

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS: TENNESSEE

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



\$40K

Truck drivers

60,350 employed



\$51K

Office & admin.
supervisors

36,400 employed



\$37K

Retail
supervisors

32,480 employed



\$36K

Maintenance &
repair workers

29,240 employed



\$37K

Bookkeeping &
accounting clerks

29,060 employed



Licensed practical nurses - **\$38K / 24,000 employed**



Wholesale & manufacturing sales reps -
\$51K / 20,140 employed



Production & operating supervisors -
\$54K / 17,950 employed



Services sales reps - **\$44K / 17,060 employed**



Automotive service technicians - **\$38K / 13,510 employed**

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

SELECTED METROPOLITAN AREAS

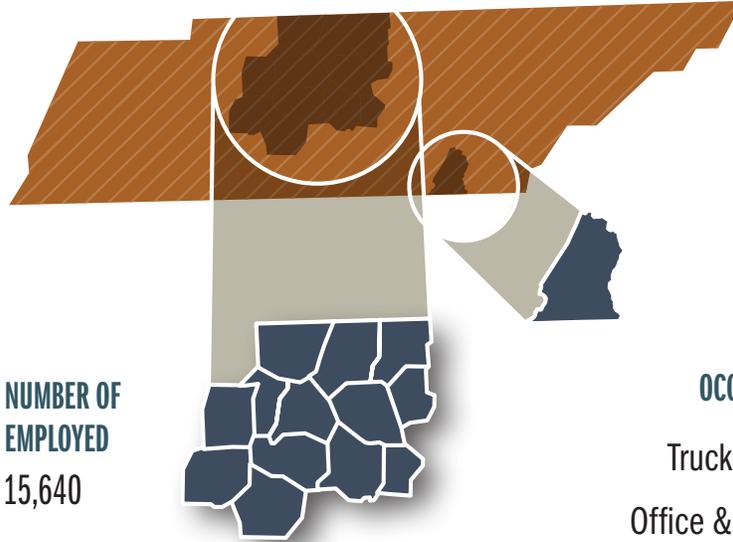
TOP OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS, MEDIAN WAGE, AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYED IN 2017

NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON-MURFREESBORO-FRANKLIN

25.5%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

OCCUPATION	MEDIAN WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Truck drivers	\$43K	15,640
Office & admin. supervisors	\$55K	12,980
Bookkeeping & accounting clerks	\$40K	10,530
Retail supervisors	\$36K	9,640
Maintenance & repair workers	\$37K	8,570



CHATTANOOGA

26.5%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

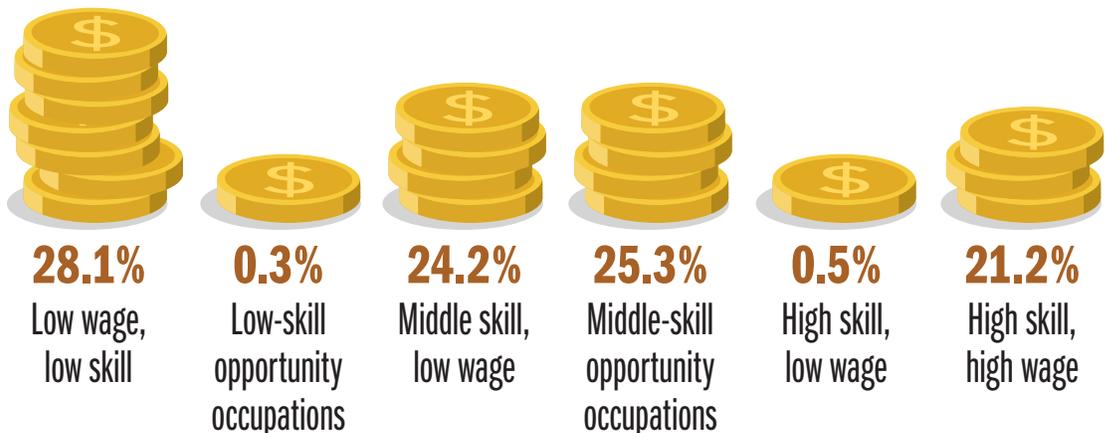
OCCUPATION	MEDIAN WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Truck drivers	\$35K	8,750
Office & admin. supervisors	\$48K	2,970
Retail supervisors	\$36K	2,870
Bookkeeping & accounting clerks	\$36K	2,430
Maintenance & repair workers	\$37K	2,250

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS IN TENNESSEE

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY WAGES IN 2017

25.6%

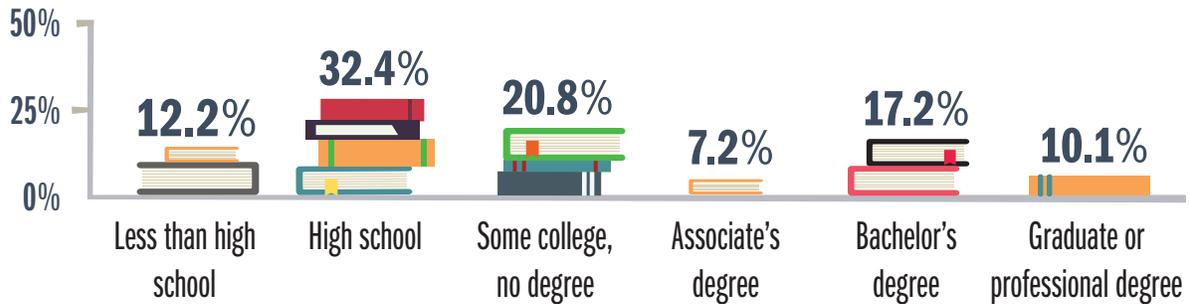
of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN TENNESSEE

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

