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From the Baltimore Business Journal:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2017/03/02/baltimore-county-expects-these-industries-to-to.html>

Baltimore County expects these industries to drive employment

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Mar 2, 2017, 1:39pm EST Updated: Mar 2, 2017, 1:42pm EST

Baltimore County officials have targeted nine industries they suspect will lead the county's economic development over the next 10 years.

A new study from the county shows that its labor force is expected to grow 6.4 percent by 2024 to 553,600, up from 519,900 in 2015. That count does not factor in potential jobs created by the overhaul of Sparrows Point, where Tradepoint Atlantic is hoping to create up to 17,000 new jobs over the next 10 years. Companies including Under Armour and FedEx have signed on to open up distribution hubs at the site.

The county will be dependent on the nine industries to help spur growth, the report found, but not all are expected to increase their workforce.

The nine industries are:

- Corporate operations centers/Shared services
- Federal agencies
- Health care
- Information technology services
- Manufacturing
- Port Industries, logistics and distribution centers
- Construction
- Financial services
- Public and private higher education

Among those, the IT industry is expected to grow the fastest. The report, conducted by the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute and Columbia-based Lipman Frizzell & Mitchell, predicts that the industry will grow 19 percent by 2024, and will employ 8,724 in the county by then.

In all, these nine areas are expected to make up 51 percent of Baltimore County's total employment by 2024.

But three of them — federal agencies, manufacturing and port industries — are projected to lose jobs by 2024. Still, the county is hoping to capitalize on these industries and attempt to reverse the downward trends, said Will Anderson, the director of economic and workforce development for the county.

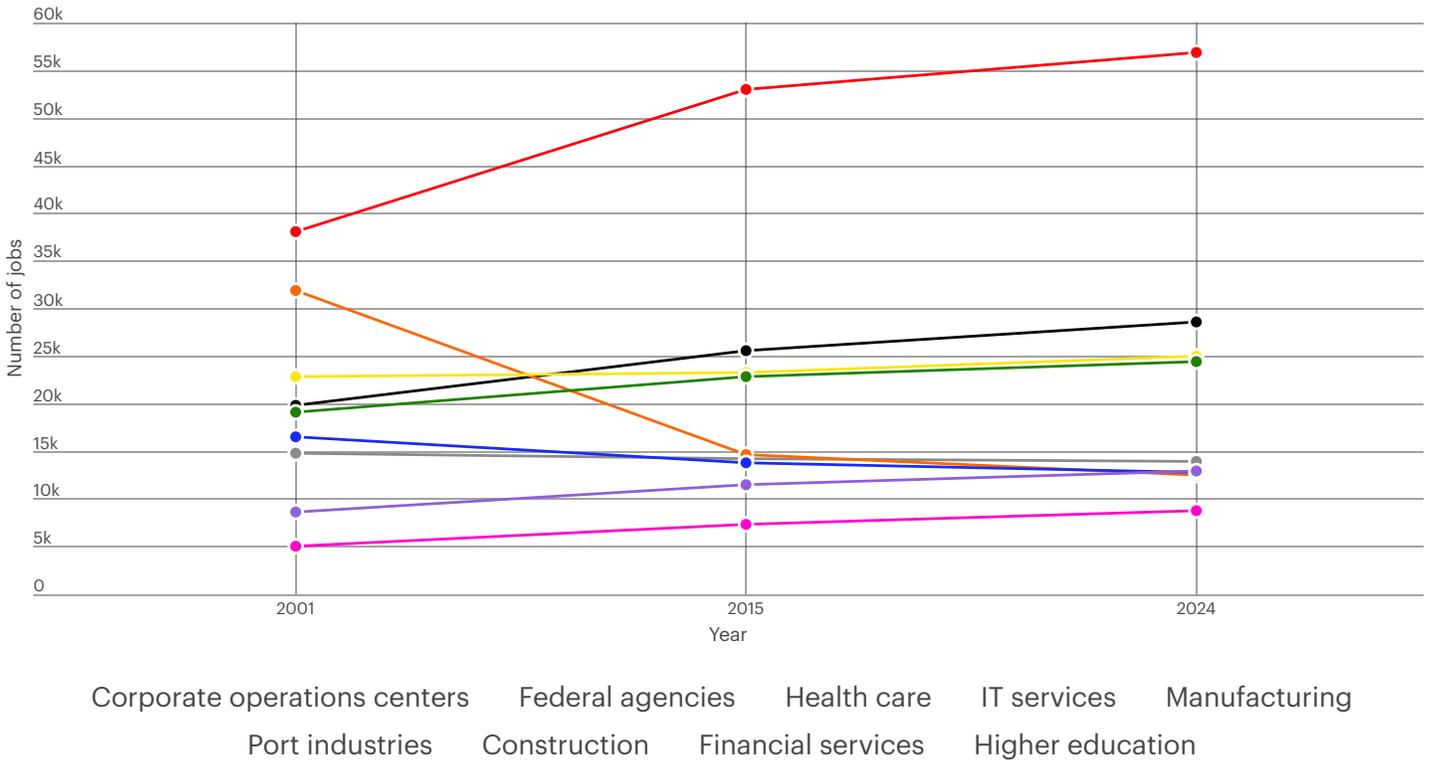
Use the graphic below to see the outlook for each of the nine key industries.



JACLYN BOROWSKI

The health care industry is expected to make up for over 56,000 jobs in Baltimore County by 2024.

Current and projected employment in Baltimore County's nine major industries



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Researchers base their predictions off previous job growth figures dating back to 2001.

The findings are likely to give a glimpse into employment in the rest of the state. Workers in Baltimore County made about 13 percent of all of Maryland's total wages in the third quarter of 2016, according to data from the state's [Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation](#). Only workers in Baltimore City and Montgomery County brought in more wages during that period.

The study recommends that, in order to meet the demands of jobs growth in these industries, the county must focus on retention of skilled workers and should partner with educational institutions to direct workforce training programs to these specific areas.

"The primary workforce opportunity and challenge facing Baltimore County is addressing and capitalizing on the county's position as a net exporter of talent," the report states. "Tapping into this pool of workers by promoting the retention of talent and enhancing higher skilled local employment opportunities is a critical opportunity for the County."

Anderson said the government is using these findings to hone their job training and recruitment programs to train the next generation of workers in industries where they can quickly find jobs.

"This study validated a couple of things: We hire highly skilled people in our industry, and we have a diverse set of industries," Anderson said. "The question for us is, how do we see as an opportunity to get people on the trail of [learning] higher skills?"

For example, the county recently partnered with Johns Hopkins Medicine to host a career fair for interested job applicants to learn about what skills and education they would need to enter the health care field.

The findings for the county line up with national trends through 2024. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that three of the five fastest-growing occupations in the country— occupational therapy assistant, physical therapy assistant and physical therapy aide — are in the health care industry.

You can read through the complete report [here](#).

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