

# Central Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The Central region is projected to have more than 382,000 total openings between 2016 and 2026. Total openings comprise growth openings, exit openings, and transfer openings. Growth openings are the result of an occupation growing between the base year and the projected year. Exit openings occur when a worker leaves the workforce entirely, such as retirement. Transfer openings occur when a worker leaves their occupation for a different one.

The *Food Preparation* and *Office and Administrative Support* occupational groups have 4 occupations each in the top 20 occupations with the most projected total openings. The occupations of *Registered Nurses*, *General and Operations Managers*, and *Secondary School Teachers* all have a large number of projected openings as well average wages that are higher than the average wage for all occupations in the Central region.

Occupation	2016 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Exit Openings	Transfer Openings	Growth Openings	Total Openings	Average Annual Wage
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	7,516	9,804	7,668	8,020	2,288	17,976	\$21,275
Cashiers	7,866	8,477	7,672	7,488	611	15,771	\$19,955
Retail Salespersons	9,499	9,776	6,102	7,648	277	14,027	\$27,086
Waiters and Waitresses	4,870	5,803	3,950	6,052	933	10,935	\$19,839
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	8,878	8,692	4,732	4,603	-186	9,149	\$31,541
Office Clerks, General	7,132	7,233	4,215	4,107	101	8,423	\$30,799
Personal Care Aides	3,892	5,260	3,652	2,751	1,368	7,771	\$21,940
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	4,410	4,727	2,263	3,906	317	6,486	\$27,250
Nursing Assistants	4,329	4,742	2,755	2,292	413	5,460	\$24,750
Janitors and Cleaners	3,616	4,073	2,503	2,419	457	5,379	\$25,697
Childcare Workers	3,277	3,657	2,830	2,147	380	5,357	\$22,505
Customer Service Representatives	3,720	4,019	1,978	2,903	299	5,180	\$31,207
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	3,286	3,553	1,867	2,436	267	4,570	\$24,632
Registered Nurses	6,755	7,671	2,065	1,568	916	4,549	\$61,692
Cooks, Restaurant	2,517	3,122	1,652	2,256	605	4,513	\$23,058
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	2,459	2,996	1,222	2,602	537	4,361	\$28,715
General and Operations Managers	4,277	4,926	954	2,745	649	4,348	\$83,199
Maintenance and Repair Workers	3,733	4,123	1,600	2,184	390	4,174	\$34,711
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	3,545	3,846	1,364	2,487	301	4,152	\$38,835
Secondary School Teachers	4,573	4,970	1,462	1,780	397	3,639	\$43,955

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Division of Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC).



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