**Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is projected to add 2,583 new jobs to the state economy, an increase of 3.01 percent. Of the 6,019 annual job openings, 2,370 are for those created from employees leaving the workforce, while 2,357 are from people changing jobs. Growth and expansion accounts for 1,292 annual openings

**2-Year Projected (2018-2020) Growth Rate: 3.01%  
Biggest Gain: Registered Nurses (29-1141) – 693 jobs  
Fastest Gain: Nurse Practitioners (29-1171) – 7.06%   
Biggest and Fastest Loser: Respiratory Therapy Technicians (29-2054) – 32 jobs (11.07%)**

**Short-Term Outlook 2018-2020**

**Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (29-0000)**

The ***Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners*** occupational family is anticipating 1,644 new jobs, an increase of 3.40 percent. Registered Nurses are set to add 693 of those, placing sixth in the Top 20 Growing Occupations list. Nurse Practitioners could be the fastest growing occupation in the major group increasing employment by 7.06 percent. In all, five occupations are anticipating more than 100 new jobs. The occupational family is expecting around 3,037 annual job openings.

***Health Technologists and Technicians*** is predicted to increase jobs by 902, an increase of 2.51 percent. Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses is estimated to add 235 new jobs, while Pharmacy Technicians is slated to add 267. Veterinary Technologists and Technicians is projected to increase jobs by 5.70 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, Respiratory Therapy Technicians is predicted to lose 11.07 percent of its workforce, or 32 jobs. Around 2,885 annual job openings are anticipated annually for the occupational family.

The ***Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations*** occupational family is estimated to add 37 new jobs, a 2.40 percent gain.The occupational family anticipates around 95 annual job openings during the 2018-2020 projection period.

**Workforce Development Area Outlook  
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical 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 | 14,941 | 15,511 | 570 | 3.82% | 406 | 400 | 285 | 1,091 |
| North Central Arkansas | 6,284 | 6,478 | 194 | 3.09% | 172 | 179 | 97 | 448 |
| Northeast Arkansas | 8,381 | 8,687 | 306 | 3.65% | 232 | 236 | 153 | 621 |
| Western Arkansas | 6,524 | 6,564 | 40 | 0.61% | 183 | 173 | 20 | 376 |
| West Central Arkansas | 7,050 | 7,303 | 253 | 3.59% | 198 | 198 | 126 | 522 |
| Central Arkansas | 10,533 | 10,909 | 376 | 3.57% | 292 | 294 | 188 | 774 |
| City of Little Rock | 20,112 | 20,666 | 554 | 2.75% | 547 | 520 | 277 | 1,344 |
| Eastern Arkansas | 1,953 | 1,970 | 17 | 0.87% | 53 | 56 | 8 | 117 |
| Southwest Arkansas | 5,006 | 5,170 | 164 | 3.28% | 148 | 152 | 82 | 382 |
| Southeast Arkansas | 4,261 | 4,318 | 57 | 1.34% | 118 | 116 | 28 | 262 |