

Ozark Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The Ozark region is projected to have over 342,000 total job 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.

Of the top 20 occupations with the most projected total openings, 5 are in the *Sales and Related* major occupation group. The occupations of *General and Operations Managers*, *Truck Drivers*, and *Registered Nurses* all have large numbers of total openings, as well as average wages that are higher than the average wage for all occupations in the Ozark 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	7,753	9,613	7,689	8,041	1,860	17,590	\$19,754
Retail Salespersons	9,195	10,215	6,144	7,702	1,020	14,866	\$26,035
Cashiers	7,206	7,775	7,033	6,864	569	14,466	\$20,538
Waiters and Waitresses	5,131	5,756	4,029	6,173	625	10,827	\$19,614
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	7,473	8,767	3,443	5,101	1,294	9,838	\$41,671
Customer Service Representatives	5,380	6,043	2,920	4,285	663	7,868	\$31,869
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	6,694	6,710	3,610	3,512	16	7,138	\$30,362
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	3,990	4,536	2,112	3,645	546	6,303	\$27,621
Personal Care Aides	3,000	4,232	2,886	2,174	1,232	6,292	\$21,533
Janitors and Cleaners	3,871	4,634	2,768	2,675	763	6,206	\$24,605
Nursing Assistants	3,952	4,720	2,634	2,191	768	5,593	\$24,551
Cooks, Restaurant	3,218	3,761	2,044	2,792	543	5,379	\$21,504
Registered Nurses	6,385	8,006	2,060	1,564	1,621	5,245	\$56,062
Office Clerks	3,698	3,968	2,249	2,192	270	4,711	\$28,546
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	3,134	3,479	1,805	2,356	345	4,506	\$26,940
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2,767	3,161	2,195	1,657	394	4,246	\$21,364
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	3,141	3,494	1,224	2,232	353	3,809	\$41,304
General and Operations Managers	3,609	4,168	806	2,319	559	3,684	\$93,432
Sales Representatives, Services	2,544	2,943	868	2,368	399	3,635	\$41,170
Telemarketers	2,012	2,245	1,269	2,007	233	3,509	\$19,882

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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