

# Locally, it's biotech, healthcare

In Workforce Region 20, the Treasure Coast, don't look for much opportunity with the federal government. Federal government jobs will actually decrease through 2016, according to the latest report from Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation.

And local government jobs will grow at an average rate, only 1.94 percent.

Some industries, however, are expected to grow much faster than average. When choosing a career, do what the colleges and universities do when they add new programs. Look for areas which are expected to grow.

Port St. Lucie has seen a huge influx of incentives for biotech. That will mean high tech and biotech jobs locally, said Arthur Keiser, chancellor of Keiser University.

Also look to information technology and healthcare to provide a growing number of jobs for Treasure Coast residents over the next 10 years, he said.

"From what I've read, there will be a shortage of people in IT," said Keiser.

Fewer people have been entering information technology career and degree programs even though the rate of technology use is growing. Add to that increasing retirements from the field and we will have IT jobs that go unfilled in the future.

"And the demand for nurses is outstripping the supply," Keiser noted. "It makes sense because you're dealing with an aging population. The need for healthcare workers will continue to grow."

And, despite their low growth rate, local governments will still add the highest number of jobs, 464 jobs

## Top 12 growth industries through 2016

Listed below are the number a new jobs annually/ added percent growth for each of the top 12 industries listed.

Industry	Jobs Added	Annual Growth %	Average Hourly Wage
1. Local government	464 jobs	1.94%	\$9.85
2. Ambulatory health care services	411 jobs	3.79%	\$12.06
3. Specialty trade contractors	345 jobs	3.13%	\$25.78
4. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	330 jobs	3.57%	\$18.77
5. Food services, drinking places	283 jobs	1.85%	\$28.82
6. Administrative and support services	250 jobs	2.22%	\$17.52
7. Social assistance	242 jobs	5.63%	\$20.58
8. Amusement, gambling, recreation industries	167 jobs	3.26%	\$12.93
9. General merchandise stores	152 jobs	2.41%	\$24.46
10. Nursing and residential care facilities	146 jobs	2.45%	\$12.69
11. Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	142 jobs	2.98%	\$31.28
12. Hospitals	120 jobs	1.68%	\$13.19

Listed below are the top 12 growth jobs through 2016

each year, not including the number of people hired to replace workers who leave.

"No matter what field you choose, the key is going to be lifelong learning," Keiser said. Continuing education will be critical to maintain employment in an era marked by rapid technology changes and in-

creases in knowledge and information.

- according to percentage of growth / average hourly wage.
1. Home health aides
  2. Social and human service assistants
  3. Medical and public health social workers
  4. Child, family, and school social workers
  5. Network systems and data communications analysts
  6. Security and fire alarm systems installers
  7. Paralegals and legal assistants
  8. Pharmacy technicians
  9. Surveyors
  10. Veterinary technologists and technicians
  11. Physician assistants
  12. Medical assistants

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation data for 2008 to 2016 in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

So when deciding on a career, do what the colleges and universities do — select growth areas. And on the Treasure Coast, those growth areas will be dominated by high tech, biotech and healthcare.