



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

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Fast Growing, High Wage Occupations Don't Always Require a Four-Year Degree

MONTGOMERY - The Alabama Department of Labor's Labor Market Information Division has compiled a list of high demand occupations that do not require a four-year degree. The list of 40 occupations ranges from carpenters to commercial pilots. The overwhelming majority of these occupations have average annual salaries of more than \$30,000.

"It's important that Alabamians who are entering the work force for the first time, or even those who are looking to rejoin it, know that there are many well-paying jobs out there that don't require a formal education," said Fitzgerald Washington, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Labor. "Higher education is certainly important, and if that's the direction your career choices lead you, that's wonderful. If not, there are many other career paths out there in which workers can become just as successful."

Alabama's average per capita income for 2013 was \$23,680, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Thirty-eight of the 40 occupations on the list have higher annual average salaries, and 32 of the 40 have annual salaries higher than \$30,000.

According to Alabama 2012-2022 Occupational Projections, here are the top five occupations and their salaries, ranked by anticipated growth:

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| 1. Engine & Other Machine Assemblers | \$35,687 |
| 2. Occupational Therapy Assistants | \$55,187 |
| 3. Personal Care Aides | \$17,830 |
| 4. Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | \$47,758 |
| 5. Physical Therapist Assistants | \$53,714 |

“Additionally, I’d like to encourage anyone who is thinking about pursuing one of these careers to stop by their local Career Center,” continued Washington. “In many cases, vocational training or certification programs are available at no cost.”

A list of career centers can be found at www.joblink.alabama.gov.

To view the full list of occupations, please visit

<http://www2.labor.alabama.gov/WorkforceDev/Alabama%20and%20Regional%20Data/Alabama/High%20Demand%20Fast%20Growing%20Declining%20Occupations.pdf>

**For the latest Wage Data, updated quarterly with Employment Cost Index (ECI) Seasonal Factors, please visit www.labor.alabama.gov/lmi and search under occupational statistics.*

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.