**Healthcare Support Occupations** is projected t**o** add 1,469 new jobs to the state economy, an increase of 3.75 percent. Of the 5,196 annual job openings, 2,296 are for those created from employees leaving the workforce, while 2,166 are from people changing jobs. Growth and expansion accounts for 734 annual openings.

**2-Year Projected (2018-2020) Growth Rate: 3.75%  
Biggest Gain: Nursing Assistants (31-1014) – 502 jobs  
Fastest Gain: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2021) – 6.72%   
Biggest and Fastest Loser: Medical Transcriptionist (31-9094) – 7 jobs (1.35%)**

**Fastest Loser:**

**Short-Term Outlook 2018-2020**

**Healthcare Support Occupations (31-0000)**

The ***Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides*** occupational family is anticipating 934 new jobs, an increase of 3.42 percent. Nursing Assistants are set to add 502 of those, making the Top 20 Growing Occupations list. Home Health Aides could add an additional 414 to its ranks. The occupational family is expecting around 3,555 annual job openings.

***Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides*** is predicted to increase jobs by 98, an increase of 6.03 percent. Physical Therapist Assistants is projected to add the most in the occupational family with a gain of 62, while Physical Therapist Aides could be the fastest growing occupation in **Healthcare Support** adding 6.72 percent to its workforce. Around 247 job openings are anticipated annually in the occupational family.

The ***Other Healthcare Support Occupations*** occupational family is estimated to increase employment by 437, or a gain of 4.27 percent. Medical Assistants is set to add 186 new jobs to its workforce, while Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers could increase employment by 6.37 percent. ***Other Healthcare Support Occupations*** as a whole is projected to have 1,393 job openings annually.

**Workforce Development Area Outlook  
Healthcare Support Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Workforce Development Area** | **2018 Estimated Employment** | **2020 Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Openings- Exits** | **Annual Openings-Transfers** | **Annual Openings-Change** | **Annual Openings- Total** |
| Northwest Arkansas | 7,354 | 7,758 | 404 | 5.49% | 432 | 414 | 202 | 1,048 |
| North Central Arkansas | 2,504 | 2,591 | 87 | 3.47% | 148 | 138 | 44 | 330 |
| Northeast Arkansas | 3,460 | 3,599 | 139 | 4.02% | 202 | 192 | 70 | 464 |
| Western Arkansas | 3,663 | 3,786 | 123 | 3.36% | 216 | 198 | 62 | 476 |
| West Central Arkansas | 3,466 | 3,586 | 120 | 3.46% | 206 | 190 | 60 | 456 |
| Central Arkansas | 4,690 | 4,792 | 102 | 2.17% | 272 | 260 | 51 | 583 |
| City of Little Rock | 7,018 | 7,258 | 240 | 3.42% | 402 | 388 | 120 | 910 |
| Eastern Arkansas | 1,214 | 1,241 | 27 | 2.22% | 70 | 68 | 14 | 152 |
| Southwest Arkansas | 2,272 | 2,345 | 73 | 3.21% | 136 | 122 | 36 | 294 |
| Southeast Arkansas | 2,668 | 2,709 | 41 | 1.54% | 158 | 142 | 20 | 320 |