

Houston Business Journal

Ready for a career change? Where to work to weather low oil prices

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Bill Gilmer, director at the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston

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Reporter- *Houston Business Journal*

The oil price dive has taken its toll on certain jobs, but it's also leaving a good amount unscathed, according to a recent metro-area forecast from the **University of Houston**.

The categories of jobs in the chart to the right represent the types of jobs that have the greatest share of the job market in Houston when compared their share of the national job market.

Houston has 366,786 jobs that are most at risk, 784,097 that are somewhat at risk and 207,437 that are least at risk.

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Refining and construction are still well-positioned because of the construction boom in east Houston.

Many major energy companies are pushing through with various chemical industrial plant construction projects, said Bill Gilmer, director at the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston.

"If (the companies) finish (construction) in 2017 and 2018, they'll be perfectly timed to come back online and take advantage of the good strong markets," said Gilmer.

Houston energy jobs most affected by oil prices

Most at risk jobs

1. Oil & gas production
2. Oil & gas services
3. Oil & gas sector-wide

Somewhat at risk jobs

1. Pipeline transportation
2. Engineering services
3. Manufacturing steel

Least at risk jobs

1. Manufacturing refining
2. Manufacturing chemicals
3. Construction sector-wide

Suzanne Edwards covers money and law for the Houston Business Journal.