


WATER WORKFORCE Opportunities

Building an Inclusive, High-Skilled Workforce for Southeast Louisiana's Growing Economy

The Southeast Louisiana Super Region is advancing. 

We are witnessing rapid growth in several industry sectors and clusters in our region, including Water Management.



The **Water Management** cluster provides an **ideal growth opportunity** for the region

There are many factors that contribute to this cluster:



Planned investments from the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)



Local parishes taxing themselves to fund levees and other protection systems



Private industries along the coast turning their attention to coastal protection measures

The Water Management industry offers relatively **high-paying jobs**



requiring **low-to-moderate levels of training and education.**

In 2014, half of the top 20 jobs in the **Water Management** industry didn't require an associate's or bachelor's degree.

15 of the top 20 jobs paid more than the regional median earnings for Southeastern Louisiana, at \$18.73.

6 of these 15 jobs did not require a bachelor's degree

Occupation	Median Hrly. Wage
Construction Laborers	\$13.28
1st line of Construction Trades	\$28.07
Managers	\$39.26
Helpers	\$13.99
Operating Engineers	\$17.56
Welders	\$20.97
Carpenters	\$17.93
Structural Iron/Steel workers	\$18.66
Plumbers & Pipefitters	\$21.67
Computer Support Specialists	\$23.15
Architectural & Civil Drafters	\$24.81
Civil Engineers	\$45.49
Mechanical Engineers	\$43.49
Financial Managers	\$42.16
Engineers, All Other	\$37.43
Computer Programmers	\$31.18
Management Analyst	\$31.15
Computer Systems Analyst	\$29.09
Accountants & Auditors	\$28.58
Construction Managers	\$37.55

■ Short-term training ■ Associate's Degree
■ High School Diploma ■ Bachelor's Degree
■ Some College

The Water Management cluster continues to grow!



More than

3,500

jobs between 2010 and 2014 were created in the **top 20 Water Management occupations** in our region.

New jobs + Retirements will yield more than

12,000

jobs by 2019 in those **top 20 occupations.**

Employers can boost prosperity in the region by recruiting locally, particularly among people of color, because:

The Super Region will become a "majority minority" by 2054.



How will this happen?

In 2010



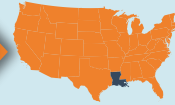
29%
of those older than 64
were people of color

42%
of those 18-64
were people of color

51%
of those younger than
18 were people of color

$f(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Assuming no net in-migration and factoring} \\ \text{in birth and death rates, we can easily} \\ \text{calculate how close we are to this change.} \end{array} \right\}$

And, the nation will become a "majority minority" even faster, by 2044.



There are many steps that can be taken to connect minorities to job opportunities:



Funders can invest in water management as an equity opportunity



Schools can prepare students and promote careers in water management



Business leaders can expand their pool of candidates by boosting efforts to recruit people of color



Louisianans must support policies that better train and educate our workforce in order to continue our economic growth

By expanding inclusive workforce development, we can build a strong and capable labor force that can take on the challenges of tomorrow.

Go to coastalindex.org!



THE DATA CENTER

Independent Analysis for Informed Decisions in Southeast Louisiana

SOURCES

The Water Workers: Workforce Opportunities in Water Management in Southeastern Louisiana, 2014
Building an Inclusive, High-Skilled Workforce for New Orleans' Next Economy, 2012
U.S. Census Bureau