

Immigrant Job Opportunities



Map to Success

Illinois

Job Shortages



Potential Career
Advancement



Immigration in Illinois



Job Shortages

The tables below show the top three occupations that are projected from 2018-2028 of Illinois employers based on the level of education they require. There is a state minimum wage of \$11.00 in Illinois. The one highlighted occupation under each of the three education levels has been selected to expand on in terms of potential career advancement.

High School (HS) Diploma or Less			
Occupation	Average Annual Job Openings	Median Hourly Wage	State Licensing Required
Food Preparation Workers	29,860	\$12.39	Yes
Cashiers	25,570	\$11.18	No
Laborers and Freight, Stock & Material Movers	24,100	\$13.75	No

More than HS Diploma, less than Bachelor's Degree			
Occupation	Average Annual Job Openings	Median Hourly Wage	State Licensing Required
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	9,090	\$23.24	Yes
Nursing Assistants	7,090	\$13.85	Yes
Teacher Assistants	6,340	\$17.51	Yes

Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Occupation	Average Annual Job Openings	Median Hourly Wage	State Licensing Required
General & Operations Managers	11,570	\$48.26	No
Registered Nurses	9,260	\$34.43	Yes
Accountants & Auditors	5,840	\$33.89	Yes

Potential Career Advancement

1) Food Preparation Worker to Certified Food Manager

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
1	Food Preparation Worker (\$12.39)	Food Handler Certification required after 30 days	Certified Food Manager (\$21.66)	8 hours mandatory training Pass the ANSI food safety certification exam

Food Preparation Worker Job Description:

- [Perform](#) a variety of food preparation duties other than cooking

Entry Level Requirements:

- Food Handler Certification – [required](#) by Illinois state law 30 days after hire
- Obtain Food Handler Certification online [here](#) (\$7, 2 hours); click [here](#) to take exam in Español, 普通话, 한국어, Việt, American Sign Language, Tagalog, Serbo-Croatian

Certified Food Manager Job Description:

- Responsible for food safety to protect the public from foodborne illness

Career Advancement Requirements:

- [Complete](#) 8 hours of mandatory course training
- [Pass](#) the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification exam (\$55)

2) Teacher Assistant to Elementary School Teacher

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
2	Teaching Assistants (\$17.51)	Obtain Associate's degree or higher OR Complete 60 semester hours OR HS diploma with a 460+ score on ETS Parapro Exam	Elementary School Teachers (\$38.62)	Bachelor's degree Complete state-approved teacher program Pass IELTS exam

Teacher Assistant Job Description:

- [Assist](#) in the teaching of academic and social skills to students at any and all school levels

Entry Level Requirements:

- Associate's degree **OR** 60 completed semester hours **OR** High School Diploma and achieve a score of 460+ on the [ETS Parapro Exam](#) (\$45)
- Study materials for the ETS Parapro Exam are found [here](#)

Elementary School Teacher Job Description:

- [Teach](#) academic and social skills to students at the elementary school level

Career Advancement Requirements:

- Obtain Bachelor's degree
- [Complete](#) state-approved teacher preparation programs at an accredited college or university
- [Pass](#) the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS): Test of Academic Proficiency exam (240+ score) and pass the ILTS: Elementary/Middle Grades exam (240+ score)

3) Registered Nurse to Nurse Practitioner

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
3	Registered Nurses (\$34.43)	Complete a state-approved nursing program Pass the NCLEX-RN exam	Nurse Practitioners (\$51.64)	Earn graduate degree in nursing specialty Become nationally certified Apply for license

Registered Nurse Job Description:

- [Assess](#) patient health problems and needs, develop and administer nursing care

Entry Level Requirements:

- [Complete](#) a state-approved nursing program
- [Pass](#) the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) exam (\$200)

Nurse Practitioner Job Description:

- [Diagnose](#) and treat patients independently or as part of a healthcare team

Career Advancement Requirements:

- Earn a graduate degree in a chosen nursing specialization
- Become [nationally certified](#) by an accredited agency & become licensed in Illinois
- List of online nurse practitioner programs in Illinois found [here](#)
- Apply for license

Immigration in Illinois

The following are facts about the [immigrant community in Illinois](#):

- Immigrants comprise 14% of the state population and 18% of the Illinois labor force
- Top industries of immigrant employment:
 - Manufacturing, 218,530 workers
 - Health Care and Social Assistance, 158,663 workers
 - Accommodation and Food Services, 125,897 workers
 - Retail trade, 112,570 workers

- Administrative & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Service, 96,137 workers
- 137,907 immigrant business owners account for 23% of all self-employed Illinois residents
- 52% of immigrants in Illinois are naturalized and 22% are undocumented
- Top foreign-born countries of origin:
 - Mexico, 36%
 - India, 10%
 - Poland, 7%
 - The Philippines, 5%
 - China, 4%
- 14% of native-born Illinoisans are children of an immigrant
- Educational attainment of foreign born adults in Illinois:
 - High School diploma or less– 49%
 - More than HS diploma, less than Bachelor’s degree – 18%
 - Bachelor’s degree or higher – 33%
 - Share of [Brain Waste](#)* - 26%

* Share of [immigrant professionals](#), who are unemployed, employed at poverty-level wages in High School diploma or less jobs, or significantly underemployed in more than HS diploma, less than Bachelor’s degree jobs

Sources

Jobs

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Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2019 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates; <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment Projections*, “Education and training assignments by detailed occupation,” 2019; <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/education-and-training-by-occupation.htm>

National Council of State Legislatures, “State Minimum Wages”, December 2020; <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx#Table>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Economic News Release*, “Employees on Nonfarm Payrolls by State, Seasonally adjusted”, November 2020; <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>

Potential Career Advancement

National Conference of State Legislatures, “The National Occupational Licensing Database”, March 2020: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/occupational-licensing-statute-database.aspx>

Immigration

American Immigration Council, State by State Fact Sheet, August 2020; <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/topics/state-by-state>