

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 (\$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



\$34K

Secretaries &
admin. assistants

45,730 employed



\$38K

Truck drivers

30,720 employed



\$54K

Wholesale &
manufacturing sales reps.

23,090 employed



\$36K

Retail
supervisors

23,060 employed



\$36K

Bookkeeping &
accounting clerks

21,500 employed

-  Office & admin. supervisors - **\$50K / 17,890 employed**
-  Prod. & operating supervisors - **\$57K / 12,880 employed**
-  Maintenance & repair workers - **\$36K / 13,630 employed**
-  Licensed practical nurses - **\$37K / 12,860 employed**
-  Construction & extraction supervisors - **\$56K / 11,060 employed**

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

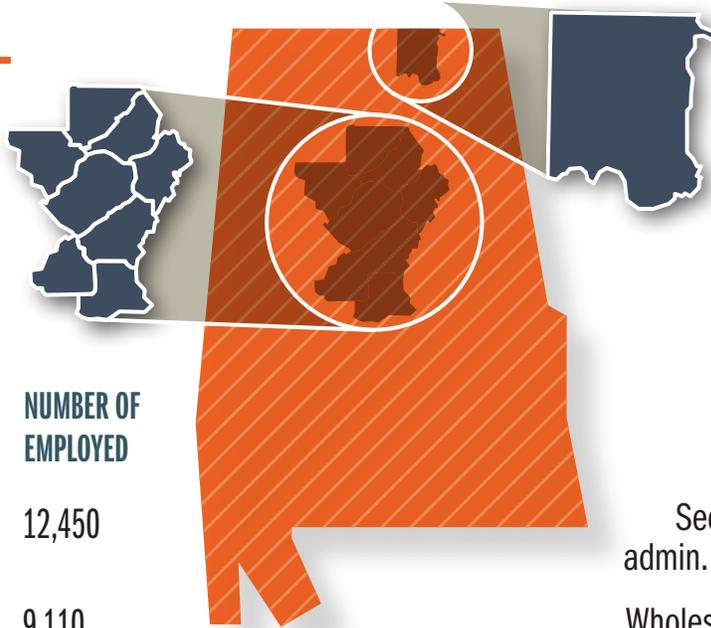
SELECTED METROPOLITAN AREAS

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

BIRMINGHAM-HOOVER

32.2%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



HUNTSVILLE

24%

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

OCCUPATION	WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Secretaries & admin. assistants	\$35K	12,450
Wholesale & mfg. sales reps	\$58K	9,110
Truck drivers	\$39K	8,140
Bookkeeping & accounting clerks	\$39K	6,600
Retail supervisors	\$39K	5,820

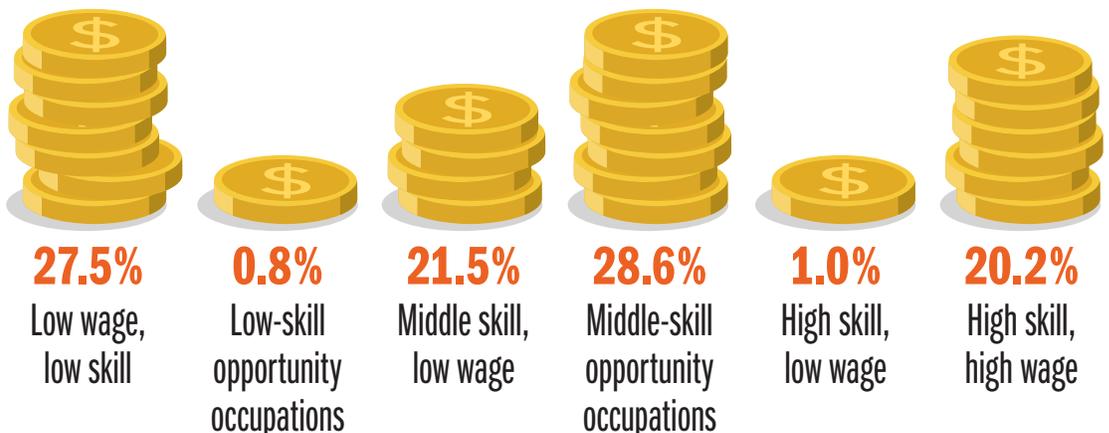
OCCUPATION	WAGE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYED
Secretaries & admin. assistants	\$36K	4,830
Wholesale & mfg. sales reps	\$50K	2,130
Retail supervisors	\$36K	2,000
Bookkeeping & accounting clerks	\$36K	1,930
Office & admin. supervisors	\$53K	1,890

OPPORTUNITY OCCUPATIONS IN ALABAMA

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY WAGES IN 2017

29.4%

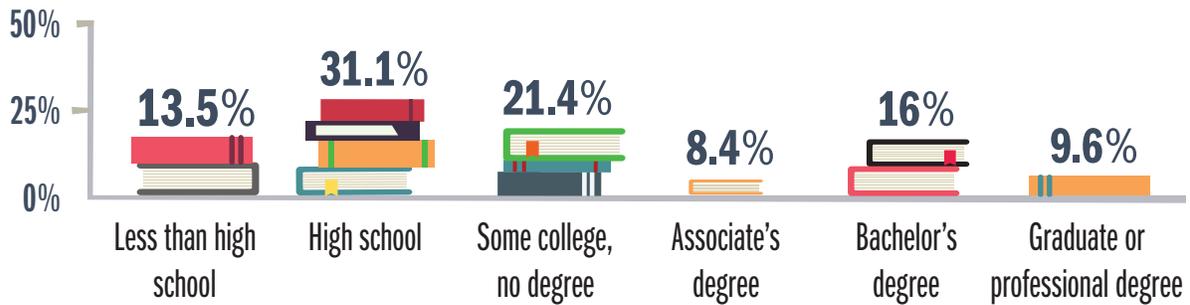
of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN ALABAMA

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

