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
183,130 employed

$59K
Supervisors of 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
Insurance Sales Agents - $48K/33,360 employed

HVAC Mechanics and Installers - $44K/33,210 employed
Financial Services Sales Agents - $55K/32,010 employed

Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers - $60K/9,820 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%

Lakeland-Winter Haven
28.2%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Wage</th>
<th>Number of Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>$70K</td>
<td>53,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Sales Agents</td>
<td>$66K</td>
<td>13,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Officers and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers</td>
<td>$73K</td>
<td>12,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>$48K</td>
<td>10,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers</td>
<td>$61K</td>
<td>8,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Wage</th>
<th>Number of Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>$63K</td>
<td>4,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors of Office and Admin. Workers</td>
<td>$53K</td>
<td>3,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Representatives</td>
<td>$56K</td>
<td>2,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Truck Drivers</td>
<td>$50K</td>
<td>1,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive Technicians and Mechanics</td>
<td>$44K</td>
<td>1,560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunity Occupations in Florida
Distribution of Employment by Wages in 2020

- Lower Wage Employment: 53.4%
- Opportunity Employment: 23.5%
- Higher Wage, BA Degree Required: 23.2%
Educational Attainment in Florida

How Many Pursue Higher Education?

Educational Attainment for People over 25 (2019)

- Less than high school: 11.8%
- High school: 28.6%
- Some college, no degree: 19.9%
- Associate’s degree: 9.8%
- Bachelor’s degree: 18.9%
- Graduate or professional degree: 11%

These percentages represent the educational attainment of people over 25 in Florida.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE between 25 and 65 (2019)

- Less than high school: 8.0%
- High school: 6.0%
- Some college or associate’s degree: 4.7%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 2.9%

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2019)

- Less than high school: $21.9K
- High school: $27.8K
- Some college or associate’s degree: $33.5K
- Bachelor’s degree: $47.4K
- Graduate or professional degree: $62.7K

Sources:
- US Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Price Parities (2020)
- US Census Bureau: American Community Survey: 2019 one-year estimates

For more information visit us at atlantafed.org/opportunityoccupationsmonitor

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