Alabama Education & Training Outlook
Occupational Projections 2018-2028

Alabama Department of Labor
Labor Market Information Division
The occupations included in the long-term occupational projections, prepared by the Alabama Department of Labor’s Labor Market Information Division, were assigned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics within three categories: typical entry-level education, work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training needed to gain competency.

In 2018, only 33% of jobs were in occupations that typically require postsecondary education* for entry. Within this group, jobs in occupations which require a Bachelor’s degree for entry held the largest share at 56%. Occupations requiring a high school diploma, or equivalent, and less than high school made up 67% of jobs in 2018.

*Postsecondary education group includes: Doctoral or professional degree, Master’s degree, Bachelor’s degree, Associate’s degree, Postsecondary non-degree award, and some college, no degree.
Jobs in occupations requiring a form of postsecondary education for entry-level will grow faster during the projected period, 2018-2028.

- Occupations with the highest percentage growth typically require a form of postsecondary education, with master’s degree occupations holding the highest share at 11.8%.
- At 0.6%, some college, no degree occupations show the slowest growth over the projection period.
Occupations requiring a high school diploma or equivalent, or less, are projected to make up 66% of projected jobs in 2028.

Most new jobs over the projected period will not require a postsecondary degree. Jobs in occupations requiring a high school diploma or equivalent and no formal educational credential school will make up 66% of the total projected jobs.

The top three occupations requiring an entry-level education of a high school diploma or equivalent, or less, with the highest numeric increase over the projected period include:

- Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food – 8,190
- Personal Care Aides – 3,300
- Helpers—Production Workers – 3,080
Occupations requiring an Internship/residency are projected to show the highest percentage of growth over the projected period.

When categorized by on-the-job training required for entry into an occupation, Internship/residency occupations have the highest percentage growth over the projected decade.

A majority of Internship/residency occupations are occupations from the healthcare and construction industries. The top three occupations requiring an Internship/residency with the highest numeric change over the projected period include:

- Speech-Language Pathologists – 480
- Physicians and Surgeons, All Other – 330
- Healthcare Social Workers – 290

Occupations requiring Short-term on-the-job training show the lowest percentage growth over the period at 3.1%.
Over half of occupations requiring a high school diploma or equivalent will require short-term to moderate-term on-the-job training.

Out of 911,050 jobs requiring a high school diploma or equivalent, 73% required short-term to moderate-term on-the-job training.

Short-term on-the-job training can be acquired for one month or less of on-the-job experience and formal training; moderate term on-the-job training can be acquired after over a month to 12 months of combined on-the-job experience and informal training.
Jobs categorized into occupations requiring some form of postsecondary education for entry typically have higher wages.

- Occupations typically requiring an associate’s degree and above pay wages higher than the average for the total, all occupations, of $34,798.
- Doctoral or professional degree jobs reported having the highest average wages in 2020, followed by master’s degree and bachelor’s degree jobs, respectively.
- No formal educational credential occupations reported the lowest, falling $5,083 below the average wage.
Median annual wages are highest for jobs in occupations requiring 5 years or more of work experience in a related occupation.

Work Experience in a Related Occupation is defined by the BLS as “this metric captures work experience that is commonly considered necessary by employers, or is a commonly accepted substitute for other, more formal types of training and education”.

Occupations requiring 5 years or more of work experience show the highest average salary. Occupations requiring less than 5 years and no work experience also exceed the average of all occupations.

No work experience, the lowest of the three categories, exceeds the overall average median by $12,993.
Resources & Links

Labor Market Information: www.labor.alabama.gov/lmi

Occupational Projections: www2.labor.alabama.gov/projections

Methodology: www2.labor.alabama.gov/projections/projections_methodology.pdf

BLS Education and Training Terms & Definitions: https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_nem_definitions.htm#education