Opportunity Occupations: Georgia
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

- Registered Nurses: $70K, 73,230 employed
- Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers: $47K, 62,390 employed
- Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses: $45K, 22,170 employed
- Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers: $46K, 21,870 employed
- Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers: $60K, 21,550 employed
- Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers: $64K, 19,150 employed
- Supervisor of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers: $68K, 16,730 employed
- Electricians: $55K, 16,590 employed
- Insurance Sales Agents: $44K, 14,610 employed
- Industrial Machine Mechanics: $52K, 12,620 employed
### Where Are the Jobs?

**Selected Metropolitan Areas**
Top Opportunity Occupations, Median Wage, and Number of Employed in 2020

#### Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Roswell

22.4% 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>$75K</td>
<td>38,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>$49K</td>
<td>38,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping and Accounting Clerks</td>
<td>$44K</td>
<td>21,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers</td>
<td>$50K</td>
<td>12,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Technicians and Mechanics</td>
<td>$46K</td>
<td>12,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Macon

33.6% 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>$66K</td>
<td>2,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>$46K</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Sales Agents</td>
<td>$45K</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers</td>
<td>$60K</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers</td>
<td>$58K</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Opportunity Occupations in Georgia

Distribution of Employment by Wages in 2019

- **45.4%** Lower Wage Employment
- **27.4%** Opportunity Employment
- **27.2%** Higher Wage, BA Degree Required
Educational Attainment in Georgia

How Many Pursue Higher Education?

Educational Attainment for People over 25 (2019)

- Less than high school: 12.8%
- High school: 27.7%
- Some college or associate’s degree: 20.3%
- Associate’s degree: 7.8%
- Bachelor’s degree: 19.2%
- Graduate or professional degree: 12.1%

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

- Less than high school: 8.7%
- High school: 5.6%
- Some college or associate’s degree: 4.8%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 2.6%

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2020)

- Less than high school: $23.1K
- High school: $30.2K
- Some college or associate’s degree: $35.2K
- Bachelor’s degree: $53.8K
- Graduate or professional degree: $67.5K

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