

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS

EXPLORING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST



Opportunity Occupations Infographic Activity (Update 2023)

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Opportunity Occupations Infographic Activity

Ever wonder what jobs pay more than the national median wage but don't require a bachelor's degree? Explore the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Opportunity Occupations infographic posters (bit.ly/frba-posters). Each poster focuses on one of the six states within the Atlanta Fed's District. Answer the following questions to evaluate the data found on the infographics.

1. Begin your exploration of Opportunity Occupations by reviewing our Human Capital infographic poster (bit.ly/human-capital-poster) to answer the following questions: What is human capital? Based on your review of the poster, why do you think it is important to develop your human capital?
2. Now choose an Opportunity Occupations state poster (bit.ly/frba-posters) and write the name here: _____. Using this Opportunity Occupations state poster, answer the following questions based on the data:
 - a. What percentage of people over the age of 25 had a bachelor's degree?
 - b. What percentage of people over the age of 25 had only a high school diploma?
 - c. What was the unemployment rate for people with a bachelor's degree or higher?
 - d. What was the unemployment rate for people with only a high school diploma?
 - e. What level of educational attainment resulted in the highest median annual earnings?
 - f. Add together the percentages of people over the age of 25 with less than high school, high school diploma, and some college, no degree. Record the answer here:
 - g. What percentage of the state's residents over the age of 25 lack associate's or bachelor's degrees?
 - h. How does a worker's educational attainment relate to his or her rate of unemployment and median earnings?
 - i. How might these relationships affect a worker's decision making or choices?
3. Look at the top of the poster. What are opportunity occupations, and how do they affect middle-skill workers in your chosen state?
4. According to your poster, what percentage of jobs in the state are classified as opportunity occupations?
5. What was the range, low to high, of the median annual salaries for the state's opportunity occupations?
6. Do opportunity occupations require some postsecondary (after high school) training or education? Explain.

7. According to the state you selected, what were the top three opportunity occupations based on the median annual wage? What were the job openings that corresponded to each of the top three?
8. Look at the “Where are the jobs?” section of the poster. If you were considering an opportunity occupation in one of these cities in your selected state, which city and occupation would you choose? Explain.
9. What other factors are you likely to consider when deciding where to live and work?
10. If you decided to pursue one of the opportunity occupations listed on the poster, which one would it be, and why?
11. Visit the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook ([bls.gov/ooh](https://www.bls.gov/ooh)).
 - a. Use the search field to find the occupation that you selected for question number 10 and determine the educational attainment required for this job under the summary tab.
 - b. Next, select the *How to Become One* tab. Identify the educational and potential licenses, certifications, or registrations required to be qualified for the job.
 - c. Next, select the *Job Outlook* tab to identify the projected employment growth from 2021 to 2031. How does this job’s growth prospects compare to the total of all occupations? Explain.