

Immigrant Job Opportunities



Map to Success

Mississippi

Job Shortages



Potential Career
Advancement



Immigration in
Mississippi



Job Shortages

The tables below show the top three occupations that are projected from 2018-2028 of Mississippi employers based on the level of education they require. There is no state minimum wage in Mississippi so residents are subject to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. 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	<u>Average Annual Job Openings</u>	<u>Median Hourly Wage</u>	<u>State Licensing Required</u>
Waiters & Waitresses	260	\$9.03	No
Cashiers	250	\$9.21	No
Fast Food Cooks	210	\$8.93	No

More than HS Diploma, less than Bachelor's Degree			
Occupation	<u>Average Annual Job Openings</u>	<u>Median Hourly Wage</u>	<u>State Licensing Required</u>
Nursing Assistants	100	\$11.11	Yes
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	100	\$20.92	Yes
Licensed Practical Nurses	90	\$18.62	Yes

Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Occupation	<u>Average Annual Job Openings</u>	<u>Median Hourly Wage</u>	<u>State Licensing Required</u>
Registered Nurses	200	\$28.17	Yes
Elementary School Teachers	100	\$27.90	Yes
Accountants & Auditors	20	\$28.60	Yes

Potential Career Advancement

1) Waiter & Waitress to Certified Food Manager

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
1	Waiter & Waitress (\$9.03)	Food Handler Certification not required, but preferred	Certified Food Managers (\$23.19)	Pass the ANSI food safety certification exam

Waiter & Waitress Job Description:

- [Take](#) orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in a restaurant

Entry Level Requirements:

- Food Handler Certification – [not required](#) by Mississippi state law, but employers may prefer it
- Obtain Food Handlers Card 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 illness as required by state regulations

Career Advancement Requirements:

- [Pass](#) the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification exam (\$55, 1.5 hours)
- Online training courses are not required, but provide knowledge to prepare for the exam

2) Nursing Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
2	Nursing Assistant (\$11.11)	Complete state-approved nursing aide training program Pass the NNAAP exam	Licensed Practical Nurse (\$18.62)	Complete state-approved nursing program Pass the NCLEX-PN exam

Nursing Assistant Job Description:

- [Provide](#) or assist licensed nursing staff with basic care such as bathing and dressing patients

Entry Level Requirements:

- [Complete](#) a state-approved nursing aide training program
- [Pass](#) the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) exam (\$98)

Licensed Practical Nurse Job Description:

- [Provide](#) more extensive patient care with fewer administrative tasks relative to medical assistant

Career Advancement Requirements:

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

3) Registered Nurse to Nurse Practitioner

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
3	Registered Nurses (\$28.17)	Complete a state-approved nursing program	Nurse Practitioners (\$50.17)	Earn graduate degree in nursing specialty Become nationally

		Pass the NCLEX-RN exam		certified Apply for license
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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 for license

Immigration in Mississippi

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

- Immigrants comprise 2% of the state population and 3% of the Mississippi labor force
- Top industries of immigrant employment:
 - Accommodation and Food Services, 8,549 workers
 - Manufacturing, 6,039 workers
 - Health Care and Social Assistance, 4,952 workers
 - Educational Services, 4,528 workers
 - Construction, 4,227 workers
- 6,125 immigrant business owners account for 5% of all self-employed Mississippi residents
- 38% of immigrants in Mississippi are naturalized and another 35% are undocumented
- Top foreign-born countries of origin:
 - Mexico, 23%
 - Guatemala, 10%
 - India, 8%
 - Philippines, 4%
 - Vietnam, 4%

- 2% of native-born Mississippians are children of an immigrant

- Educational attainment of foreign-born adults in Mississippi:
 - High School diploma or less – 51%
 - More than HS diploma, less than Bachelor’s degree – 19%
 - Bachelor’s degree or higher – 30%
 - Share of [Brain Waste](#)* - 30%

* 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, *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>

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Potential Career Advancement

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