

Northwest Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The Northwest region is projected to have almost 120,000 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 major occupational groups of *Food Preparation and Serving Related*, *Sales and Related*, *Office and Administrative Support*, and *Production* have 3 occupations each in the top 20 occupations with the most projected total openings. *Registered Nurses*, *Truck Drivers*, and *Secondary School Teachers* have large numbers of total openings, as well as average wages that are higher than the average wage for the Northwest region.

Occupation	2016 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Exit Openings	Transfer Openings	Growth Openings	Total Openings	Average Annual Wage
Cashiers	3,556	3,465	3,296	3,217	-91	6,422	\$20,138
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	2,932	3,092	2,667	2,789	160	5,616	\$19,900
Retail Salespersons	2,752	2,793	1,755	2,200	41	3,996	\$25,853
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	2,155	2,419	1,133	1,955	264	3,352	\$26,895
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,135	2,842	1,610	1,566	-293	2,883	\$29,139
Personal Care Aides	1,497	1,905	1,358	1,023	408	2,789	\$22,937
Nursing Assistants	2,188	2,259	1,351	1,124	71	2,546	\$22,265
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	1,470	1,654	701	1,190	184	2,075	\$30,695
Janitors and Cleaners	1,430	1,515	959	926	85	1,970	\$25,008
Office Clerks	1,618	1,559	932	908	-59	1,781	\$29,603
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,313	1,342	725	946	29	1,700	\$25,939
Waiters and Waitresses	942	903	683	1,046	-39	1,690	\$21,135
Maintenance and Repair Workers	1,389	1,461	581	792	72	1,445	\$36,063
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,385	1,349	580	859	-36	1,403	\$39,987
Secondary School Teachers	2,063	2,060	631	769	-3	1,397	\$45,422
Registered Nurses	2,195	2,406	659	500	211	1,370	\$59,820
Helpers--Production Workers	653	878	410	729	225	1,364	\$29,689
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	976	1,119	495	695	143	1,333	\$32,665
Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	979	932	560	764	-47	1,277	\$22,576
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,109	1,136	414	755	27	1,196	\$37,849

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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