

# West Central Region Top Openings

2016-2026

The West Central region is projected to have over 148,000 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* major occupation group. The occupations of *Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers*, *Elementary School Teachers* and *Secondary 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 West Central region.

Occupation	2016 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Exit Openings	Transfer Openings	Growth Openings	Total Openings	Average Annual Wage
Cashiers	3,217	3,493	3,150	3,074	276	<b>6,500</b>	\$19,401
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	2,395	2,588	2,206	2,307	193	<b>4,706</b>	\$18,580
Personal Care Aides	2,263	2,857	2,043	1,539	594	<b>4,176</b>	\$21,695
Retail Salespersons	2,228	2,311	1,437	1,801	83	<b>3,321</b>	\$25,932
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,013	2,779	1,560	1,518	-234	<b>2,844</b>	\$29,549
Nursing Assistants	2,098	2,220	1,312	1,091	122	<b>2,525</b>	\$21,138
Waiters and Waitresses	1,298	1,275	952	1,459	-23	<b>2,388</b>	\$21,327
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	1,662	1,745	844	1,456	83	<b>2,383</b>	\$25,477
Janitors and Cleaners	1,590	1,670	1,061	1,025	80	<b>2,166</b>	\$27,955
Office Clerks	1,670	1,632	969	944	-38	<b>1,875</b>	\$27,813
Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	1,031	1,075	617	842	44	<b>1,503</b>	\$21,544
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,397	1,416	596	884	19	<b>1,499</b>	\$35,956
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,254	1,345	480	874	91	<b>1,445</b>	\$37,505
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,075	1,094	592	773	19	<b>1,384</b>	\$23,108
Maintenance and Repair Workers	1,283	1,343	535	730	60	<b>1,325</b>	\$34,530
Construction Laborers	982	1,072	358	677	90	<b>1,125</b>	\$35,504
Customer Service Representatives	795	835	417	611	40	<b>1,068</b>	\$32,040
Elementary School Teachers	1,320	1,409	450	505	89	<b>1,044</b>	\$46,312
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	666	644	240	747	-22	<b>965</b>	\$31,711
Secondary School Teachers	1,238	1,319	392	477	81	<b>950</b>	\$46,893

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