**Community and Social Service Occupations** is projected to add 1,099 new jobs to the state economy. At 4.22 percent, the major group could be the second fastest growing in the state. Of the 3,400 annual job openings, 1,112 are for those created from employees leaving the workforce, while 1,738 are from people changing jobs. Growth and expansion accounts for 550 annual openings.

**2-Year Projected (2018-2020) Growth Rate: 4.22%  
Biggest and Fastest Gain: Clergy (21-2011) – 482 jobs (5.75%)  
Biggest and Fastest Loser: None**

**Short-Term Outlook 2018-2020**

**Community and Social Service Occupations (21-0000)**

The ***Counselors, Social Workers, and Other Community and Social Service Specialists*** occupational family is anticipating 482 new jobs, an increase of 3.16 percent. Social and Human Service Assistants is predicted to add 135 new jobs, a 3.51 percent increase, while Mental Health Counselors could raise employment by 5.22 percent. The occupational family is expecting around 1,866 annual job openings.

The ***Religious Workers*** occupational familyis predicted to increase jobs by 617, an increase of 5.73 percent. Clergy is estimated to increase by 482, a 5.75 percent growth, making the Top 20 Growing Occupations list. Around 1,534 annual job openings are anticipated annually in the occupational family.

**Workforce Development Area Outlook  
Community and Social Service 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 | 4,493 | 4,792 | 299 | 6.65% | 196 | 303 | 150 | 649 |
| North Central Arkansas | 1,645 | 1,670 | 25 | 1.52% | 69 | 108 | 12 | 189 |
| Northeast Arkansas | 2,168 | 2,263 | 95 | 4.38% | 90 | 146 | 48 | 284 |
| Western Arkansas | 2,153 | 2,228 | 75 | 3.48% | 92 | 144 | 38 | 274 |
| West Central Arkansas | 3,100 | 3,249 | 149 | 4.81% | 131 | 206 | 74 | 411 |
| Central Arkansas | 4,282 | 4,484 | 202 | 4.72% | 188 | 286 | 101 | 575 |
| City of Little Rock | 4,735 | 4,875 | 140 | 2.96% | 202 | 314 | 70 | 586 |
| Eastern Arkansas | 1,049 | 1,079 | 30 | 2.86% | 44 | 70 | 15 | 129 |
| Southwest Arkansas | 1,579 | 1,566 | -13 | -0.82% | 65 | 101 | -6 | 160 |
| Southeast Arkansas | 1,874 | 1,889 | 15 | 0.80% | 78 | 123 | 8 | 209 |