



Career Outlook

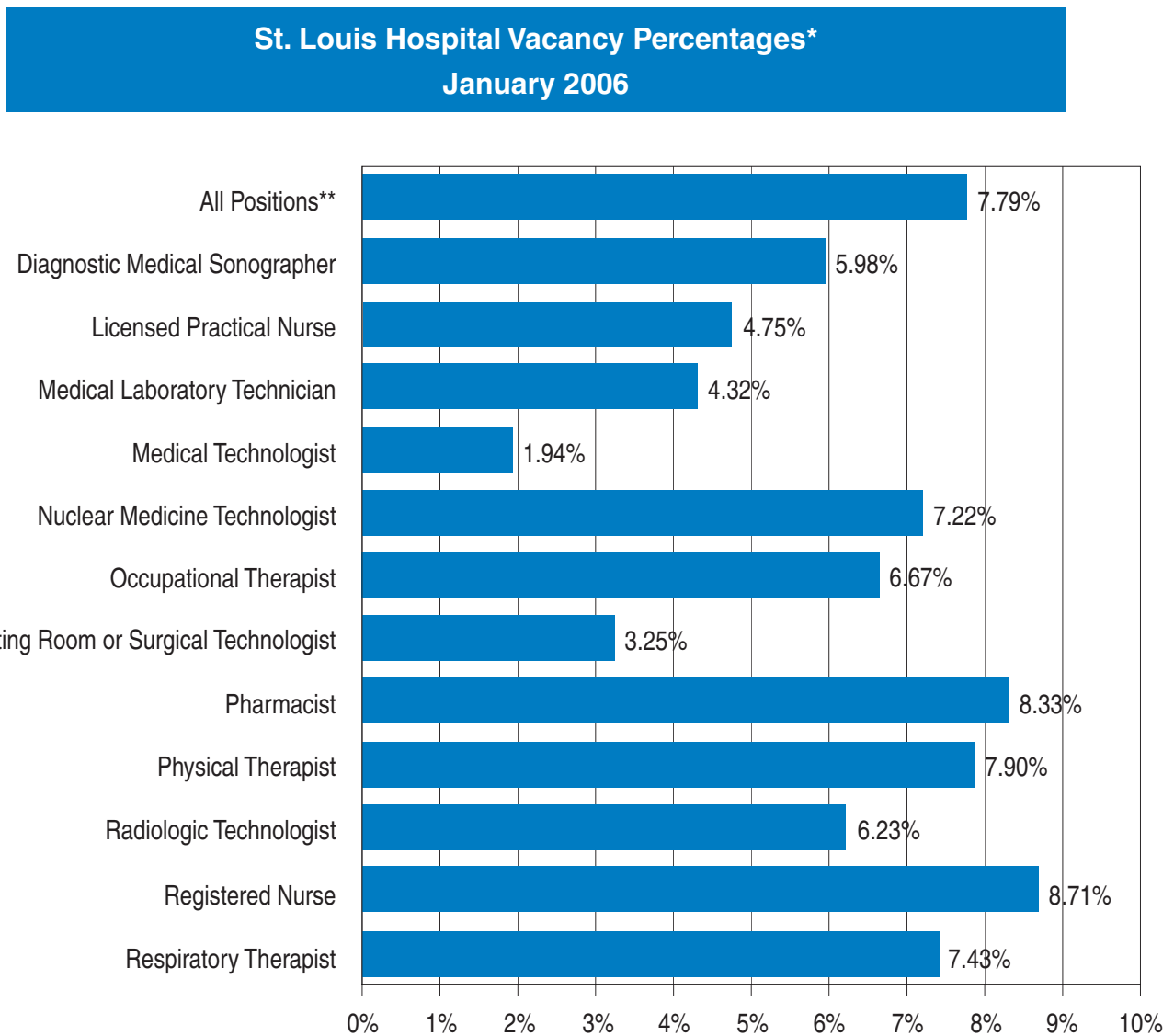
Demand for Health Care
Careers in St. Louis — 2006

Demand for Health Care Careers

The demand for health care jobs in the St. Louis metropolitan area is increasing steadily. Many of our area hospitals and health care providers are in great need of qualified and well-trained employees.

Which careers are in demand right now?

The health care industry is experiencing employee shortages in many areas, unlike many other industries that have been downsizing. The graph below shows some of the careers that currently are in high demand in St. Louis. For example, nearly 9 percent of registered nurse positions in hospitals were vacant in January 2006.



Source: Missouri Hospital Association Workforce Survey 2006

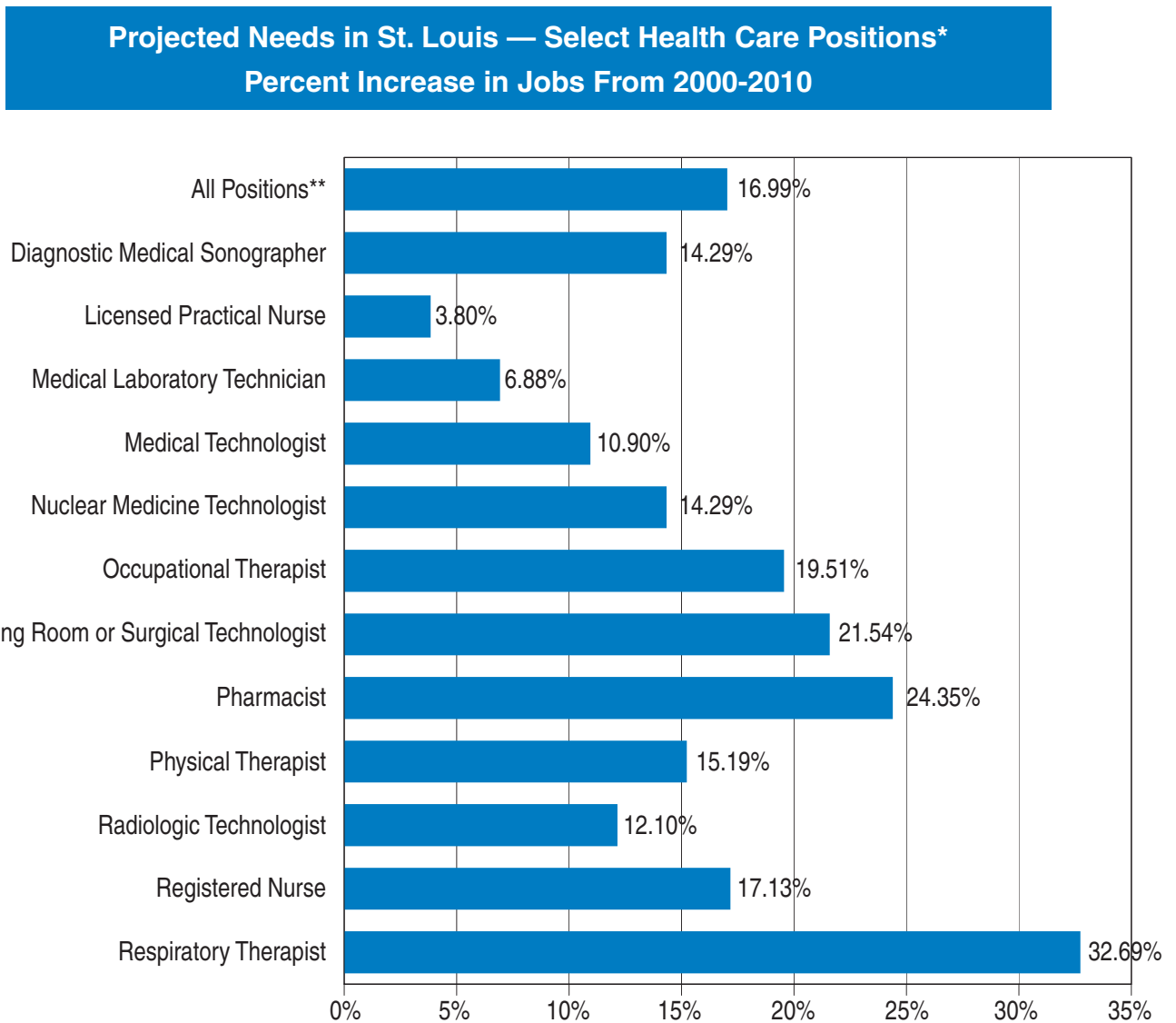
* Vacancy percentages are based on full-time equivalents.

** "All Positions" refers to the average of the 12 positions on this chart.

Health Care Career Projections

What is the growth potential of health care careers?

In 2010, health care careers are projected to remain in high demand. Job vacancies will continue as the baby boomer generation retires and people live longer. There will be a large number of health care employment options in various settings. Health careers are challenging, exciting and on the leading edge of technology. The following graph shows a sample of these career choices and how much they are expected to grow during the next few years.



Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center

* Please refer to the "Long-term Employment Projections" table on Page 4 for more career projections.

** "All Positions" is the average of the 32 careers listed in the "Long-term Employment Projections" table on Page 4.

Benefits of a Health Care Career

What are some of the benefits of health care careers?

Health care careers are in high demand. This naturally leads to job security and advancement opportunities, as well as attractive salary and benefits packages. Because of high demand and current workforce shortages, federal, state and local programs are promoting educational scholarships, on-the-job training, tuition-reimbursement programs and work-study programs.

Careers in health care also can allow great flexibility in work schedules. Most jobs offer full-time or part-time positions, any time of the day, any day of the week. And, most health care jobs can't be outsourced — jobs will remain here in St. Louis.

Best of all, by choosing a career in health care, you can help make a difference in people's lives.

Long-term Projections in Health Care Careers

The table on Page 4 shows a more extensive list of health care occupations available in St. Louis. It includes detailed information about the number of positions currently available and the projected need to fill these jobs. An overall rating of each occupation's long-term outlook is provided using the following scale.

Long-term Outlook Rating

- ★★★★★ **Outstanding** — High growth is expected in a very large field.
- ★★★★ **Great** — Growth is expected, and there will be many openings.
- ★★★ **Good** — Growth is expected, but there will be fewer openings.
- ★★ **Fair** — Jobs are declining, but openings will occur to replace workers leaving the occupation.
- ★ **Caution** — Few openings are expected because of a small field or declining employment.

Long-term Employment Projections — St. Louis

Occupation	Number of Jobs		Projected Need 2000-2010		Annual Average Openings Per Year	Hospital Vacancy Rate by Position 2006	Long-term Outlook Rating
	2000	2010	Number	Percent			
Dental Assistant	2,690	3,280	590	21.93%	107	NA	★★★★★
Dental Hygienist	750	910	160	21.33%	27	NA	★★★
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	560	640	80	14.29%	20	5.98%	★★★
Dietetic Technician	450	540	90	20.00%	22	NA	★★★
Dietitian and Nutritionist	500	520	20	4.00%	16	NA	★★★
Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic	2,920	3,460	540	18.49%	128	NA	★★★★★
Health Professional and Technician, All Other	1,340	1,510	170	12.69%	52	NA	★★★
Home Health Aide	4,000	4,560	560	14.00%	106	NA	★★★★★
Licensed Practical Nurse	7,100	7,370	270	3.80%	209	4.75%	★★★★★
Massage Therapist	160	170	10	6.25%	5	NA	★
Medical and Public Health Social Worker	1,190	1,450	260	21.85%	39	NA	★★★
Medical Laboratory Technician	2,470	2,640	170	6.88%	75	4.32%	★★★★★
Medical Technologist	2,110	2,340	230	10.90%	73	1.94%	★★★★★
Medical Records and Health Information Technician	1,700	2,110	410	24.12%	79	NA	★★★★★
Medical Transcriptionist	1,350	1,550	200	14.81%	56	NA	★★★★★
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	210	240	30	14.29%	8	7.22%	★★★
Nursing Aide, Orderly, Attendant	15,850	18,070	2,220	14.01%	424	NA	★★★★★
Occupational Therapist	820	980	160	19.51%	37	6.67%	★★★
Occupational Therapist Assistant	310	380	70	22.58%	16	NA	★★★
Operating Room or Surgical Technologist	650	790	140	21.54%	31	3.25%	★★★
Pharmacist	2,300	2,860	560	24.35%	124	8.33%	★★★★★
Pharmacy Technician	2,170	2,930	760	35.02%	132	NA	★★★★★
Physical Therapist	1,580	1,820	240	15.19%	64	7.90%	★★★★★
Physical Therapist Aide	330	410	80	24.24%	18	NA	★★★
Physical Therapist Assistant	1,010	1,260	250	24.75%	55	NA	★★★★★
Psychiatric Aide	440	460	20	4.55%	8	NA	★
Radiation Therapist	340	380	40	11.76%	11	NA	★★★
Radiologic Technologist	1,570	1,760	190	12.10%	53	6.23%	★★★
Recreational Therapist	360	360	0	0.00%	10	NA	★
Registered Nurse	26,440	30,970	4,530	17.13%	988	8.71%	★★★★★
Respiratory Therapist	1,040	1,380	340	32.69%	60	7.43%	★★★★★
Respiratory Therapy Technician	230	310	80	34.78%	14	NA	★★★

Source: Missouri Hospital Association Workforce Survey 2006 and Missouri Economic Research and Information Center

More Information

There are many organizations and resources available to help you learn more about health care careers. For example, St. Louis Health Care Workforce Partners has developed www.stlhealthcareers.com, a Web site dedicated to providing information about health care careers in St. Louis. You will find a career directory with salaries, job profiles, career paths, career planning tools, links to colleges and universities, links to other important Web sites and much more.

Other Web sites providing valuable information about health care careers include the following.

- Missouri Hospital Association — www.mhanet.com
- National League for Nursing — www.nln.org/careers/index.htm
- Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow — www.nursesource.org/career_info.html
- Occupational Information Network — <http://online.onetcenter.org>
- The Campaign for Nursing's Future — www.discovernursing.com

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