

State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor

Department of Employment Security  
Thomas D. Chan, Acting Director



# Learn More Earn More

Illinois' High-Demand, High-Wage Occupations Through 2026



**EDUCATION BEYOND BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
General & Operations Managers	11,337	\$24.35	\$78.68	Active Listening, Coordination, Monitoring
Management Analysts	4,171	\$22.89	\$57.15	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension
Financial Managers	3,448	\$37.25	\$85.71	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Monitoring
Sales Managers	2,356	\$34.26	\$77.63	Persuasion, Active Listening, Speaking
Clergy	1,934	\$14.46	\$29.69	Speaking, Active Listening, Service Orientation
Lawyers	1,871	\$33.01	\$93.82	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension
Marketing Managers	1,375	\$35.24	\$76.21	Active Learning, Active Listening, Critical Thinking
Computer & Information Systems Managers	1,372	\$44.28	\$81.63	Critical Thinking, Active Listening, Reading Comprehension
Administrative Services Managers	1,309	\$28.14	\$56.49	Speaking, Active Listening, Coordination
Chief Executives	1,266	\$55.03	\$138.40	Judgment/Decision Making, Complex Problem Solving, Critical Thinking

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Registered Nurses	8,692	\$25.48	\$40.55	Active Listening, Social Perceptiveness, Service Orientation
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	5,572	\$19.19	\$42.17	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension
Accountants & Auditors	5,507	\$23.80	\$46.56	Active Listening, Mathematics, Reading Comprehension
Insurance Sales Agents	4,368	\$14.55	\$42.86	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking
Elem. School Teachers, Ex. Special Ed.	4,319	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies
Secondary Teachers, Ex. Spec/Voc. Ed.	3,107	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Learning Strategies, Speaking
Market Research Analysts & Specialists	2,960	\$16.87	\$36.04	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Complex Problem Solving
Software Developers, Applications	2,694	\$31.18	\$54.08	Programming, System Analysis, System Evaluation
Middle School Teachers, Ex. Special/Voc Ed	2,233	N/A	N/A	Instructing, Speaking, Active Listening
Computer Systems Analysts	2,232	\$27.80	\$50.55	Critical Thinking, Active Listening, Reading Comprehension

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Registered Nurses	8,692	\$25.48	\$40.55	Active Listening, Social Perceptiveness, Service Orientation
Computer User Support Specialists	2,218	\$15.21	\$30.63	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	1,298	\$17.72	\$32.37	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Speaking
Computer Occupations, All	1,194	N/A	N/A	Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension, Active Listening
Computer Network Support Specialists	837	\$21.37	\$36.79	Critical Thinking, Active Listening, Judgment/Decision Making
Physical Therapist Assistants	733	\$20.22	\$31.76	Active Listening, Monitoring, Social Perceptiveness
Dental Hygienists	583	\$26.49	\$39.14	Speaking, Active Listening, Critical Thinking
Medical Records/Health Information Techs	530	\$14.26	\$25.90	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Critical Thinking
Life/Phys/Social Science Techs, All Other	442	\$16.81	\$28.47	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension
Engineering Techs, Ex. Drafters, All Other	434	\$20.50	\$35.73	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension

**POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL AWARD**

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Nursing Assistants	7,341	\$11.06	\$15.25	Service Orientation, Active Listening, Social Perceptiveness
Hairdressers/Hairstylists/Cosmetologists	3,021	\$8.95	\$17.08	Active Listening, Speaking, Service Orientation
Automotive Service Techs/Mechanics	3,005	\$12.25	\$27.27	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting
Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	2,834	\$10.40	\$28.45	Instructing, Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness
Preschool Teachers, Ex. Special Education	2,226	\$10.69	\$17.37	Speaking, Learning Strategies, Instructing
Medical Secretaries	1,734	\$13.20	\$19.60	Speaking, Active Listening, Service Orientation
Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses	1,635	\$19.12	\$27.27	Service Orientation, Active Listening, Coordination
Bus/Truck/Diesel Engine Mechanics	960	\$16.64	\$30.11	Repairing, Troubleshooting, Operation & Control
Library Technicians	929	\$11.66	\$20.27	Reading Comprehension, Speaking, Active Listening
Emergency Medical Techs & Paramedics	916	\$11.37	\$24.56	Critical Thinking, Active Listening, Coordination

## LONG-TERM ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Cooks, Restaurant	7,461	\$10.26	\$14.86	Coordination, Monitoring, Active Listening
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	6,108	\$12.52	\$25.77	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting
Farmers, Ranchers & Other Ag Managers	4,393	\$19.39	\$38.49	Critical Thinking, Judgement/Decision Making, Speaking
Machinists	3,625	\$12.02	\$23.81	Operation Monitoring, Critical Thinking, Operation & Control
Carpenters	3,250	\$15.73	\$39.93	Active Listening, Monitoring, Speaking
Electricians	2,580	\$22.80	\$43.28	Troubleshooting, Repairing, Active Listening
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	2,376	\$22.94	\$43.14	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Speaking
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	2,158	\$22.13	\$46.19	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Judgement/Decision Making
Flight Attendants	1,617	N/A	N/A	Speaking, Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	1,537	\$15.03	\$23.46	Critical Thinking, Operation & Control, Reading Comprehension

## MODERATE-TERM ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

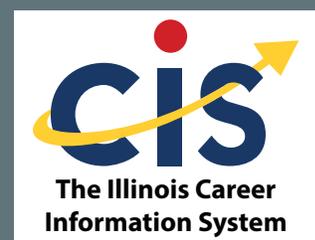
Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Customer Service Representatives	15,626	\$11.96	\$21.31	Active Listening, Speaking, Service Orientation
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	8,184	\$14.88	\$27.64	Operation & Control, Operation Monitoring, Time Management
Secretaries, Ex. Legal/Medical/Executive	8,170	\$11.85	\$21.43	Writing, Active Listening, Reading Comprehension
Sales Reps/Wholesale/Mfg, Ex. Tech/Scientific	7,989	\$16.00	\$41.41	Active Listening, Speaking, Persuasion
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	6,173	\$13.50	\$23.92	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	5,282	\$13.71	\$38.89	Critical Thinking, Reading Comprehension, Active Listening
Production Workers, All Other	5,171	\$11.67	\$20.79	Operation & Control, Active Listening, Monitoring
Construction Laborers	4,261	\$14.31	\$36.08	Active Listening, Coordination, Operation Monitoring
Executive Secretaries & Adm. Assistants	2,910	\$19.40	\$32.61	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking
Medical Assistants	2,579	\$12.96	\$19.42	Speaking, Active Listening, Reading Comprehension

## SHORT-TERM ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Occupation	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages		Skills
		Entry	Experienced	
Combined Food Prep. & Serving Workers	31,327	\$9.04	\$11.51	Active Listening, Service Orientation, Speaking
Retail Salespersons	27,712	\$9.61	\$15.90	Active Listening, Persuasion, Speaking
Cashiers	23,661	\$9.20	\$12.26	Active Listening, Service Orientation, Speaking
Laborers/Freight/Stock & Material Movers	22,718	\$10.49	\$16.49	Coordination, Critical Thinking, Operation & Control
Waiters & Waitresses	19,437	\$8.89	\$12.07	Active Listening, Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness
Office Clerks, General	16,119	\$11.23	\$21.23	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	14,269	\$10.16	\$16.20	Speaking, Active Listening, Social Orientation
Janitors/Cleaners, Ex. Maids/Housekeepers	12,259	\$10.31	\$16.77	Active Listening, Coordination, Critical Thinking
Packers & Packagers, Handlers	8,697	\$10.06	\$14.20	Monitoring, Active Listening, Coordination
Personal & Home Care Aides	8,467	\$10.45	\$12.52	Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness, Active Listening

**Visit our Career Information System for information on occupations, wages, scholarships and more!**

**[www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo)**



For information on all occupations go to [www.ides.illinois.gov/lmem](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/lmem).

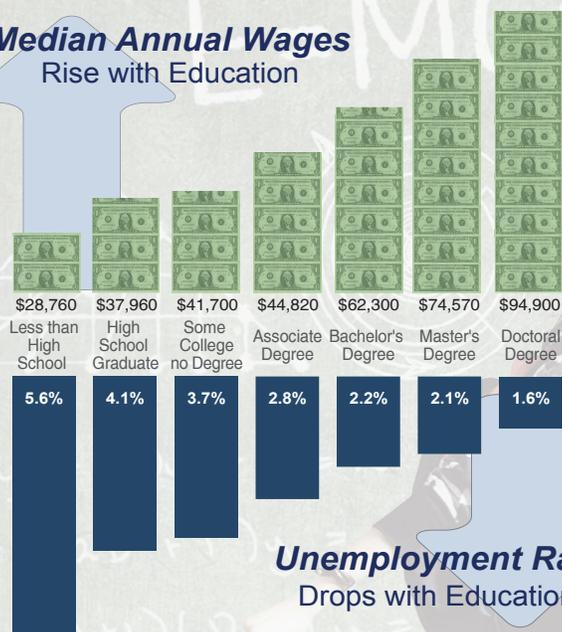
Skills Source: O\*NET OnLine Data Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), 2016-2026 Occupational Employment Projections and 2018 Occupational Employment Survey (OES)

# CHECK US OUT ONLINE

[www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo)

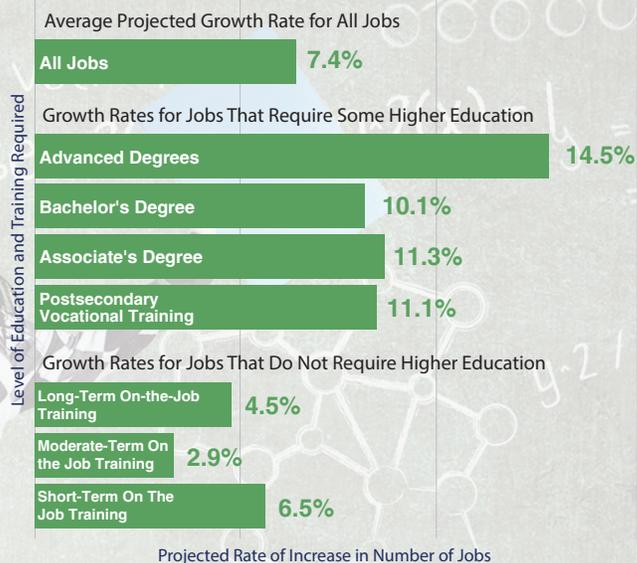
has more information to help find the best career for you!

## Median Annual Wages Rise with Education



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) and 2018 Occupational Employment Survey (OES)

## Jobs That Require Higher Education Are Growing Faster Than Those That Require Less Education



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2016-2026 Occupational Employment Projections

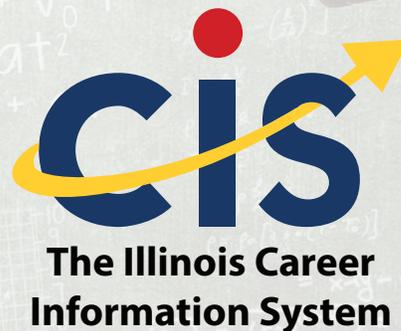
## Where can I find more information?

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov) or call 1-877-566-6230 to find out more about:

**Illinois Career Information System**  
[www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo)  
des.cis@illinois.gov

**Labor Market Information**  
[www.ides.illinois.gov/statistics](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/statistics)  
des.lmi@illinois.gov

**Workforce Information**  
[illinois.virtuallmi.com](http://illinois.virtuallmi.com)  
des.workinfo@illinois.gov



For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois workNet Center. Call 1-800-244-5631 to find the location nearest you.

Note: The information contained in this brochure is subject to change at any time. For the latest information, visit the IDES Web site at [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

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