

South Central Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The South Central region is projected to have over 80,000 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 total openings, 4 are in the *Office and Administrative Support* occupation group. The occupations of *Registered Nurses, Truck Drivers, Supervisors of Retail Workers, and Elementary School Teachers* have large numbers of projected total openings, as well as having average wages that are higher than the average wage for all occupations in the South 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	2,057	2,373	1,961	2,051	316	4,328	\$18,562
Cashiers	2,157	2,136	2,015	1,967	-21	3,961	\$20,488
Personal Care Aides	2,012	2,642	1,857	1,399	630	3,886	\$19,972
Retail Salespersons	2,013	2,086	1,298	1,626	73	2,997	\$28,387
Helpers--Production Workers	1,103	1,582	720	1,278	479	2,477	\$24,228
Nursing Assistants	1,406	1,558	900	749	152	1,801	\$22,593
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	1,880	1,725	971	945	-155	1,761	\$29,298
Janitors and Cleaners	1,072	1,182	734	709	110	1,553	\$23,653
Waiters and Waitresses	701	731	530	812	30	1,372	\$19,734
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	947	1,001	483	833	54	1,370	\$25,315
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,234	1,247	526	779	13	1,318	\$35,650
Office Clerks	1,122	1,085	648	631	-37	1,242	\$25,904
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,025	1,101	392	715	76	1,183	\$37,312
Elementary School Teachers	1,716	1,688	562	630	-28	1,164	\$38,576
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	712	746	398	519	34	951	\$23,865
Bartenders	552	568	270	642	16	928	\$22,975
Registered Nurses	1,352	1,513	410	311	161	882	\$54,250
Team Assemblers	903	802	364	617	-101	880	n/a
Maintenance and Repair Workers	750	798	315	430	48	793	\$34,181
Billing and Posting Clerks	638	734	293	378	96	767	\$28,417

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Division of Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).
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