Opportunity Occupations: Florida

Exploring Economic Opportunity for Workers in the Southeast



What Are Opportunity Occupations?

Opportunity occupations are occupations that are generally accessible to workers without a bachelor's degree and that pay more than the national median wage (\$41,950 in 2020), adjusted for local cost-of-living differences. They offer economic opportunity for middle-skill workers—those who have finished a high school degree but have not completed college—and for workers in certain occupations who do not have a high school degree.

What Are the Jobs?

Top 10 Opportunity Occupations

Median Annual Wage and Number of Employed in 2020



\$68K

Registered Nurses

\$59K Supervisors of

183,130 employed



Construction Trades and Extraction Workers

48,300 employed



\$44K

Electricians

41,900 employed

\$46K

Licensed Practical and **Vocational Nurses**

41,560 employed

\$60K

Police and Sheriff's **Patrol Officers**

38,580 employed

Paralegals and Legal Assistants - \$49K/33,760 employed



HVAC Mechanics and Installers - \$44K/33,210 employed



Insurance Sales Agents - \$48K/33,360 employed



Financial Services Sales Agents - \$55K/32,010 employed



Where Are the Jobs?

Selected Metropolitan Areas

Top Opportunity Occupations, Median Wage, and Number of Employed in 2020

Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach

18.3%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



Occupation	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nurses	\$70K	53,900
Financial Sales Agents	\$66K	13,550
Police Officers and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$73K	12,970
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	\$48K	10,650
Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$61K	8,240

Occupa	ıtion	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nu	rses	\$63K	4,030
Supervisors of Of and Admin. Wor		\$53K	3,070
Sales Representat	ives	\$56K	2,140
Light Truck Dri	vers	\$50K	1,920
Automo Technicians Mecha	and	\$44K	1,560

Opportunity Occupations in Florida

Distribution of Employment by Wages in 2020

\$

53.4%

23.5%

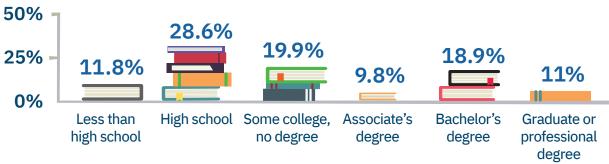
23.2%

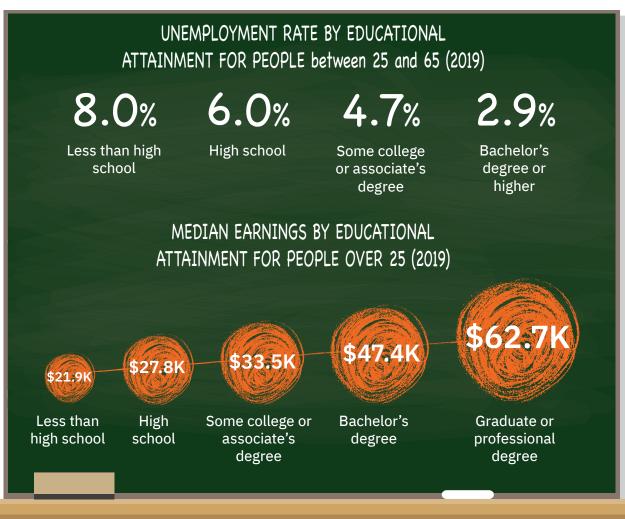
Lower Wage Employment Opportunity Employment Higher Wage, BA Degree Required

Educational Attainment in Florida

How Many Pursue Higher Education?

Educational Attainment for People over 25 (2019)





Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity

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- US Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational Employment Statistics (2020) and Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020–30)

Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020–30)
- US Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Price Parities (2020)

- US Census Bureau: American Community Survey: 2019 one-year estimates