

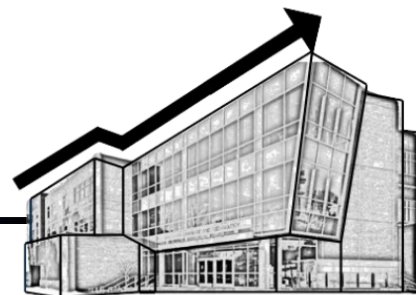
# Economic Overview for Columbus Area

## Columbus GA-AL MSA

2024

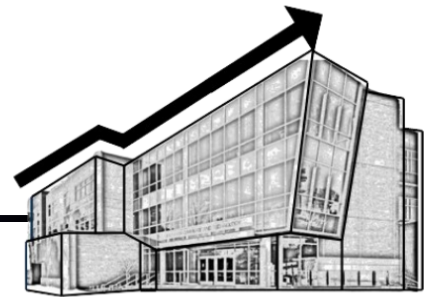


  
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## Demographic Profile

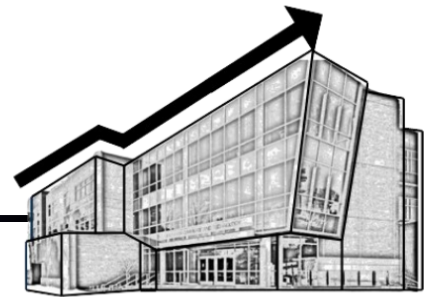
The population in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA was 325,657 per American Community Survey data for 2017-2021.

The region has a civilian labor force of 140,037 with a participation rate of 57.6%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA, 25.5% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.1% in the nation.

The median household income in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is \$52,014 and the median house value is \$152,294.

### Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Columbus, GA-AL MSA	Georgia	USA	Columbus, GA-AL MSA	Georgia	USA
<b>Demographics</b>						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	325,657	10,625,615	329,725,481
Male	49.7%	48.9%	49.5%	161,852	5,191,616	163,206,615
Female	50.3%	51.1%	50.5%	163,805	5,433,999	166,518,866
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	36.2	37.1	38.4
Under 18 Years	23.8%	23.8%	22.5%	77,528	2,532,197	74,234,075
18 to 24 Years	9.8%	9.6%	9.2%	31,957	1,017,562	30,339,089
25 to 34 Years	15.3%	13.8%	13.8%	49,836	1,461,985	45,360,942
35 to 44 Years	12.7%	13.3%	12.9%	41,360	1,408,856	42,441,883
45 to 54 Years	11.8%	13.3%	12.6%	38,457	1,410,815	41,631,458
55 to 64 Years	12.3%	12.4%	13.0%	40,192	1,314,368	42,829,413
65 to 74 Years	8.8%	8.7%	9.6%	28,647	924,763	31,590,619
75 Years and Over	5.4%	5.2%	6.5%	17,680	555,069	21,298,002
Race: White	47.2%	55.9%	68.2%	153,871	5,934,931	224,789,109
Race: Black or African American	42.1%	31.5%	12.6%	136,995	3,350,903	41,393,012
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	620	34,928	2,722,661
Race: Asian	2.1%	4.2%	5.7%	6,856	448,181	18,782,924
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	392	6,894	615,557
Race: Some Other Race	3.2%	3.2%	5.6%	10,308	334,875	18,382,796
Race: Two or More Races	5.1%	4.8%	7.0%	16,615	514,903	23,039,422
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7.3%	9.9%	18.4%	23,911	1,048,474	60,806,969
<b>Population Growth</b>						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	324,110	10,912,876	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>	0.0%	1.0%	0.6%	121	100,930	1,940,990
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	116.3	189.1	94.3
<b>Economic</b>						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	57.6%	63.3%	63.4%	140,037	5,274,596	166,672,597
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	75.0%	81.3%	82.5%	91,395	3,452,624	106,173,534
Armed Forces Labor Force	4.9%	0.7%	0.5%	12,667	55,268	1,196,529
Veterans, Age 18-64	11.6%	5.5%	4.4%	21,949	358,900	8,848,937
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	67.4%	75.6%	77.0%	14,787	271,395	6,809,906
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$52,014	\$65,030	\$69,021
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$28,540	\$34,516	\$37,638
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	22.2	28.6	26.8



## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Columbus, GA-AL MSA	Georgia	USA	Columbus, GA-AL MSA	Georgia	USA
Commute via Public Transportation	0.7%	1.7%	4.2%	920	81,781	6,472,373
<b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>						
No High School Diploma	10.4%	10.8%	10.3%	17,670	603,250	17,756,046
High School Graduate	27.3%	26.1%	25.3%	46,352	1,461,112	43,535,564
Some College, No Degree	26.5%	20.1%	20.1%	44,947	1,125,641	34,637,141
Associate's Degree	10.3%	8.6%	9.3%	17,485	480,075	15,944,395
Bachelor's Degree	16.1%	21.5%	22.0%	27,303	1,200,626	37,890,674
Postgraduate Degree	9.5%	13.0%	13.1%	16,088	725,320	22,499,876
<b>Housing</b>						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	143,064	4,375,039	139,647,020
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$152,294	\$206,700	\$244,900
Homeowner Vacancy	2.0%	1.6%	1.2%	1,404	39,791	1,021,651
Rental Vacancy	6.9%	6.6%	5.7%	4,195	98,575	2,674,125
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	43.9%	35.5%	35.4%	54,183	1,378,498	43,858,831
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	8.8%	6.1%	8.3%	10,834	236,209	10,349,174
<b>Social</b>						
Poverty Level (of all people)	18.4%	13.9%	12.6%	57,353	1,441,351	40,661,636
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	17.0%	11.9%	11.4%	21,033	463,135	14,105,231
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	4,655	158,165	4,425,322
Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>	3.8%	2.9%	2.5%	652	17,340	432,389
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	49.1%	38.1%	34.0%	35,752	907,672	23,909,672
Uninsured	11.2%	13.1%	8.8%	34,411	1,371,027	28,489,142
With a Disability, Age 18-64	16.4%	10.6%	10.3%	30,205	683,665	20,537,729
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	40.4%	41.8%	44.2%	12,217	285,609	9,068,973
Foreign Born	4.8%	10.3%	13.6%	15,523	1,093,655	44,844,808
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.3%	5.4%	8.2%	7,037	541,595	25,535,259

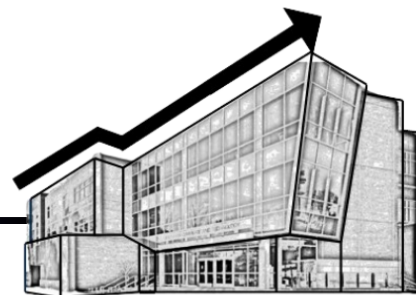
Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2017-2021, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

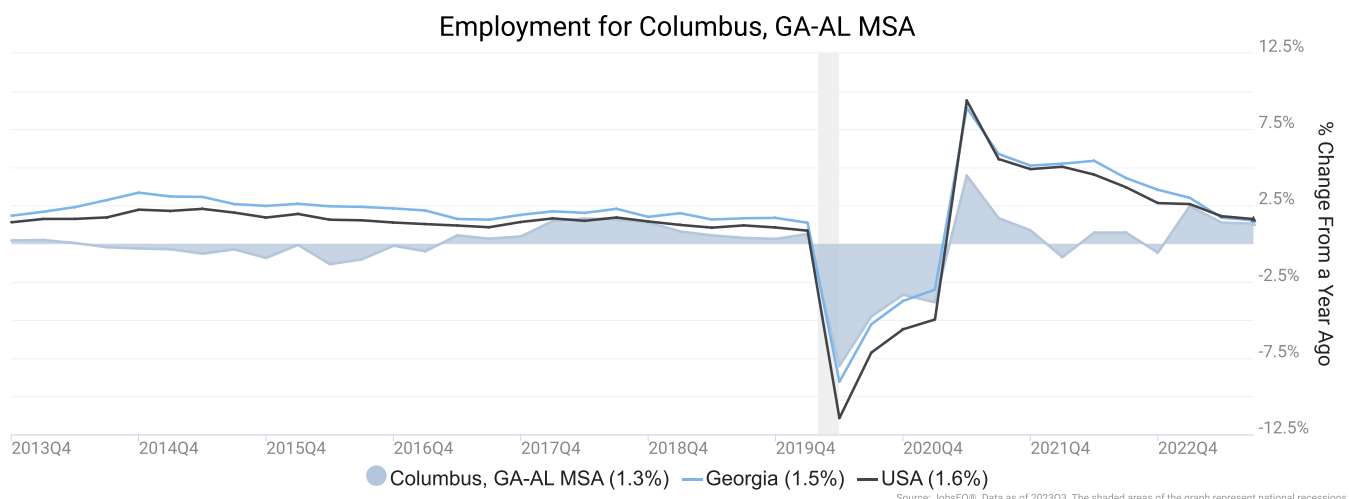
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.



## Employment Trends

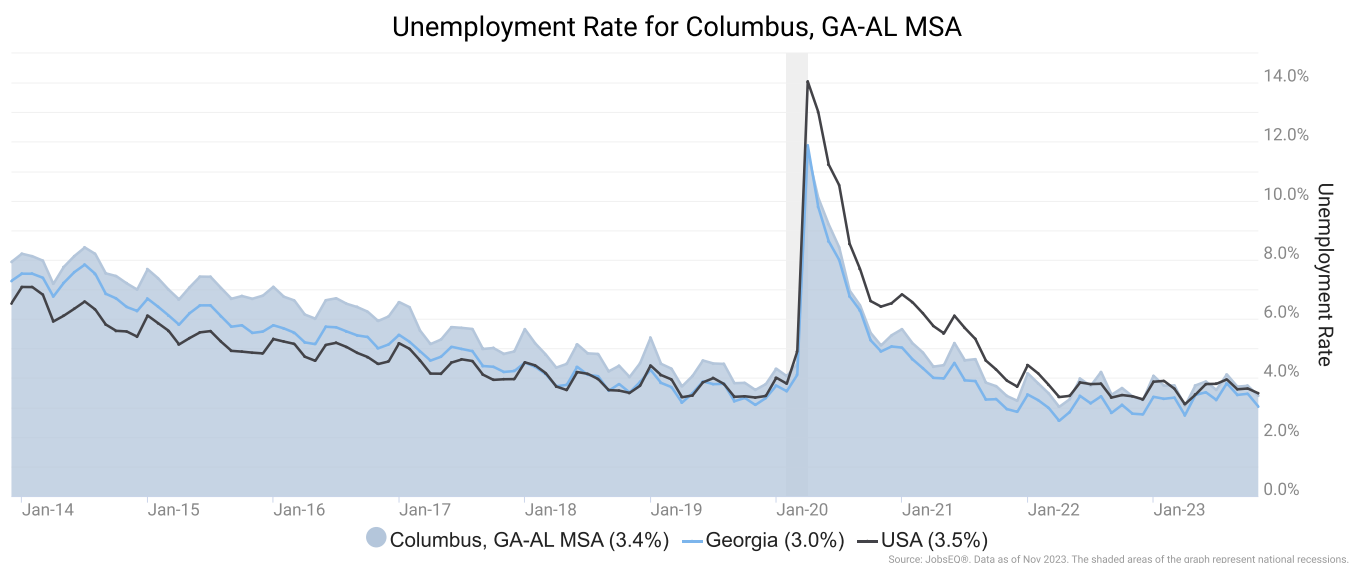
As of 2023Q3, total employment for the Columbus, GA-AL MSA was 126,606 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q3, employment increased 1.3% in the region.



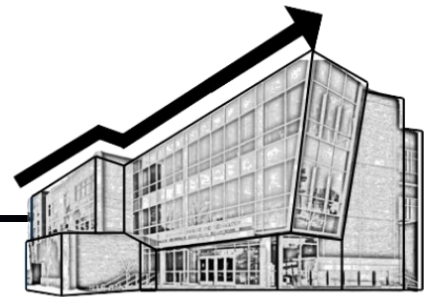
Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

## Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Columbus, GA-AL MSA was 3.4% as of November 2023. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.5%. One year earlier, in November 2022, the unemployment rate in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA was 3.4%.



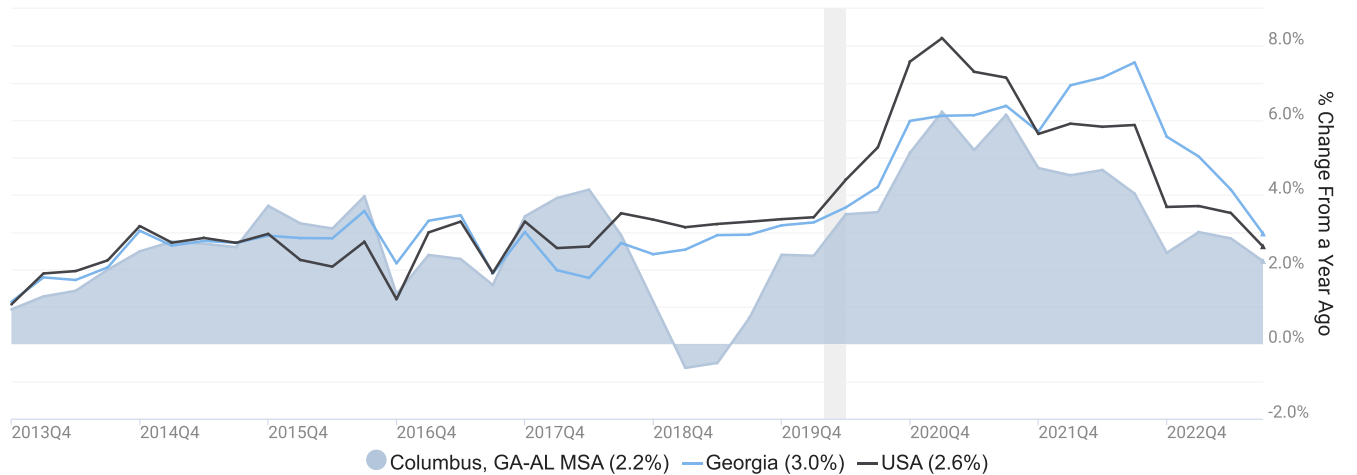
Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through November 2023.



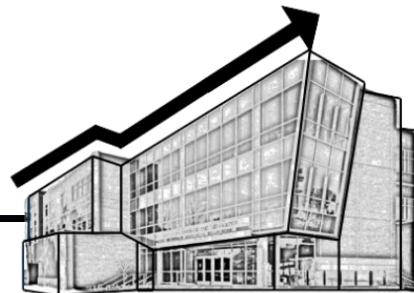
## Wage Trends

The average worker in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA earned annual wages of \$49,432 as of 2023Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 2.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$70,183 in the nation as of 2023Q3.

Average Annual Wages for Columbus, GA-AL MSA



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.



## Cost of Living Index

The Cost-of-Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 7.7% lower in Columbus, GA-AL MSA than the U.S. average.

### Cost of Living Information

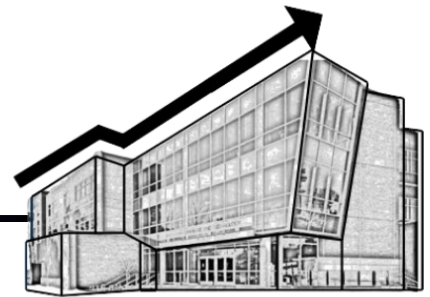
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Columbus, GA-AL MSA	\$49,432	92.3	\$53,556
Georgia	\$65,125	94.1	\$69,229
USA	\$70,183	100.0	\$70,183

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q3

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

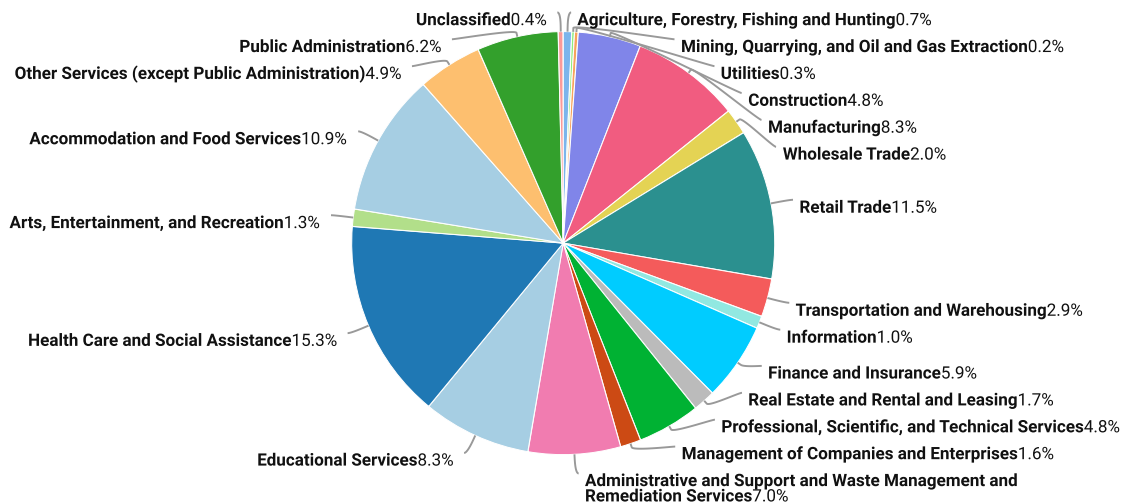




## Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 19,368 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (14,505 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (13,824). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Finance and Insurance (LQ = 1.49), Public Administration (1.35), and Accommodation and Food Services (1.26).

Total Workers for Columbus, GA-AL MSA by Industry

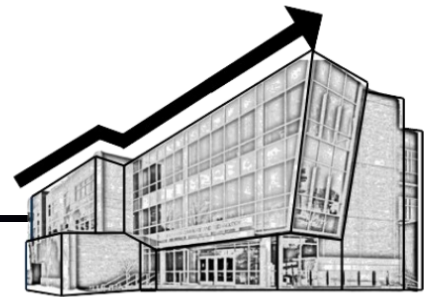


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Sectors in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$116,664), Utilities (\$91,932), and Finance and Insurance (\$89,253). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+1,065 jobs), Management of Companies and Enterprises (+515), and Transportation and Warehousing (+463).

Over the next 3 years, employment in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is projected to contract by 2,695 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Management of Companies and Enterprises with a -0.1% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Management of Companies and Enterprises (-7 jobs), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (-8), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (-8).





## Columbus, GA-AL MSA, 2023Q3<sup>1</sup>

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		3-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	19,368	\$55,951	1.05	50	0.1%	5,523	2,722	2,931	-130	-0.2%
44	Retail Trade	14,505	\$30,828	1.15	61	0.1%	5,234	2,597	3,255	-618	-1.4%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	13,824	\$21,255	1.26	-132	-0.2%	6,889	3,258	3,974	-343	-0.8%
31	Manufacturing	10,554	\$67,741	1.04	-527	-1.0%	2,891	1,262	1,891	-261	-0.8%
61	Educational Services	10,498	\$45,968	1.04	13	0.0%	2,674	1,437	1,490	-253	-0.8%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	8,924	\$37,412	1.12	1,065	2.6%	2,835	1,305	1,730	-199	-0.8%
92	Public Administration	7,868	\$55,338	1.35	-603	-1.5%	1,942	947	1,198	-203	-0.9%
52	Finance and Insurance	7,533	\$89,253	1.49	-3,182	-6.8%	1,693	785	1,084	-176	-0.8%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,209	\$28,792	1.15	28	0.1%	1,981	920	1,186	-125	-0.7%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	6,102	\$62,288	0.65	146	0.5%	1,453	602	883	-32	-0.2%
23	Construction	6,075	\$54,887	0.80	297	1.0%	1,425	632	926	-133	-0.7%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	3,683	\$50,959	0.59	463	2.7%	1,180	525	679	-23	-0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	2,524	\$63,479	0.53	20	0.2%	669	303	451	-84	-1.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,154	\$52,269	0.96	-72	-0.7%	577	295	322	-41	-0.6%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,991	\$116,664	1.01	515	6.2%	502	208	301	-7	-0.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,672	\$30,541	0.68	233	3.1%	737	316	429	-8	-0.2%
51	Information	1,211	\$55,253	0.48	-140	-2.2%	295	127	195	-26	-0.7%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	824	\$35,521	0.51	33	0.8%	269	141	150	-22	-0.9%
99	Unclassified	471	\$65,972	1.74	332	27.6%	150	69	89	-7	-0.5%
22	Utilities	358	\$91,932	0.56	-23	-1.2%	79	38	55	-14	-1.3%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	256	\$70,144	0.56	53	4.7%	62	27	44	-8	-1.1%
<b>Total - All Industries</b>		<b>126,606</b>	<b>\$49,432</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>-1,367</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>38,287</b>	<b>18,064</b>	<b>22,917</b>	<b>-2,695</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

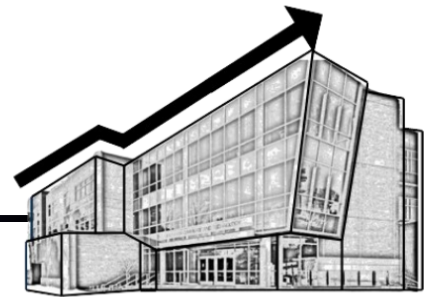
Source: [JobsEQ®](#)  
Data as of 2023Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.



## Occupation Snapshot

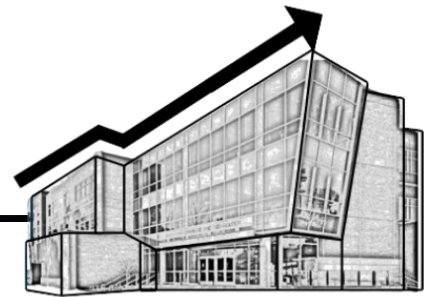
The largest major occupation group in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 14,955 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (12,216 workers) and Sales and Related Occupations (12,017). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Protective Service Occupations (LQ = 1.37), Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1.19), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.18).

Occupation groups in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$108,900), Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$98,100), and Legal Occupations (\$97,600). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Legal Occupations to 6.1% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 3 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is expected to be Computer and Mathematical Occupations with a +0.4% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Computer and Mathematical Occupations (+39 jobs) and Healthcare Support Occupations (+34). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (6,691 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (4,758).

**Columbus, GA-AL MSA, 2023Q3<sup>1</sup>**

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			3-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	14,955	\$39,900	0.98	578	3.4%	387	-1,730	-2.2%	4,053	2,218	2,540	-704	-1.6%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	12,216	\$27,800	1.19	763	6.1%	497	-370	-0.6%	6,383	3,046	3,645	-307	-0.8%
41-0000	Sales and Related	12,017	\$40,600	1.07	568	4.5%	694	-370	-0.6%	4,029	2,043	2,450	-464	-1.3%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	9,809	\$37,500	0.88	615	5.4%	526	498	1.0%	3,509	1,516	2,128	-136	-0.5%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	8,774	\$77,200	1.09	196	2.2%	192	25	0.1%	1,893	785	1,246	-139	-0.5%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,743	\$85,700	1.18	148	1.7%	1,341	177	0.4%	1,376	808	631	-63	-0.2%
11-0000	Management	8,450	\$108,900	0.89	144	1.7%	402	652	1.6%	1,776	721	1,163	-108	-0.4%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	7,482	\$53,600	1.11	193	2.6%	246	-51	-0.1%	1,736	958	935	-157	-0.7%
51-0000	Production	7,416	\$39,300	1.05	358	4.3%	124	-355	-0.9%	2,094	959	1,378	-242	-1.1%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	4,873	\$49,000	0.99	119	2.3%	350	26	0.1%	1,154	551	688	-85	-0.6%



## Columbus, GA-AL MSA, 2023Q3<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			3-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann %
31-0000	Healthcare Support	4,846	\$32,200	0.86	185	3.5%	293	140	0.6%	2,020	893	1,094	34	0.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	4,487	\$44,900	0.78	232	4.7%	107	-49	-0.2%	1,037	450	664	-77	-0.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,313	\$30,800	1.04	233	5.2%	164	112	0.5%	1,593	775	898	-80	-0.6%
33-0000	Protective Service	3,707	\$43,800	1.37	148	3.7%	124	253	1.4%	1,054	525	626	-97	-0.9%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	3,467	\$98,100	0.85	73	2.0%	159	-161	-0.9%	653	230	384	39	0.4%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	3,414	\$30,900	1.09	165	4.6%	88	41	0.2%	1,648	680	1,006	-38	-0.4%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	2,322	\$49,200	1.02	42	1.9%	318	30	0.3%	592	273	330	-11	-0.2%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	1,801	\$88,600	0.88	28	1.6%	96	70	0.8%	312	145	195	-28	-0.5%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,653	\$63,700	0.71	80	4.5%	71	24	0.3%	450	211	270	-31	-0.6%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	750	\$74,300	0.68	17	2.3%	64	-4	-0.1%	178	47	141	-10	-0.4%
23-0000	Legal	695	\$97,600	0.67	10	1.4%	32	-58	-1.6%	112	59	64	-11	-0.5%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	414	\$39,100	0.55	27	4.9%	8	48	2.5%	163	65	110	-11	-0.9%
<b>Total - All Occupations</b>		<b>126,606</b>	<b>\$52,800</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>6,285</b>	<b>-1,052</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>37,846</b>	<b>17,958</b>	<b>22,582</b>	<b>-2,695</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q3 unless noted otherwise

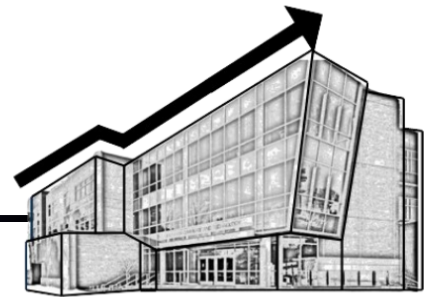
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

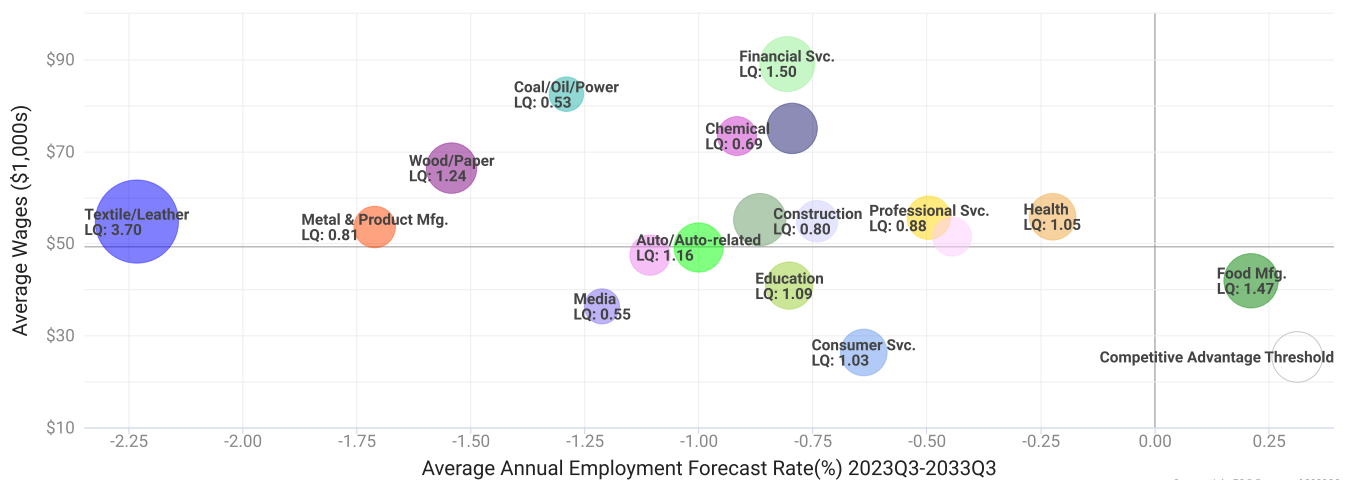
Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2023Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



## Industry Clusters

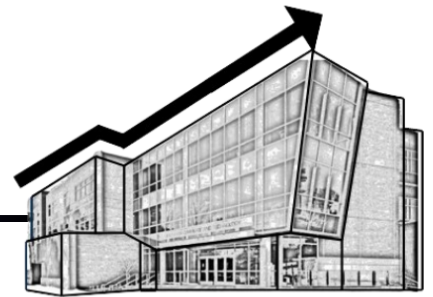
A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 3.70. This cluster employs 968 workers in the region with an average wage of \$54,760. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to contract in the region about 2.2% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Columbus, GA-AL MSA as of 2023Q3



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q3

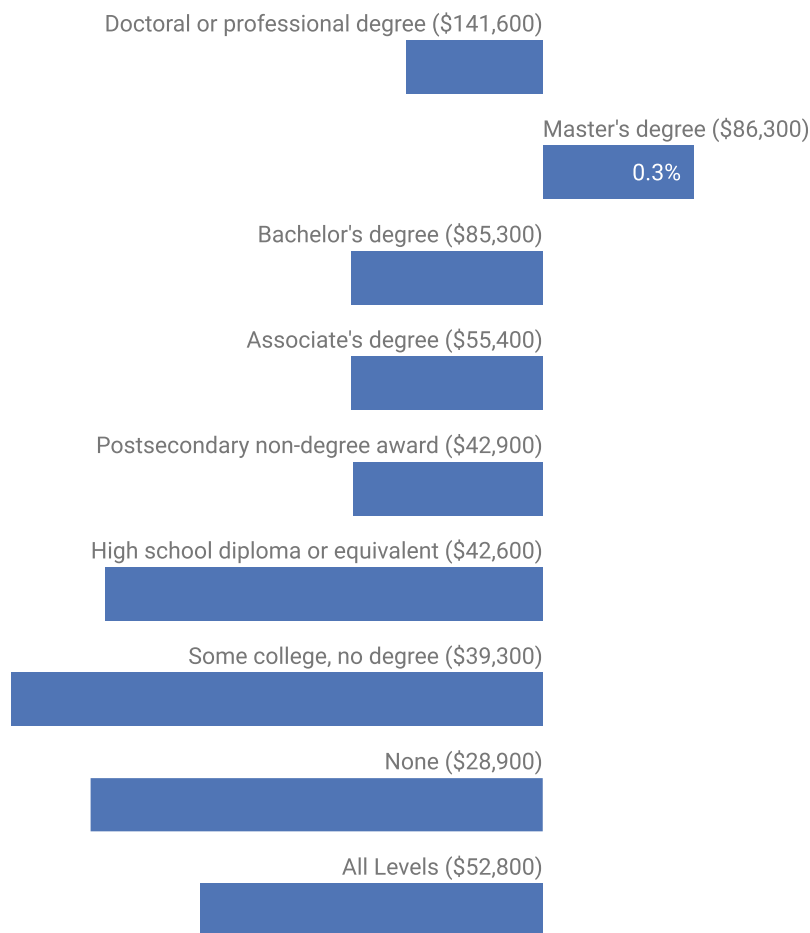
Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



## Education Levels

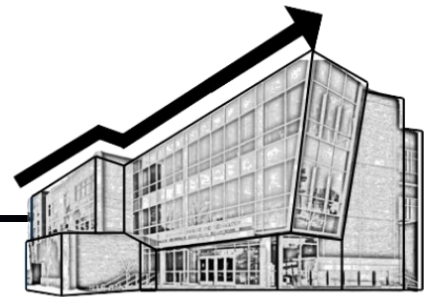
Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA is projected to contract 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to contract 0.3% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.4% per year.

### Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels



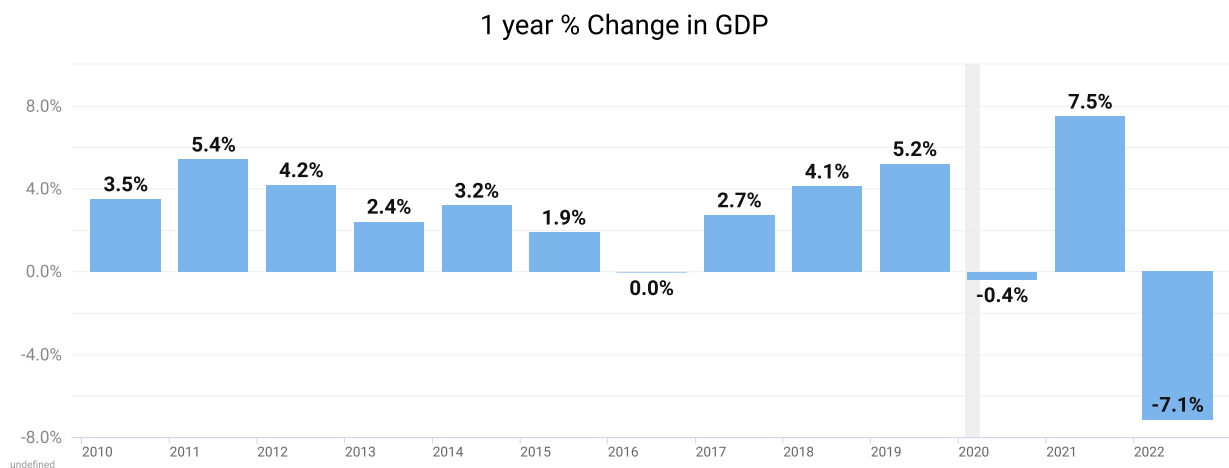
Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2023Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



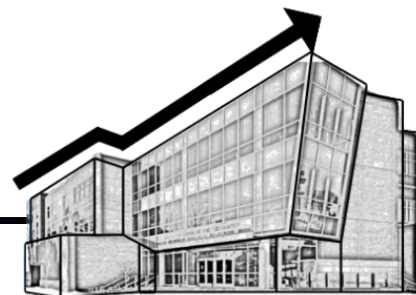
## Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA contracted 7.1%. This follows growth of 7.5% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA was \$16,021,651,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in the Columbus, GA-AL MSA, Unclassified contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$2,490,388,000. The next-largest contributions came from Finance and Insurance (\$2,275,728,000); Manufacturing (\$1,641,659,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$1,625,954,000).



## GDP (in \$ millions)

Unclassified (99)

\$2,490

Finance and Insurance (52)

\$2,276

Manufacturing (31)

\$1,642

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$1,626

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$1,568

Retail Trade (44)

\$904

Educational Services (61)

\$890

Public Administration (92)

\$766

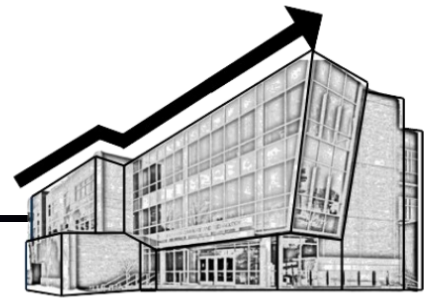
Construction (23)

\$557

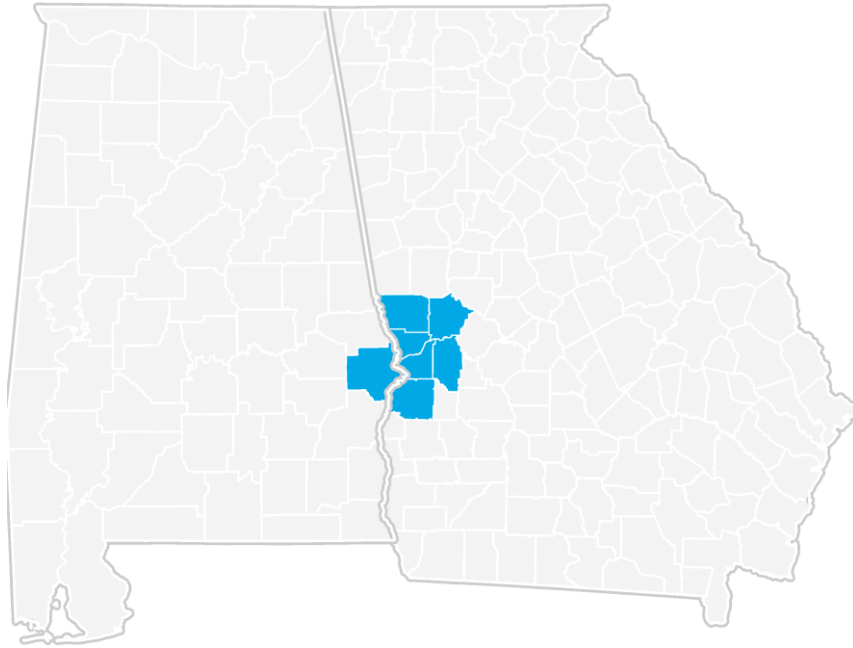
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)

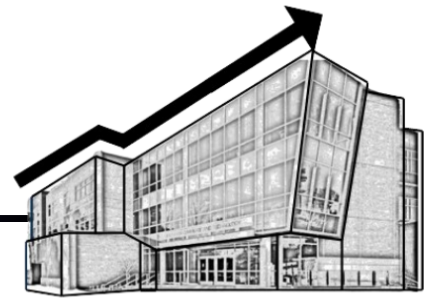
\$539





## Columbus, GA-AL MSA Regional Map





## Region Definition

**Columbus, GA-AL MSA is defined as the following counties:**

Russell County, Alabama

Chattahoochee County, Georgia

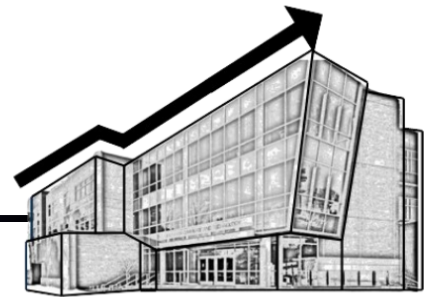
Harris County, Georgia

Marion County, Georgia

Muscogee County, Georgia

Stewart County, Georgia

Talbot County, Georgia



## FAQ

### What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

### What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

### What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

### What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

### What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

### What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.



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