

The Future Workforce

AUSTIN LABOR MARKET INSIGHTS + COMMUNITY IMPACTS



KEY TAKEAWAYS

A Coordinated Talent Advantage

- Central Texas' economic growth is supported by a coordinated regional talent pipeline aligned to high-demand industries like healthcare, STEM, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades.
- With more than **115,000** students across key career pathways, the region demonstrates strong capacity to develop and sustain a workforce ready for regional employers.
- Employer engagement through coordinated efforts strengthens career awareness, work-based learning, and job-ready talent outcomes.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

K-12 Students Enrolled in Industry-Aligned Courses

The greater Austin area economic growth is powered by more than innovation—it is sustained by a strong, coordinated talent pipeline. This data reflects high school student participation in credential- and degree-aligned programs that prepare talent for high-demand careers across the 10-county region. From advanced manufacturing and semiconductor technologies to healthcare, STEM, and skilled trades, these programs demonstrate the region's capacity to develop, retain, and grow a workforce ready to support new and expanding employers in the area.

	HEALTHCARE	50,000
	SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING, & MATH	46,500
	SEMICONDUCTOR & ADVANCED MFG.	13,400
	SKILLED TRADES	6,500

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2024 Programs of Study Report

INDUSTRY JOB OPENINGS

January 2026 labor market data shows thousands of job postings across key industry sectors:

- Healthcare **9,139**
- STEM **7,101**
- Semiconductor & Advanced Mfg. **1,418**
- Skilled Trades **1,145**

Source: Opportunity Austin, Lightcast HWOL, Job Postings, 2026

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AREAS

Building Talent Together

Opportunity Austin, Workforce Solutions Capital Area and Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area coordinate with employers to strengthen the future workforce by connecting companies to impactful K-12 engagement opportunities. We streamline connections with local school districts and students so you can efficiently share career knowledge and offer valuable work-based learning experiences.

Career Awareness & Exploration

Spark interest in your industry early by helping students learn about real careers and the skills needed to succeed through guest speaking, career kits, sharing materials, and more.

Workplace Exposure & Experiences

Motivate future talent by giving students firsthand insight into your work environment through field trip tours, job shadowing, mock interviews, and teacher externships.

Work-Based Learning & Talent Development

Build a strong hiring pipeline by developing students' practical skills through internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship.

Curriculum & Skills Alignment

Ensure graduates are job-ready by shaping curriculum and certifications to match real industry needs.

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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Future Workforce Engagement in Action

Explore how regional partners are turning collaboration into action. Click or scan to connect with each organization's K-12 workforce opportunities.



Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Connecting Rural Talent to Regional Opportunity

In 2025, Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area led the Bridging the Gap event series to strengthen connections between educators and industry leaders across the region. These convenings translated collaboration into action—creating **88** work-based learning opportunities for students across three counties. By engaging employers from key industries, the series expanded access to real-world career experiences while ensuring rural and regional talent is connected to the workforce needs of a growing Central Texas economy.

GET CONNECTED



Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Equipping Educators to Build Job-Ready Talent

Workforce Solutions Capital Area's annual Educator Externship Program connects educators directly with industry to strengthen career pathways for students across Central Texas. In 2025, more than **100** educators participated from Austin, Del Valle, Elgin, Manor, and Pflugerville ISDs, along with Austin Community College, Goodwill's Excel Center, and the Austin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Through hands-on industry experiences, educators gained real-world insights that translate into classroom instruction aligned with employer needs—helping students graduate with the skills required to succeed in today's workforce.

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Opportunity Austin

Partnering on In-Demand Career Exploration

Opportunity Austin and the ACC Make It Center teamed up to introduce students from Austin, Del Valle, Manor, and Pflugerville ISDs to semiconductor and advanced manufacturing pathways. Workshops included photolithography demos and info on dual credit and degree opportunities. Additional sessions explored in-demand fields like healthcare and skilled trades. Building on this momentum, OA and ACC are planning 10 events in 2026 and engaging employers to help students explore careers firsthand. The series also complements OA's TRIO partnership with Texas State, expanding access for first-gen students.

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