



## Economic Overview

# CareerSource Okaloosa Walton



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# Demographic Profile

The population in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton was 299,547 per American Community Survey data for 2020-2024.

The region has a civilian labor force of 139,303 with a participation rate of 61.2%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, 34.8% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 37.3% in the nation.

The median household income in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is \$81,995 and the median house value is \$374,562.

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

|                                                                                 | Percent                            |         |       | Value                              |            |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                                                                                 | CareerSource<br>Okaloosa<br>Walton | Florida | USA   | CareerSource<br>Okaloosa<br>Walton | Florida    | USA         |
| <b>Demographics</b>                                                             |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| Population (ACS)                                                                | —                                  | —       | —     | 299,547                            | 22,416,077 | 334,922,499 |
| Male                                                                            | 50.7%                              | 49.1%   | 49.5% | 151,773                            | 11,016,080 | 165,808,018 |
| Female                                                                          | 49.3%                              | 50.9%   | 50.5% | 147,774                            | 11,399,997 | 169,114,481 |
| Median Age <sup>2</sup>                                                         | —                                  | —       | —     | 39.2                               | 42.6       | 38.9        |
| Under 18 Years                                                                  | 22.1%                              | 19.5%   | 22.0% | 66,276                             | 4,374,830  | 73,517,834  |
| 18 to 24 Years                                                                  | 7.8%                               | 8.1%    | 9.1%  | 23,414                             | 1,812,847  | 30,597,362  |
| 25 to 34 Years                                                                  | 14.2%                              | 12.7%   | 13.7% | 42,581                             | 2,838,327  | 45,806,540  |
| 35 to 44 Years                                                                  | 13.3%                              | 12.7%   | 13.2% | 39,924                             | 2,840,130  | 44,237,292  |
| 45 to 54 Years                                                                  | 11.2%                              | 12.3%   | 12.2% | 33,615                             | 2,756,490  | 40,743,799  |
| 55 to 64 Years                                                                  | 13.7%                              | 13.4%   | 12.7% | 41,032                             | 3,011,475  | 42,386,044  |
| 65 to 74 Years                                                                  | 10.8%                              | 11.7%   | 10.2% | 32,344                             | 2,632,160  | 34,092,907  |
| 75 Years and Over                                                               | 6.8%                               | 9.6%    | 7.0%  | 20,361                             | 2,149,818  | 23,540,721  |
| Race: White                                                                     | 75.1%                              | 55.9%   | 61.0% | 225,066                            | 12,529,014 | 204,142,876 |
| Race: Black or African American                                                 | 7.8%                               | 15.1%   | 12.2% | 23,507                             | 3,382,877  | 40,919,547  |
| Race: American Indian and Alaska Native                                         | 0.6%                               | 0.3%    | 0.9%  | 1,780                              | 77,288     | 3,095,754   |
| Race: Asian                                                                     | 2.8%                               | 2.9%    | 6.0%  | 8,362                              | 656,903    | 19,937,283  |
| Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander                                | 0.2%                               | 0.1%    | 0.2%  | 571                                | 13,216     | 631,517     |
| Race: Some Other Race                                                           | 3.7%                               | 6.3%    | 7.1%  | 11,122                             | 1,416,954  | 23,884,085  |
| Race: Two or More Races                                                         | 9.7%                               | 19.4%   | 12.6% | 29,139                             | 4,339,825  | 42,311,437  |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race)                                                | 10.6%                              | 27.4%   | 19.3% | 31,726                             | 6,146,161  | 64,759,370  |
| <b>Population Growth</b>                                                        |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>                                         | —                                  | —       | —     | 315,098                            | 23,462,518 | 341,784,857 |
| Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>                                   | 1.9%                               | 1.5%    | 0.6%  | 5,364                              | 324,341    | 2,104,586   |
| People per Square Mile <sup>4</sup>                                             | —                                  | —       | —     | 160.1                              | 437.3      | 96.7        |
| <b>Economic</b>                                                                 |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over) | 61.2%                              | 59.6%   | 63.3% | 139,303                            | 11,016,578 | 170,199,520 |
| Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)   | 80.4%                              | 82.8%   | 83.2% | 85,605                             | 6,935,885  | 108,100,165 |
| Work from Home                                                                  | 11.5%                              | 15.7%   | 15.1% | 16,523                             | 1,623,149  | 24,042,489  |
| Armed Forces Labor Force                                                        | 5.4%                               | 0.4%    | 0.5%  | 13,111                             | 77,377     | 1,293,756   |
| Veterans, Age 18-64                                                             | 14.4%                              | 4.8%    | 4.1%  | 24,030                             | 631,809    | 8,225,965   |
| Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64                     | 76.2%                              | 74.1%   | 77.1% | 18,302                             | 468,464    | 6,341,643   |
| Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>                                            | —                                  | —       | —     | \$81,995                           | \$74,568   | \$80,734    |
| Per Capita Income                                                               | —                                  | —       | —     | \$46,655                           | \$42,609   | \$44,673    |
| Mean Commute Time (minutes)                                                     | —                                  | —       | —     | 27.1                               | 28.0       | 26.4        |
| Commute via Public Transportation                                               | 0.2%                               | 1.2%    | 3.2%  | 276                                | 124,957    | 5,157,401   |

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

|                                                                        | Percent                            |         |       | Value                              |            |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                                                                        | CareerSource<br>Okaloosa<br>Walton | Florida | USA   | CareerSource<br>Okaloosa<br>Walton | Florida    | USA         |
| <b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>                               |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| No High School Diploma                                                 | 7.1%                               | 9.5%    | 9.8%  | 11,162                             | 1,085,222  | 17,001,659  |
| High School Graduate                                                   | 24.2%                              | 26.5%   | 24.8% | 37,973                             | 3,035,306  | 42,949,236  |
| Some College, No Degree                                                | 21.6%                              | 18.1%   | 18.9% | 33,994                             | 2,070,916  | 32,726,555  |
| Associate's Degree                                                     | 12.3%                              | 10.9%   | 9.2%  | 19,284                             | 1,243,085  | 15,888,163  |
| Bachelor's Degree                                                      | 22.3%                              | 22.6%   | 23.1% | 35,097                             | 2,587,592  | 40,059,314  |
| Postgraduate Degree                                                    | 12.5%                              | 12.4%   | 14.2% | 19,642                             | 1,424,301  | 24,548,748  |
| <b>Housing</b>                                                         |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| Total Housing Units                                                    | —                                  | —       | —     | 165,136                            | 10,256,470 | 143,775,355 |
| Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2,5</sup>            | —                                  | —       | —     | \$374,562                          | \$359,000  | \$332,700   |
| Homeowner Vacancy                                                      | 1.7%                               | 1.4%    | 0.9%  | 1,501                              | 86,882     | 796,730     |
| Rental Vacancy                                                         | 20.8%                              | 7.6%    | 5.5%  | 9,062                              | 237,564    | 2,645,644   |
| Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)                    | 28.7%                              | 32.4%   | 34.8% | 34,352                             | 2,834,163  | 45,017,354  |
| Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)                     | 71.3%                              | 67.6%   | 65.2% | 85,421                             | 5,918,647  | 84,210,142  |
| Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units) | 3.6%                               | 6.0%    | 8.4%  | 4,266                              | 522,746    | 10,793,323  |
| <b>Social</b>                                                          |                                    |         |       |                                    |            |             |
| Poverty Level (of all people)                                          | 10.2%                              | 12.6%   | 12.5% | 29,810                             | 2,759,397  | 40,735,661  |
| Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP                                  | 8.3%                               | 12.6%   | 12.1% | 9,947                              | 1,100,905  | 15,572,114  |
| Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)                           | 1.1%                               | 1.2%    | 1.3%  | 3,323                              | 265,892    | 4,441,917   |
| Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>                                        | 2.0%                               | 2.7%    | 2.4%  | 263                                | 27,581     | 430,721     |
| Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)                 | 32.1%                              | 37.4%   | 33.9% | 20,071                             | 1,549,746  | 23,651,363  |
| Uninsured                                                              | 12.6%                              | 11.5%   | 8.4%  | 35,643                             | 2,548,782  | 27,734,911  |
| With a Disability, Age 18-64                                           | 13.1%                              | 10.2%   | 10.9% | 21,520                             | 1,323,686  | 21,803,902  |
| With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size  | 54.6%                              | 46.6%   | 48.5% | 11,754                             | 617,091    | 10,583,510  |
| Foreign Born                                                           | 8.7%                               | 21.9%   | 14.1% | 26,063                             | 4,905,727  | 47,349,078  |
| Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)          | 4.8%                               | 12.5%   | 8.6%  | 13,445                             | 2,663,509  | 27,139,643  |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2020-2024, 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.

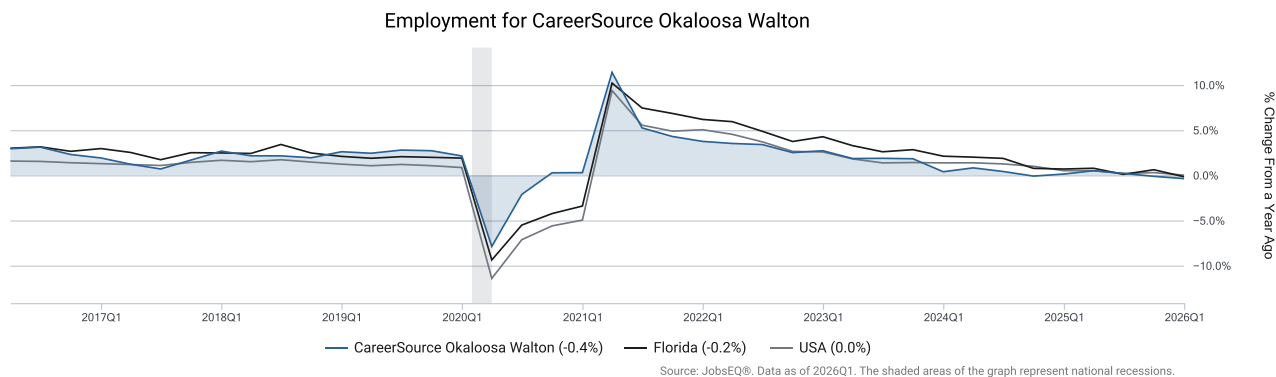
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2025, annual average growth rate since 2015.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

# Employment Trends

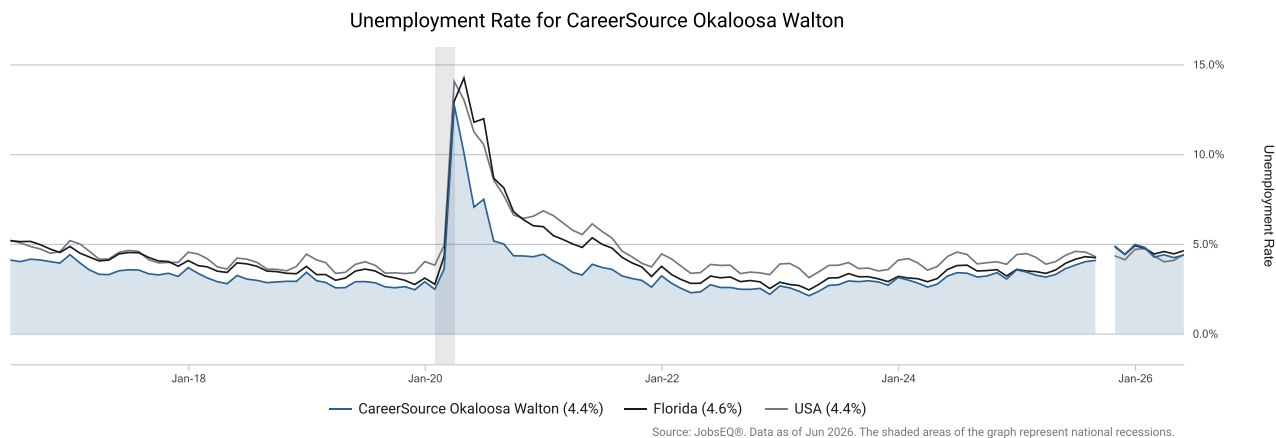
As of 2026Q1, total employment for the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton was 136,887 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2026Q1, employment declined 0.4% in the region.



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 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

# Unemployment Rate

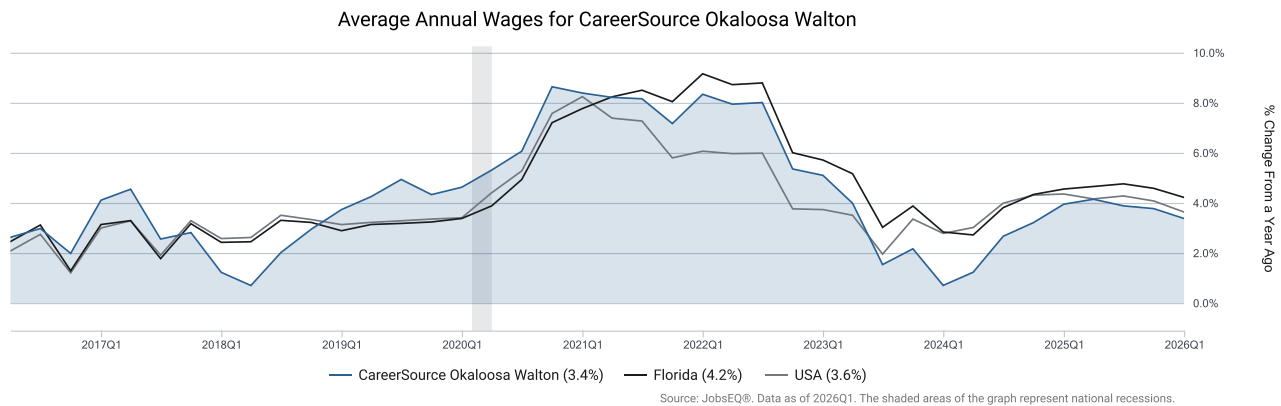
The unemployment rate for the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton was 4.4% as of June 2026. The regional unemployment rate was the same as the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in June 2025, the unemployment rate in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton was 3.6%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through June 2026.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton earned annual wages of \$61,804 as of 2026Q1. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.4% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$77,110 in the nation as of 2026Q1.



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 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

# 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 0.4% higher in CareerSource Okaloosa Walton than the U.S. average.

## Cost of Living Information

|                              | Annual Average Salary | Cost of Living Index<br>(Base US) | US Purchasing Power |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| CareerSource Okaloosa Walton | \$61,804              | 100.4                             | \$61,566            |
| Florida                      | \$70,859              | 102.0                             | \$69,437            |
| USA                          | \$77,110              | 100.0                             | \$77,110            |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

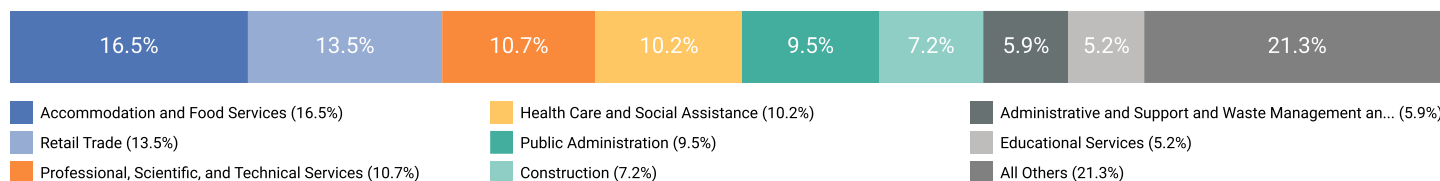
Data as of 2026Q1

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2026Q1, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

# Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is Accommodation and Food Services, employing 22,592 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (18,458 workers) and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (14,604). 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 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (LQ = 2.03), Public Administration (2.02), and Accommodation and Food Services (1.90).

Total Workers for CareerSource Okaloosa Walton by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2026Q1

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

Sectors in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton with the highest average wages per worker are Information (\$125,212), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$117,313), and Wholesale Trade (\$109,460). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Accommodation and Food Services (+3,603 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+2,338), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+1,658).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is projected to expand by 1,570 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction with a +2.4% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Accommodation and Food Services (+310 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+198), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+194).

# CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, 2026Q1<sup>1</sup>

| NAICS                         | Industry                                                                 | Current        |                 |             | 5-Year History |             | 1-Year Forecast |              |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               |                                                                          | Empl           | Avg Ann Wages   | LQ          | Empl Change    | Ann %       | Total Demand    | Exits        | Transfers    | Empl Growth  | Ann % Growth |
| 72                            | Accommodation and Food Services                                          | 22,592         | \$35,533        | 1.90        | 3,603          | 3.5%        | 4,238           | 1,746        | 2,182        | 310          | 1.4%         |
| 44                            | Retail Trade                                                             | 18,458         | \$39,679        | 1.41        | 1,088          | 1.2%        | 2,638           | 1,135        | 1,354        | 149          | 0.8%         |
| 54                            | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services                         | 14,604         | \$103,596       | 1.48        | 2,338          | 3.6%        | 1,352           | 464          | 690          | 198          | 1.4%         |
| 62                            | Health Care and Social Assistance                                        | 13,929         | \$63,018        | 0.65        | 1,658          | 2.6%        | 1,575           | 690          | 691          | 194          | 1.4%         |
| 92                            | Public Administration                                                    | 12,979         | \$84,721        | 2.02        | 181            | 0.3%        | 1,239           | 504          | 674          | 61           | 0.5%         |
| 23                            | Construction                                                             | 9,895          | \$64,098        | 1.20        | 1,026          | 2.2%        | 984             | 329          | 490          | 165          | 1.7%         |
| 56                            | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 8,140          | \$53,392        | 0.99        | 1,339          | 3.7%        | 1,006           | 395          | 517          | 94           | 1.2%         |
| 61                            | Educational Services                                                     | 7,145          | \$56,932        | 0.64        | 915            | 2.8%        | 720             | 326          | 348          | 46           | 0.6%         |
| 81                            | Other Services (except Public Administration)                            | 7,057          | \$44,798        | 1.21        | 291            | 0.8%        | 869             | 351          | 443          | 75           | 1.1%         |
| 53                            | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing                                       | 4,847          | \$55,100        | 2.03        | 310            | 1.3%        | 533             | 221          | 242          | 70           | 1.4%         |
| 31                            | Manufacturing                                                            | 3,526          | \$82,499        | 0.33        | 2              | 0.0%        | 380             | 141          | 208          | 32           | 0.9%         |
| 52                            | Finance and Insurance                                                    | 2,964          | \$101,139       | 0.55        | -154           | -1.0%       | 269             | 101          | 138          | 30           | 1.0%         |
| 48                            | Transportation and Warehousing                                           | 2,943          | \$58,458        | 0.42        | 336            | 2.5%        | 350             | 139          | 174          | 37           | 1.3%         |
| 71                            | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation                                      | 2,619          | \$35,674        | 0.90        | 476            | 4.1%        | 415             | 161          | 217          | 38           | 1.4%         |
| 42                            | Wholesale Trade                                                          | 1,919          | \$109,460       | 0.38        | 330            | 3.8%        | 212             | 77           | 111          | 25           | 1.3%         |
| 51                            | Information                                                              | 943            | \$125,212       | 0.37        | -267           | -4.9%       | 89              | 30           | 48           | 11           | 1.1%         |
| 55                            | Management of Companies and Enterprises                                  | 835            | \$117,313       | 0.39        | 475            | 18.3%       | 77              | 28           | 40           | 9            | 1.1%         |
| 22                            | Utilities                                                                | 709            | \$78,813        | 0.98        | 54             | 1.6%        | 72              | 24           | 37           | 11           | 1.5%         |
| 11                            | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting                               | 678            | \$28,049        | 0.41        | 0              | 0.0%        | 89              | 42           | 39           | 7            | 1.1%         |
| 21                            | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction                            | 57             | \$62,628        | 0.12        | 24             | 11.5%       | 6               | 2            | 3            | 1            | 2.4%         |
| 99                            | Unclassified                                                             | 48             | \$170,361       | 0.26        | -37            | -11.0%      | 6               | 2            | 3            | 1            | 1.6%         |
| <b>Total - All Industries</b> |                                                                          | <b>136,887</b> | <b>\$61,804</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>13,990</b>  | <b>2.2%</b> | <b>16,249</b>   | <b>6,538</b> | <b>8,142</b> | <b>1,570</b> | <b>1.1%</b>  |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2026Q1

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 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations, employing 19,551 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (15,090 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (14,213). 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 Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (LQ = 1.73), Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations (1.48), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (1.35).

Occupation groups in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$122,000), Legal Occupations (\$113,600), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$112,000). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.7% among Legal Occupations to 7.8% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is expected to be Construction and Extraction Occupations with a +1.6% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+247 jobs) and Management Occupations (+150). 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 (3,743 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,045).

CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, 2026Q1<sup>1</sup>

| SOC     | Occupation                                    | Current |                             |      |        |             |                             | 5-Year History |       | 1-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 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related          | 19,551  | \$39,700                    | 1.73 | 1,193  | 6.3%        | 1,051                       | 2,858          | 3.2%  | 3,990           | 1,661 | 2,082     | 247         | 1.3%         |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related                             | 15,090  | \$48,000                    | 1.27 | 795    | 5.0%        | 1,277                       | 661            | 0.9%  | 2,155           | 955   | 1,090     | 110         | 0.7%         |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support             | 14,213  | \$49,300                    | 0.94 | 575    | 3.7%        | 464                         | 609            | 0.9%  | 1,675           | 764   | 849       | 62          | 0.4%         |
| 11-0000 | Management                                    | 10,745  | \$122,000                   | 0.99 | 223    | 2.0%        | 539                         | 1,874          | 3.9%  | 1,015           | 318   | 546       | 150         | 1.4%         |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations             | 9,567   | \$94,100                    | 1.07 | 279    | 2.7%        | 325                         | 1,207          | 2.7%  | 869             | 303   | 464       | 103         | 1.1%         |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving            | 8,196   | \$45,700                    | 0.70 | 555    | 6.3%        | 503                         | 1,078          | 2.9%  | 1,201           | 474   | 612       | 115         | 1.4%         |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction                   | 6,995   | \$56,800                    | 1.13 | 352    | 5.1%        | 152                         | 450            | 1.3%  | 699             | 238   | 346       | 115         | 1.6%         |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical        | 6,828   | \$107,700                   | 0.82 | 120    | 1.7%        | 1,323                       | 946            | 3.0%  | 482             | 206   | 183       | 93          | 1.4%         |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance | 6,655   | \$40,200                    | 1.48 | 344    | 5.3%        | 325                         | 892            | 2.9%  | 1,012           | 433   | 496       | 83          | 1.2%         |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair         | 5,682   | \$57,900                    | 1.08 | 202    | 3.5%        | 437                         | 475            | 1.8%  | 593             | 226   | 295       | 72          | 1.3%         |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library           | 5,645   | \$56,000                    | 0.75 | 160    | 2.8%        | 278                         | 530            | 2.0%  | 566             | 260   | 268       | 39          | 0.7%         |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support                            | 4,257   | \$41,700                    | 0.62 | 170    | 3.8%        | 283                         | 734            | 3.9%  | 691             | 306   | 318       | 67          | 1.6%         |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical                     | 4,117   | \$112,000                   | 0.94 | 147    | 3.2%        | 425                         | 492            | 2.6%  | 296             | 90    | 141       | 65          | 1.6%         |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service                     | 3,322   | \$39,800                    | 0.93 | 178    | 5.2%        | 155                         | 531            | 3.5%  | 621             | 236   | 341       | 44          | 1.3%         |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service                            | 3,159   | \$57,700                    | 1.04 | 84     | 2.6%        | 145                         | 366            | 2.5%  | 349             | 131   | 190       | 27          | 0.8%         |
| 51-0000 | Production                                    | 3,140   | \$51,700                    | 0.44 | 147    | 4.4%        | 97                          | 91             | 0.6%  | 388             | 154   | 209       | 26          | 0.8%         |

# CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, 2026Q1<sup>1</sup>

| SOC                            | Occupation                                     | Current        |                             |             |              |             |                             | 5-Year History |             | 1-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 |
| 17-0000                        | Architecture and Engineering                   | 2,950          | \$106,400                   | 1.35        | 56           | 1.9%        | 192                         | -138           | -0.9%       | 223             | 78           | 118          | 27           | 0.9%         |
| 21-0000                        | Community and Social Service                   | 2,169          | \$58,000                    | 0.82        | 61           | 2.7%        | 208                         | 104            | 1.0%        | 229             | 93           | 109          | 27           | 1.2%         |
| 27-0000                        | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media | 2,136          | \$71,200                    | 0.91        | 100          | 4.2%        | 130                         | 152            | 1.5%        | 228             | 89           | 115          | 24           | 1.1%         |
| 19-0000                        | Life, Physical, and Social Science             | 1,168          | \$97,200                    | 0.93        | 42           | 3.4%        | 43                          | 66             | 1.2%        | 108             | 25           | 73           | 9            | 0.8%         |
| 23-0000                        | Legal                                          | 1,065          | \$113,600                   | 0.92        | 19           | 1.7%        | 24                          | -7             | -0.1%       | 71              | 25           | 38           | 8            | 0.7%         |
| 45-0000                        | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry                 | 239            | \$39,900                    | 0.31        | 23           | 7.8%        | n/a                         | 20             | 1.8%        | 36              | 16           | 19           | 1            | 0.5%         |
| <b>Total - All Occupations</b> |                                                | <b>136,887</b> | <b>\$64,200</b>             | <b>1.00</b> | <b>5,824</b> | <b>4.1%</b> | <b>8,376</b>                | <b>13,990</b>  | <b>2.2%</b> | <b>17,504</b>   | <b>7,082</b> | <b>8,901</b> | <b>1,522</b> | <b>1.1%</b>  |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2026Q1 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 2025Q4, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. Wages by occupation are as of 2026 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 CareerSource Okaloosa Walton with the highest relative concentration is Public Admin. with a location quotient of 2.18. This cluster employs 12,979 workers in the region with an average wage of \$84,700. Employment in the Public Admin. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.5% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for CareerSource Okaloosa Walton as of 2026Q1



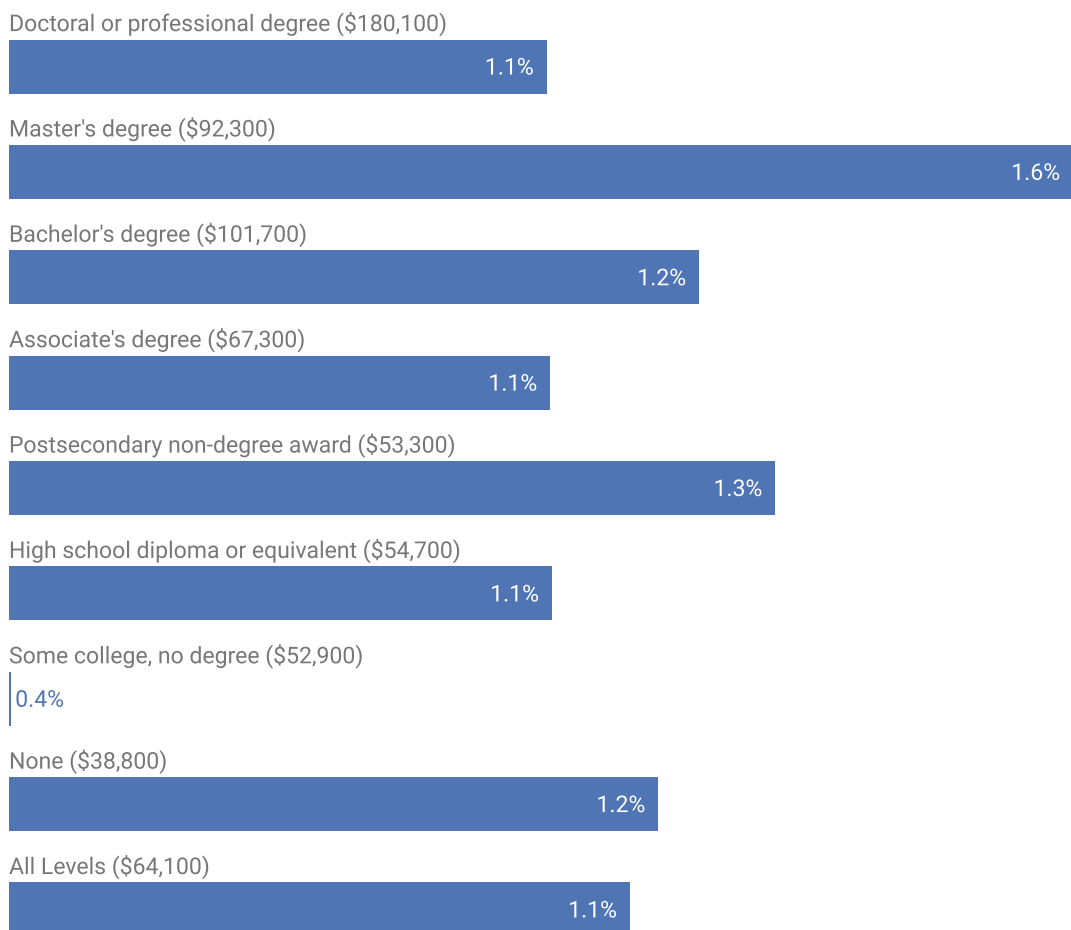
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2026Q1

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 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. 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 CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is projected to grow 1.1% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.2% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.1% per year.

## Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

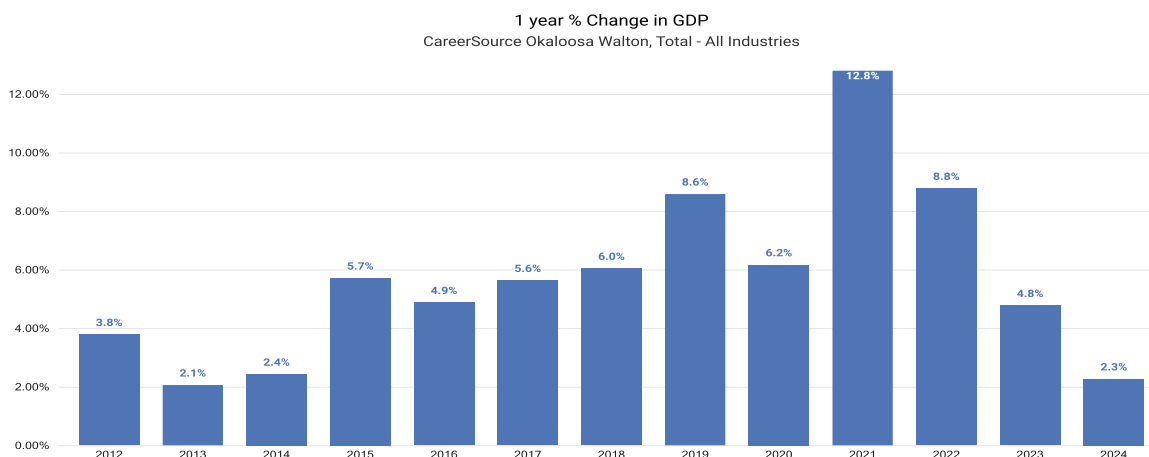


Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2026Q1

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2026Q1. 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 2024, nominal GDP in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton expanded 2.3%. This follows growth of 4.8% in 2023. As of 2024, total GDP in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton was \$23,286,082,000.

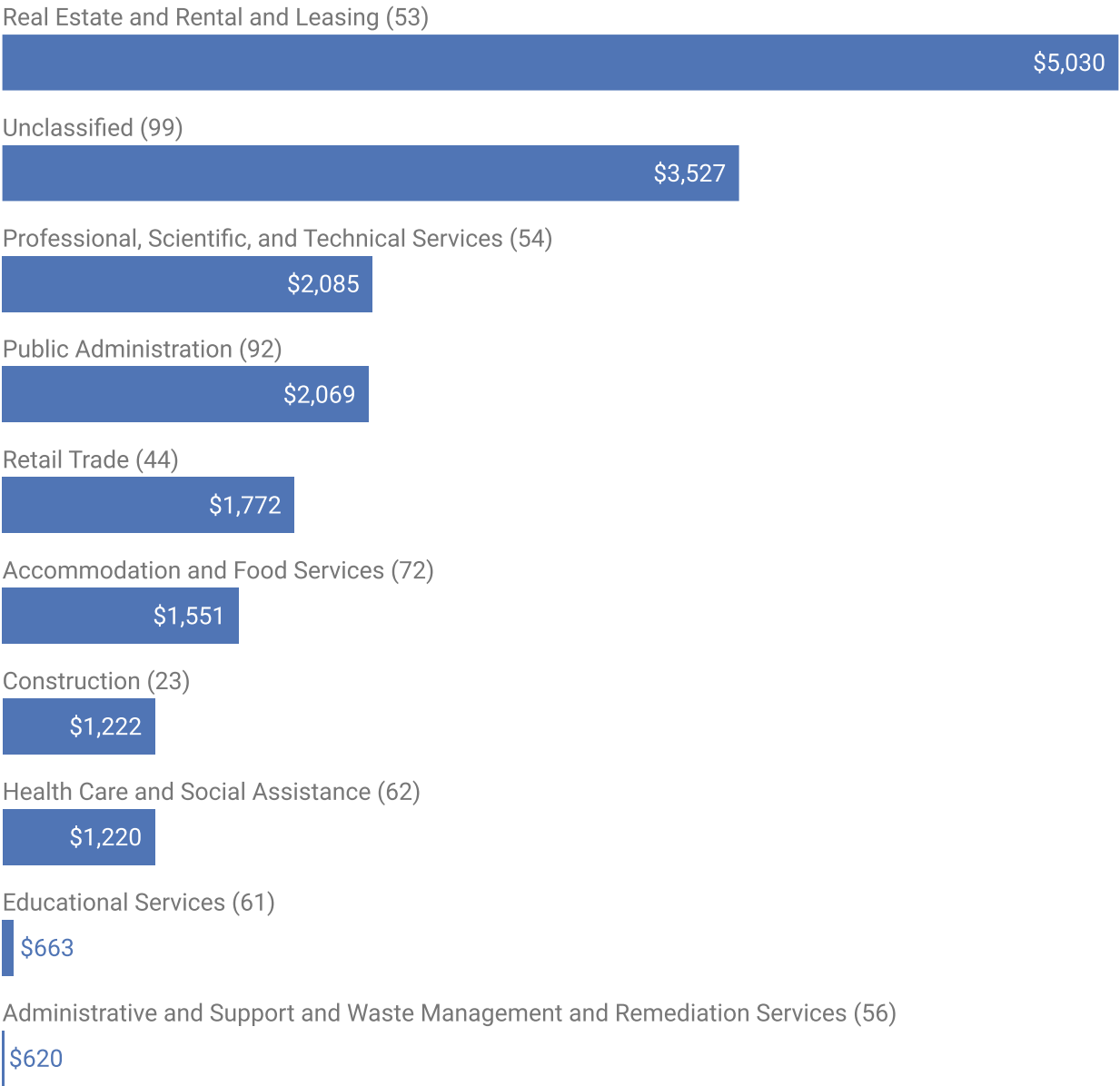


Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

Of the sectors in the CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2024, \$5,030,284,000. The next-largest contributions came from Unclassified (\$3,526,646,000); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$2,084,650,000); and Public Administration (\$2,069,270,000).

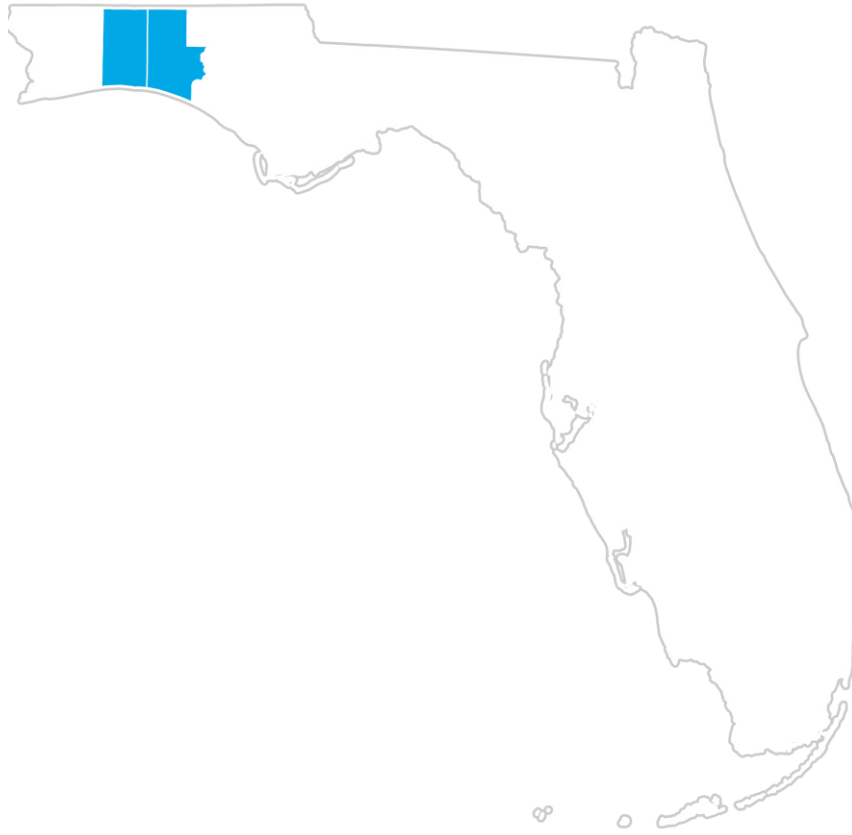
# GDP (in \$ millions)

CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, 2024



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

# CareerSource Okaloosa Walton Regional Map



# Region Definition

**CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is defined as the following counties:**

Okaloosa County, Florida

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Walton County, Florida

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# 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.

## About This Report

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