

Opportunity Occupations: Alabama

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



\$59K

Registered Nurses

48,850 employed



\$42K

Tractor-Trailer
Truck Drivers

32,310 employed



\$62K

Supervisors of Production
and Operating Workers

14,500 employed



\$51K

Industrial Machinery
Mechanics

13,020 employed



\$60K

Supervisors of
Construction Trades and
Extraction Workers

12,040 employed



Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers - **\$46K/11,820 employed**



Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers -
\$64K/9,970 employed



Electricians - **\$47K/9,990 employed**



HVAC Mechanics and Installers - **\$43K/6,740 employed**



Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters - **\$46K/6,220 employed**

Where Are the Jobs?

Selected Metropolitan Areas

Top Opportunity Occupations, Median Wage, and Number of Employed in 2020

Mobile

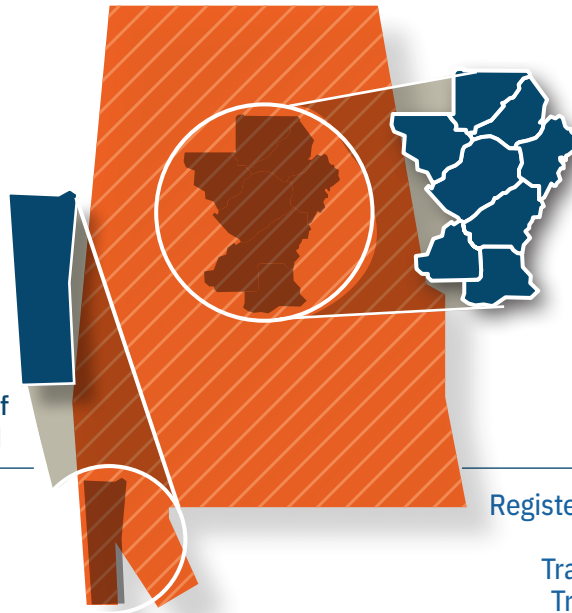
35%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

Birmingham-Hoover

33%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



Occupation	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nurses	\$57K	5,320
Electricians	\$50K	1,880
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$53K	1,600
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$59K	1,380
Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$73K	1,080

Occupation	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nurses	\$61K	16,430
Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$48K	8,960
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$54K	3,210
Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$67K	2,780
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	\$44K	2,750

Opportunity Occupations in Alabama

Distribution of Employment by Wages in 2020



42.3%

Lower Wage Employment

33.3%

Opportunity Employment

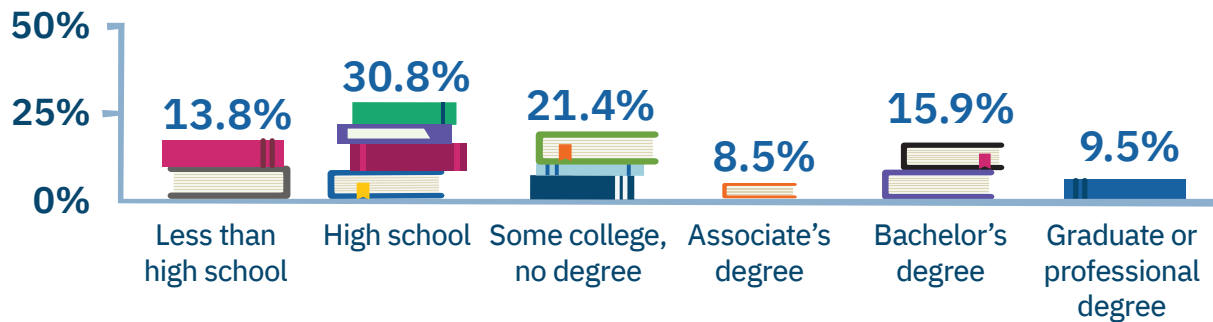
24.4%

Higher Wage, BA Degree Required

Educational Attainment in Alabama

How Many Pursue Higher Education?

Educational Attainment for People over 25 (2019)



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

11.1%
Less than high school

6.1%
High school

4.6%
Some college or associate's degree

2.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher

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

\$22.1K
Less than high school

\$29.9K
High school

\$33.6K
Some college or associate's degree

\$50.5K
Bachelor's degree

\$60.8K
Graduate or professional degree