

# Southwest Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The Southwest region is projected to have more than 148,000 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.

Of the top 20 occupations with the most total openings, 5 are in the *Office and Administrative Support* major occupational group. The occupations of *Registered Nurses*, *Truck Drivers*, and *Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers* all have a large number of projected openings as well average wages that are higher than the average wage for all occupations in the Southwest region.

Occupation	2016 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Exit Openings	Transfer Openings	Growth Openings	Total Openings	Average Annual Wage
Cashiers	3,702	3,609	3,432	3,350	-93	<b>6,689</b>	\$19,907
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	3,206	3,482	2,961	3,097	276	<b>6,334</b>	\$19,216
Retail Salespersons	3,810	3,990	2,469	3,095	180	<b>5,744</b>	\$26,528
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	5,295	5,174	2,219	3,288	-121	<b>5,386</b>	\$39,694
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	2,829	3,148	1,481	2,555	319	<b>4,355</b>	\$27,091
Personal Care Aides	1,679	2,178	1,539	1,159	499	<b>3,197</b>	\$19,699
Waiters and Waitresses	1,706	1,682	1,254	1,921	-24	<b>3,151</b>	\$19,653
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,025	2,879	1,590	1,547	-146	<b>2,991</b>	\$28,267
Janitors and Cleaners	1,733	1,994	1,213	1,172	261	<b>2,646</b>	\$24,728
Customer Service Representatives	1,686	1,899	916	1,345	213	<b>2,474</b>	\$29,934
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,358	1,488	777	1,014	130	<b>1,921</b>	\$25,247
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,694	1,762	638	1,163	68	<b>1,869</b>	\$39,074
Maintenance and Repair Workers	1,549	1,704	663	904	155	<b>1,722</b>	\$35,452
Nursing Assistants	1,461	1,487	895	745	26	<b>1,666</b>	\$23,283
Office Clerks	1,372	1,381	808	787	9	<b>1,604</b>	\$28,659
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	1,084	1,246	523	888	162	<b>1,573</b>	\$27,969
Registered Nurses	2,715	2,863	798	606	148	<b>1,552</b>	\$56,275
Childcare Workers	996	1,055	837	635	59	<b>1,531</b>	\$21,751
Food Batchmakers	920	1,071	547	832	151	<b>1,530</b>	\$33,301
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	1,247	1,278	782	607	31	<b>1,420</b>	\$31,949

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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