at no cost

# Regional Snapshot

2.8M

Metro Population

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15 MO + IL counties

1.49M

Labor Force

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+2.1% YoY (30,500 people)

\$226.5  
B

Regional GDP

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+7.1% from 2022

4.0%

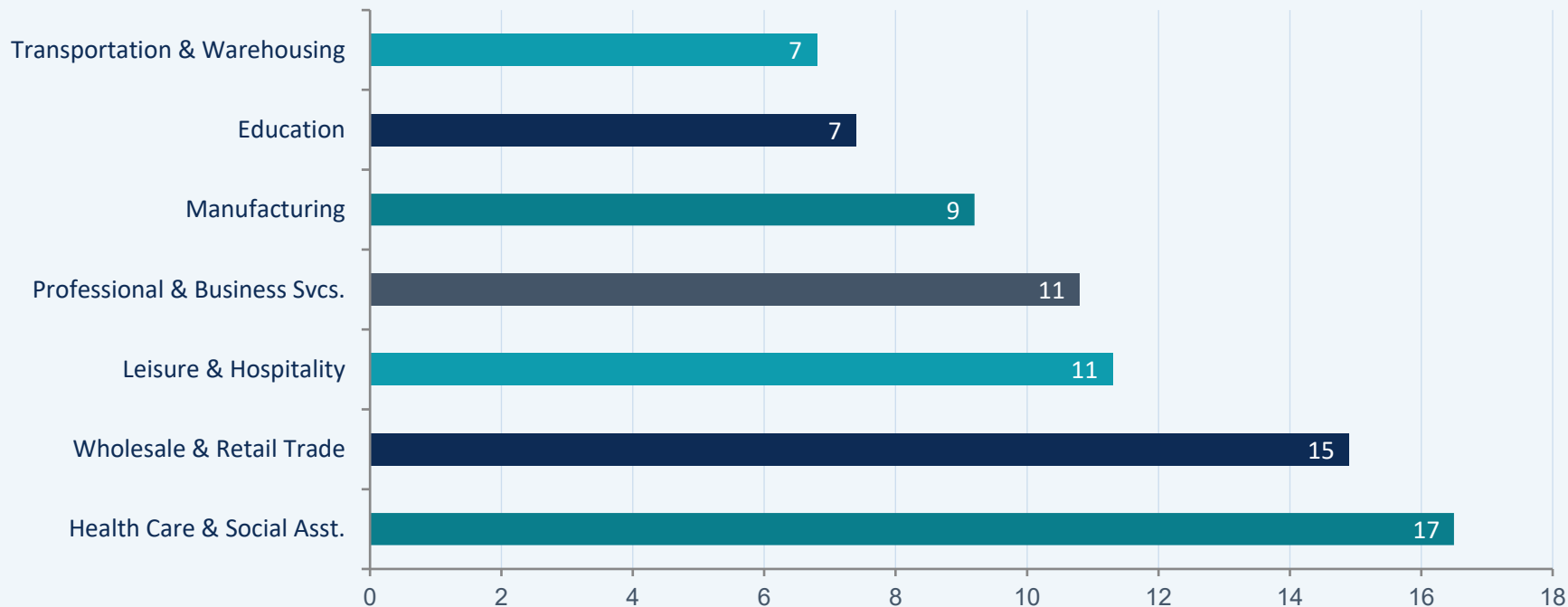
Unemployment Rate

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St. Louis MSA (Dec 2025)

# How Our Region Works

Top Employment Sectors — St. Louis MSA



# Bioscience: The Sector Hidden in Plain Sight

Counted within Health Care & Manufacturing above — but it's a sector of its own

**19,165**

## Bioscience Jobs in Greater St. Louis

836 employers | From startups to Bayer & MilliporeSigma

**\$116K**

## Average Annual Bioscience Wage

2x the St. Louis regional median wage

**1,400**

## Bioscience Jobs to Fill Annually

Many accessible with short-term training — no 4-year degree required



## Bioscience Is Our Growth Corridor

**+53%**

Job growth since 2001 — fastest-growing sector in the region

**90%+**

Graduate placement rate at STLCC's biotech program (BRDG Park)

*FWCA is a named MoBEST host site. The Missouri Job Center connects your members directly into this pipeline.*

# 94,000+ Jobs Added in 10 Years

## Fastest-Growing Sectors (2014 – 2024)

**+16.5%**

**Health Care & Social Assistance**

+32,000 workers

**+25.8%**

**Construction**

+16,000 workers

**+21.8%**

**Transportation & Warehousing**

+12,000 workers



**Small Business Is  
the Growth Engine**

**8,460**

New Startups in 2024

**15,612**

New Jobs Created

**#1**

Startups outpace total regional  
job growth over 10 years

*Health care, retail & professional services  
saw the biggest boosts from new startups.*

## SECTION 3

# The Talent Challenge

What St. Louis employers are navigating in today's labor market

**38%**

of employers still report a shortage of skilled applicants (down from 63% in 2022, but still significant)

**42%**

of employers are NOT investing in employee training — a sharp jump from prior years

**70%**

of employers held staffing levels steady; only 21% grew their teams in the past year

**#1**

Skills gap remains the top hiring challenge — outranking compensation and candidate volume

**~50%**

of employers are testing or already using AI — mostly in customer service & business management

**3.3%**

St. Louis County unemployment (Dec 2025) — the candidate pool is tight for local employers

# What Employers Need — Right Now

## Top Skills in Job Postings

### SOFT SKILLS

- Communication (34% of all postings)
- Customer Service
- Management & Leadership
- Sales

### TECH / SOFTWARE

- Microsoft Office Suite
- SQL & Python
- Project Management tools
- AI Literacy (growing fast)

## Hottest Occupations (Now → 2032)

1

### Registered Nurse

#1 occupation by job postings

2

### Truck Driver

High sustained demand

3

### Home Health Aide

Aging population driver

4

### Software Developer

AI-era role evolution

5

### Business Analyst

Data-driven decision making

PART TWO

# Your Job Center: A Business Resource You May Not Know You Have

Missouri Job Center — St. Louis County  
314-377-0016 | [tdunville@fwca-stl.com](mailto:tdunville@fwca-stl.com)

**All business services are FREE to area employers.**

# Business Services — At No Cost to You



## Candidate Recruitment

We pre-screen and refer qualified candidates to fill open positions — saving you time and reducing cost-per-hire.



## On-the-Job Training (OJT)

Wage reimbursement for employers who hire and train new workers. Typically 50% of wages reimbursed during the training period.



## Apprenticeship Development

Assistance building or connecting to Registered Apprenticeship programs — earn and learn models for any industry.



## Job Fairs & Hiring Events

Custom or regional hiring events organized at no cost, connecting your openings with pre-qualified job seekers.



## Labor Market Intelligence

Real-time LMI reports, wage data, and industry trend analysis to inform your talent and compensation strategy.



## Layoff Aversion & Rapid Response

If your business faces workforce disruption, we mobilize quickly — connecting workers to resources and supporting your transition.

# On-the-Job Training (OJT) & Apprenticeship

## ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- Employer hires a worker who needs skill development
- Job Center reimburses up to 50% of wages during training
- Training period typically 3 – 6 months
- Works for virtually any occupation or industry
- No complex paperwork — we handle the administrative process

## APPRENTICESHIP

- Earn-and-learn model — workers earn wages while gaining credentials
- Registered Apprenticeships lead to industry-recognized certifications
- Works across manufacturing, health care, construction, tech, and more
- Job Center provides free guidance on program setup and registration
- Align apprentices with state and federal workforce funding streams

**OJT & Apprenticeship are the most underutilized — and highest-value — tools available to St. Louis area employers.**

# Getting Started Is Simple

1

## One Conversation

Call or email Tim Dunville or Micheal Anderson, your Business Services Representatives. We meet you at your location — no appointment office required.

2

## Needs Assessment

We listen first. Your hiring challenges, training gaps, or workforce questions drive our response — not a one-size-fits-all program.

3

## Custom Solutions

We match services to your specific needs: OJT contracts, candidate referrals, hiring events, LMI data, or Rapid Response support.

4

## Ongoing Partnership

We stay connected. Workforce needs change — we are a consistent resource, not a one-time transaction.

### CONTACT

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# Thank You

The Missouri Job Center is here to be your talent partner — not just a resource you call when things go wrong.



The St. Louis labor market is tight — skilled candidates are competitive



Skills gaps remain — but targeted training and OJT can close them



Your Job Center offers recruiting, OJT, apprenticeship & LMI at no cost



Chamber of Commerce

# July Membership Luncheon 7.16.26

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