This report projects direct job opportunities in the oil & natural gas and petrochemical industries through 2030 across the nine U.S. Census regions. It is a supplement to the recently released IHS report on minority and female employment in these industries.

KEY FINDINGS

• The West South Central region is projected to have the most growth across nearly all segments, totaling more than 508,000 job opportunities, or 40% of total US job opportunities through 2030.

• Blue collar occupations, particularly skilled and semi-skilled, are projected to make up over 60% of employment opportunities in the region.

• The West South Central region is projected to account for the highest share of job opportunities in the upstream sector, and in the petrochemical industry.

• The share of minority employment in the West South Central region is projected to grow through 2030.

Projected Job Opportunities
by 2030 in the oil and natural gas and petrochemicals industries in the West South Central region.

508,109
Job Opportunities by Occupation

The study looks at employment in eight broad occupation categories. The pie chart at right shows how the job opportunities in the West South Central (WSC) region are split between these occupation categories.

These results show:

- More than 60% of the employment opportunities are projected to be in blue collar occupations, most of which will be skilled and semi-skilled. This suggests tremendous opportunity for workers with a high-school diploma and some post-secondary training.

- There are also significant opportunities in management and professional jobs, which make up just over 25% of the job opportunities projected in the West South Central region. These jobs require training in fields such as engineering, geoscience, management, business and finance, and as technicians.

Job Opportunities by Segment

Across the industry segments, the West South Central region accounts for the dominant shares of employment opportunities in both the upstream segment of the oil & gas industry, and the petrochemical industry. In fact, nearly 90% of the growth projected for the petrochemical industry over the period will occur in the WSC region.

Job Opportunities for Minority and Female Workers

There are significant opportunities for minority and female workers in the oil & gas and petrochemical industries—these groups represent a critically vital and available talent pool to help meet the demands of the projected growth and expansion.

Partly because of its large share of total job opportunities, the West South Central region is projected to account for more job opportunities for minority and female workers than any other region.

The WSC region will account for:

- 49% of total projected job opportunities for the African American population.
- 52% of total projected job opportunities for the Hispanic population.
- 41% of total projected job opportunities for women.

Hispanics are particularly well-situated to take advantage of the projected job growth—they account for one-fourth of the workforce in the West South Central region. However, the existence of significant job opportunities can stimulate people to move—the WSC region is projected to see a net inflow of both the Hispanic and African American populations over the period 2010-2030.

- Total employment for the Hispanic population in WSC is expected to increase by 3.7 million over the 2010-2030 period, more than in any other region.
- The WSC region will rank second in growth of employment of African Americans at more than 730,000.
- The job estimates presented in the report for African American, Hispanic, and female workers are based on current and projected trends in factors such as labor force participation rates and educational attainment. As such, these job projections should not be viewed as a ceiling. As interest and training are directed to women and minority groups, they will be competitive for the more than 508,000 job opportunities in this region.