

# Immigrant Job Opportunities



**Map to Success**

## Iowa

Job Shortages



Potential Career  
Advancement



Immigration in Iowa



## Job Shortages

The tables below show the top three occupations that are projected from 2018-2028 of Iowa employers based on the level of education they require. There is a state minimum wage of \$7.25 in Iowa. 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	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Farmers & Agricultural Managers	8,630	\$38.41	No
Cashiers	8,370	\$10.78	No
Food Preparation Worker	8,100	\$11.14	No

More than HS Diploma, less than Bachelor's Degree			
Occupation	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,190	\$19.95	Yes
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerks	2,760	\$18.71	No
Nursing Assistants	2,740	\$14.25	Yes

Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Occupation	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Registered Nurses	2,490	\$28.60	Yes
Elementary School Teachers	1,830	\$34.37	Yes
Accountants & Auditors	1,290	\$29.94	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 (\$11.14)	Food Handler Certification not required, but preferred	Certified Food Manager (\$22.07)	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 – [not required](#) by Iowa state law, but employers may prefer it
- 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:

- [Pass](#) the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification exam (\$55)
- Online courses are not required, but provide knowledge for the ANSI exam

## 2) Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerks to Accountant & Auditor

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
2	Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerks (\$18.71)	Associate's degree in Accounting or related field preferred	Accountants & Auditors (\$29.94)	Bachelor's degree with Accounting concentration  2 years experience in Accounting  Pass the CPA exam  Pass the AICPA Ethics exam

### Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerk Job Description:

- [Compute, classify and record](#) numerical data to keep financial records accurate and complete

### Entry Level Requirements:

- Certification is **not** required by Iowa law, but an Associate's degree is generally preferred
- Accounting training programs in Iowa are listed [here](#)

### Accountant & Auditor Job Description:

- [Analyze](#) financial information and prepare financial reports on activities in an organization

### Career Advancement Requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree with Accounting concentration
- At least 1 year of accounting [experience](#)
- Pass the [CPA](#) exam (Approx. \$900 with \$170 application fee)
- Pass the [AICPA Ethics exam](#) with minimum score of 90
- Social security number is [required](#), but there is no citizenship or residency requirement

### 3) Registered Nurse to Nurse Practitioner

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
3	Registered Nurses (\$28.60)	Complete a state-approved nursing program  Pass the NCLEX-RN exam	Nurse Practitioners (\$52.03)	Earn graduate degree in nursing specialty  Become nationally certified

#### 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 & apply to be registered in Iowa

## Immigration in Iowa

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

- Immigrants comprise 6% of the state population and 7% of the Iowa labor force
- Top industries of immigrant employment in Iowa:
  - Manufacturing, 33,963
  - Health Care and Social Assistance, 17,239
  - Accommodation and Food Services, 14,651
  - Educational Services, 14,176
  - Retail Trade, 9,537
- 10,918 immigrant business owners account for 6% of all self-employed Iowa residents
- 39% of immigrants in Iowa are naturalized and another 31% are undocumented

- Top foreign-born countries of origin:
  - Mexico, 26%%
  - India, 6%
  - Vietnam, 5%
  - China, 4%
  - Thailand, 4%
- 5% of native-born Iowans are children of an immigrant
- Educational attainment of foreign born adults in Iowa:
  - High School diploma or less – 53%
  - More than HS diploma, less than Bachelor's degree – 19%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher – 28%
    - Share of [Brain Waste](#)\* - 22%

\* 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;  
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National Council of State Legislatures, “State Minimum Wages”, December 2020;  
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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>