

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS: GEORGIA

EXPLORING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKERS IN THE SOUTHEAST

MARCH 2019



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 (\$37,690 in 2017), 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 2017



\$42K

Truck drivers

56,450 employed



\$54K

Wholesale & manufacturing sales reps

55,650 employed



\$53K

Office & admin. supervisors

44,560 employed



\$35K

Maintenance & repair workers

43,680 employed



\$38K

Bookkeeping & accounting clerks

39,360 employed

 Retail supervisors - **\$36K / 36,110 employed**

 Services sales reps - **\$49K / 33,560 employed**

 Licensed practical nurses - **\$40K / 26,040 employed**

 Police officers - **\$41K / 23,730 employed**

 Computer user support specialists - **\$49K / 23,140 employed**

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

SELECTED METROPOLITAN AREAS

TOP OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS, MEDIAN WAGE, AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYED IN 2017

ATLANTA-SANDY SPRINGS-ROSWELL

24.3%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



DALTON

36.6%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

OCCUPATION	MEDIAN WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Wholesale & mfg. sales reps	\$55K	39,100
Truck drivers	\$43K	31,830
Office & admin. supervisors	\$56K	28,610
Services sales reps	\$52K	26,170
Bookkeeping & accounting clerks	\$41K	25,140

OCCUPATION	MEDIAN WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Industrial truck & tractor drivers	\$32K	1,600
Customer service reps	\$32K	1,390
Truck drivers	\$40K	1,390
Industrial machinery mechanics	\$42K	1,340
Maintenance & repair workers	\$35K	1,330

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS IN GEORGIA

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY WAGES IN 2017

24.3%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



27.5%
Low wage, low skill



0.3%
Low-skill opportunity occupations



22.2%
Middle skill, low wage



24%
Middle-skill opportunity occupations



0.6%
High skill, low wage

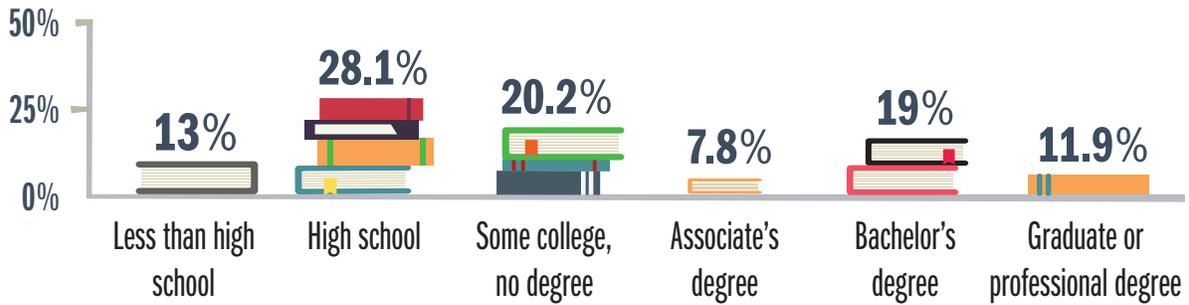


24.7%
High skill, high wage

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN GEORGIA

HOW MANY PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION?

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2017)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE BETWEEN 25 AND 65 (2017)



MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2017)



Sources:

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational Employment Statistics (2017) and Occupational Outlook Handbook (2016-26)
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Price Parities (2016)
- U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey: 2017 one-year estimates

For more information visit us at frbatlanta.org/opportunityoccupationsmonitor

