

# Opportunity Occupations: Mississippi

Exploring Economic Opportunity for Workers in the Southeast



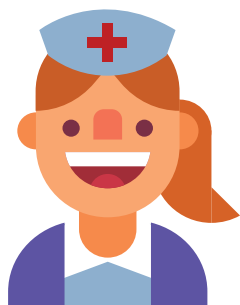
## What Are Opportunity Occupations?

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



**\$60K**

Registered Nurses

28,800 employed



**\$44K**

Tractor-Trailer  
Truck Drivers

21,900 employed



**\$44K**

Supervisors of Office  
and Admin. Workers

11,950 employed



**\$50K**

Sales Reps, Wholesale  
and Manufacturing

8,080 employed




**\$58K**

Supervisors of Production  
and Operating Workers

6,510 employed

 Electricians - **\$51K/5,120 employed**

 Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers -  
**\$66K/4,420 employed**

 Industrial Machinery Mechanics- **\$48K/5,060 employed**

 Lab Technologists and Technicians - **\$43K/3,360 employed**

 Machinists - **\$43K/2,800 employed**

# Where Are the Jobs?

## Selected Metropolitan Areas

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

**Jackson**  
**30.3%**

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

Occupation	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nurses	\$65K	8,900
Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$49K	6,750
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	\$43K	2,020
Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$71K	1,130
Correctional Officers and Jailers	\$43K	1,130



**Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula**

**26.9%**

of workers are employed in opportunity occupations.

Occupation	Median Wage	Number of Employed
Registered Nurses	\$63K	3,810
Supervisors of Office and Admin. Workers	\$47K	1,510
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	\$44K	1,000
Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$76K	850
Sales Reps, Wholesale and Manufacturing	\$55K	660

## Opportunity Occupations in Mississippi

Distribution of Employment by Wages in 2020



**44.4%**

Lower Wage Employment

**32.8%**

Opportunity Employment

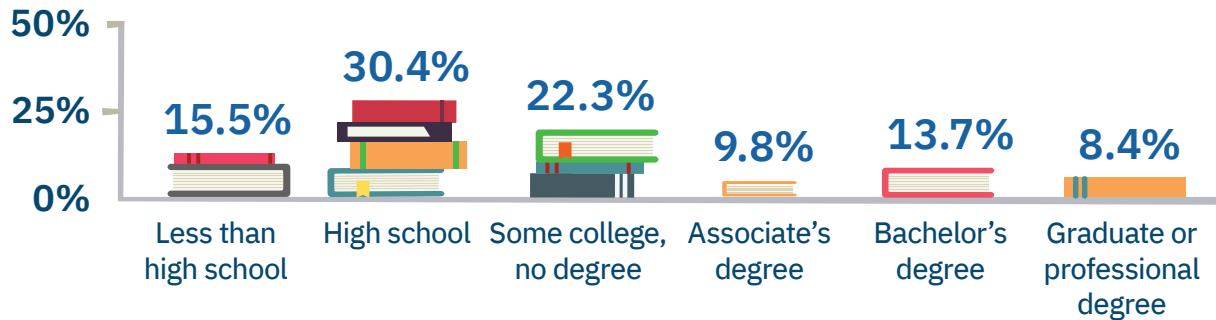
**22.8%**

Higher Wage, BA Degree Required

# Educational Attainment in Mississippi

## How Many Pursue Higher Education?

Educational Attainment for People over 25 (2019)



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

13.6%

Less than high school

7.6%

High school

5.4%

Some college or associate's degree

2.8%

Bachelor's degree or higher

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

\$21.9K

Less than high school

\$27.4K

High school

\$31.7K

Some college or associate's degree

\$43.5K

Bachelor's degree

\$55.5K

Graduate or professional degree