OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS: LOUISIANA
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

- $50K Wholesale & manufacturing sales reps
  - 22,440 employed
- $40K Truck drivers
  - 21,190 employed
- $46K Office & admin. supervisors
  - 21,110 employed
- $38K Licensed practical nurses
  - 20,340 employed
- $36K Bookkeeping & accounting clerks
  - 20,210 employed
- $48K Welders
  - $40K Executive secretaries & admin. assistants - 14,770 employed
  - $41K Carpenters - 12,200 employed
  - $48K Construction & extraction supervisors - 11,620 employed
  - $50K Electricians - 11,470 employed

MARCH 2019
WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

NEW ORLEANS-METairie

25.7% 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>Wholesale &amp; mfg. sales reps</td>
<td>$50K</td>
<td>8,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; repair workers</td>
<td>$36K</td>
<td>7,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; admin. supervisors</td>
<td>$48K</td>
<td>6,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping &amp; accounting clerks</td>
<td>$37K</td>
<td>5,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck drivers</td>
<td>$43K</td>
<td>5,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BATON ROUGE

28.8% 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>Truck drivers</td>
<td>$44K</td>
<td>4,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; admin. supervisors</td>
<td>$48K</td>
<td>4,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; manufacturing sales reps</td>
<td>$51K</td>
<td>4,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction &amp; extraction supervisors</td>
<td>$64K</td>
<td>4,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping &amp; accounting clerks</td>
<td>$36K</td>
<td>3,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS IN LOUISIANA

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY WAGES IN 2017

27.1% of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

- 28.7% Low wage, low skill
- 1.9% Low-skill opportunity occupations
- 23.9% Middle skill, low wage
- 25.3% Middle-skill opportunity occupations
- 0.2% High skill, low wage
- 20% High skill, high wage
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN LOUISIANA

HOW MANY PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION?

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE OVER 25 (2017)

![Bar chart showing percentages of people with different levels of educational attainment.](chart)

- Less than high school: 14.9%
- High school: 34%
- Some college, no degree: 21.4%
- Associate's degree: 5.9%
- Bachelor's degree: 15.5%
- Graduate or professional degree: 8.3%

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

- Less than high school: 13.1%
- High school: 6.8%
- Some college or associate's degree: 4.7%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 2.2%

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

- Less than high school: $21.8K
- High school: $28K
- Some college or associate's degree: $32.2K
- Bachelor's degree: $48.8K
- Graduate or professional degree: $59K

Sources:
- 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