

# The Jobs to Aim For

The EPE Research Center examined each state's distribution of workers across the five job zones defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Jobs in Zone 3 and higher generally require a high school diploma plus substantial postsecondary education or training as a minimum qualification. These jobs are also more desirable, typically paying more than \$40,000 annually, compared with less than \$13,000 for jobs in Zone 1. More than 76 million jobs across the country fall into Zones 3, 4, and 5.

PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE BY JOB ZONE						JOBS IN ZONE 3 AND HIGHER		
	Zone					Number of jobs	Median years of education	Median annual income
	1	2	3	4	5			
ALABAMA	13.6	37.4	31.4	12.0	5.6	1,041,027	13.5	\$35,672
ALASKA	14.3	31.2	33.9	14.0	6.7	183,891	13.5	46,883
ARIZONA	14.2	33.1	32.5	13.8	6.4	1,471,096	13.5	40,666
ARKANSAS	12.9	38.3	32.0	11.6	5.1	638,571	13.5	32,429
CALIFORNIA	13.8	32.7	31.5	14.9	7.1	9,144,707	14.0	46,367
COLORADO	12.3	30.8	32.9	16.6	7.5	1,403,503	14.0	40,768
CONNECTICUT	12.0	31.6	30.6	17.0	8.8	1,009,155	16.0	51,673
DELAWARE	12.3	33.5	31.2	15.4	7.6	232,740	14.0	43,409
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	12.5	24.5	26.4	20.9	15.7	170,052	16.0	53,497
FLORIDA	14.5	34.0	32.3	12.9	6.3	4,298,596	14.0	38,016
GEORGIA	12.8	34.9	31.8	14.2	6.4	2,338,924	14.0	40,768
HAWAII	17.8	31.5	31.6	12.4	6.8	311,227	14.0	40,768
IDAHO	12.3	33.9	34.9	12.2	6.7	380,543	13.5	32,003
ILLINOIS	12.2	36.0	30.1	14.5	7.1	3,306,520	14.0	45,675
INDIANA	12.5	39.2	30.9	11.6	5.8	1,490,404	13.5	39,545
IOWA	11.3	37.5	32.2	12.8	6.2	805,103	14.0	35,672
KANSAS	11.6	36.0	32.2	13.1	7.1	755,525	14.0	36,691
KENTUCKY	13.2	38.2	31.7	11.2	5.7	950,658	13.5	36,691
LOUISIANA	14.6	35.0	32.2	12.0	6.1	1,042,124	13.5	35,672
MAINE	13.7	35.8	31.2	12.8	6.5	348,241	14.0	35,682
MARYLAND	11.5	29.8	32.6	17.5	8.6	1,713,012	16.0	50,960
MASSACHUSETTS	12.1	30.6	30.4	17.7	9.2	1,895,398	16.0	50,858
MICHIGAN	13.1	37.0	30.1	13.5	6.2	2,466,722	14.0	43,214
MINNESOTA	11.7	32.9	32.8	15.6	6.9	1,542,464	14.0	42,500
MISSISSIPPI	13.8	38.9	31.5	10.4	5.4	628,052	13.5	31,595
MISSOURI	13.0	36.6	31.5	12.8	6.2	1,469,492	13.5	36,691
MONTANA	13.2	34.2	32.5	12.8	7.3	256,217	13.5	31,595
NEBRASKA	12.0	36.0	34.0	12.4	5.6	484,475	14.0	34,653
NEVADA	17.9	36.7	29.7	10.9	4.8	554,135	13.5	41,787
NEW HAMPSHIRE	11.6	32.6	33.1	15.3	7.4	398,027	14.0	44,233
NEW JERSEY	12.3	31.6	30.6	17.7	7.9	2,439,375	16.0	51,548
NEW MEXICO	14.7	33.1	31.8	13.4	7.0	478,111	13.5	35,672
NEW YORK	13.2	32.2	30.8	15.6	8.2	5,048,298	16.0	45,864
NORTH CAROLINA	13.5	34.8	32.4	12.7	6.5	2,191,595	14.0	36,691
NORTH DAKOTA	10.9	34.3	35.0	13.5	6.3	192,264	14.0	33,177
OHIO	12.7	37.1	30.9	12.9	6.4	2,859,825	14.0	40,768
OKLAHOMA	13.0	35.6	33.0	12.3	6.1	871,405	13.5	33,633
OREGON	12.9	34.6	32.3	13.7	6.5	964,192	14.0	38,729
PENNSYLVANIA	12.5	35.8	30.9	13.6	7.2	3,112,178	14.0	40,768
RHODE ISLAND	13.2	33.3	32.0	13.8	7.7	291,345	14.0	45,048
SOUTH CAROLINA	14.1	36.9	31.0	12.0	6.0	1,000,127	14.0	35,672
SOUTH DAKOTA	13.5	35.3	33.6	11.0	6.6	210,136	14.0	32,608
TENNESSEE	13.0	38.2	30.9	12.0	6.0	1,420,454	13.5	36,487
TEXAS	13.6	34.5	31.6	14.2	6.1	5,661,207	13.5	38,729
UTAH	13.1	35.2	32.4	12.8	6.5	640,900	13.5	36,689
VERMONT	12.8	32.0	34.5	13.7	7.1	192,738	14.0	38,220
VIRGINIA	11.6	31.3	32.0	17.0	8.1	2,163,519	14.0	45,864
WASHINGTON	12.6	32.6	32.2	15.1	7.5	1,741,290	14.0	42,806
WEST VIRGINIA	13.7	38.2	30.9	11.3	5.8	380,763	13.5	35,583
WISCONSIN	12.4	36.5	32.2	13.0	5.9	1,512,383	14.0	39,748
WYOMING	14.2	34.4	32.7	13.3	5.4	144,187	13.5	35,672
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>76,246,893</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>40,768</b>

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2007