


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Radiologic Technologists/Technicians SOC # 29-2034	
Regional	200	300	50.00%	10		
Texas	13,400	17,400	29.90%	585		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Regionally	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
Associate Degree	No	\$23.47	64.9%	37.3	Low	Equal Growth/ Replacement

JOB DESCRIPTION

Take X-rays and CAT scans or administer nonradioactive materials into patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes. Include technologists who specialize in other modalities, such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance. Include workers whose primary duties are to demonstrate portions of the human body on X-ray film or fluoroscopic screen.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Physicians
- Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories
- Employment Services
- Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals
- Federal Government, Except Education

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

- CIP 510911 Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

- ARTS AND HUMANITIES
 - * English Language
- BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
 - * Customer and Personal Service
- ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
 - * Computers and Electronics
- HEALTH SERVICES
 - * Medicine and Dentistry
- MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
 - * Physics

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- CONTENT
 - * Active Listening
 - * Reading Comprehension
 - * Science
 - * Speaking * Writing
- PROCESS
 - * Active Learning
 - * Critical Thinking
 - * Learning Strategies
- SOCIAL SKILLS
 - * Coordination
 - * Instructing
 - * Service Orientation

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

- AUDITORY AND SPEECH ABILITIES
 - * Speech Clarity
- CONTROL MOVEMENT ABILITIES
 - * Control Precision
- IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES
 - * Problem Sensitivity
- VERBAL ABILITIES
 - * Oral Comprehension * Oral Expression
 - * Written Comprehension

NATURE OF THE WORK: Radiologic Technologists/Technicians

Radiologic technologists and technicians take x rays and administer nonradioactive materials into patients' bloodstreams for diagnostic purposes. Some specialize in diagnostic imaging technologies, such as computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

In addition to radiologic technologists and technicians, others who conduct diagnostic imaging procedures include cardiovascular technologists and technicians, diagnostic medical sonographers, and nuclear medicine technologists.

Radiologic technologists and technicians, also referred to as radiographers, produce x-ray films (radiographs) of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. They prepare patients for radiologic examinations by explaining the procedure, removing articles such as jewelry, through which x rays cannot pass, and positioning patients so that the parts of the body can be appropriately radiographed. To prevent unnecessary exposure to radiation, these workers surround the exposed area with radiation protection devices, such as lead shields, or limit the size of the x-ray beam. Radiographers position radiographic equipment at the correct angle and height over the appropriate area of a patient's body. Using instruments similar to a measuring tape, they may measure the thickness of the section to be radiographed and set controls on the x-ray machine to produce radiographs of the appropriate density, detail, and contrast. They place the x-ray film under the part of the patient's body to be examined and make the exposure. They then remove the film and develop it.

Experienced radiographers may perform more complex imaging procedures. For fluoroscopies, radiographers prepare a solution of contrast medium for the patient to drink, allowing the radiologist (a physician who interprets radiographs) to see soft tissues in the body. Some radiographers, called CT technologists, operate CT scanners to produce cross-sectional images of patients. Radiographers who operate machines that use strong magnets and radio waves, rather than radiation, to create an image are called MRI technologists.

Radiologic technologists and technicians must follow physicians' orders precisely and conform to regulations concerning the use of radiation to protect themselves, their patients, and their coworkers from unnecessary exposure.

In addition to preparing patients and operating equipment, radiologic technologists and technicians keep patient records and adjust and maintain equipment. They also may prepare work schedules, evaluate purchases of equipment, or manage a radiology department.