



3 New Jersey Counties



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Report Parameters

3 Counties

34021	Mercer County, NJ	34035	Somerset County, NJ
34023	Middlesex County, NJ		

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical areas.

Economy Overview

1,651,868

Population (2025)

Population **grew by 59,128** over the last 5 years and is projected to **grow by 108,544** over the next 5 years.

969,817

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **grew by 73,934** over the last 5 years and are projected to **grow by 21,497** over the next 5 years.

\$108.4K

Avg. Earnings Per Job (2025)

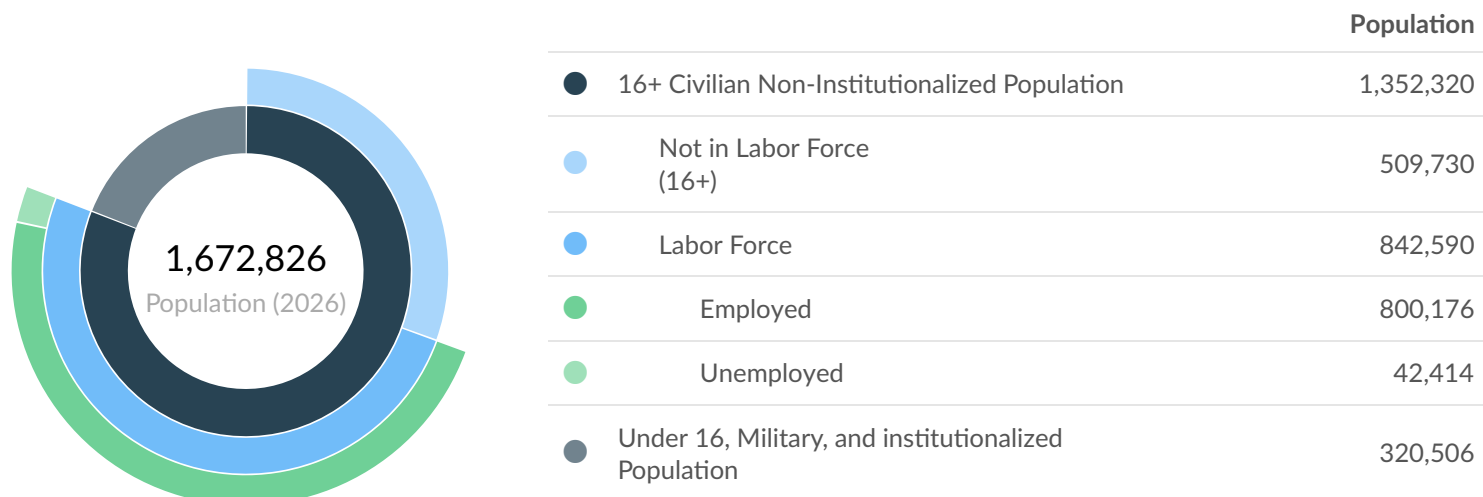
Regional average earnings per job are **\$18.9K above** the national average earnings of \$89.4K per job.

Takeaways

- As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 3.7%** since 2020, growing by 59,128. Population is expected to **increase by 6.6%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 108,544.
- From 2020 to 2025, jobs **increased by 8.3%** in 3 New Jersey Counties from 895,883 to **969,817**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 10.6% by 2.3%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 64.5% to 63.0% between 2020 and 2025**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **26.9% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.1% above the national average), and **6.4% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.5% below the national average).
- The top three industries in 2025 are State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals, Education and Hospitals (Local Government), and Restaurants and Other Eating Places.

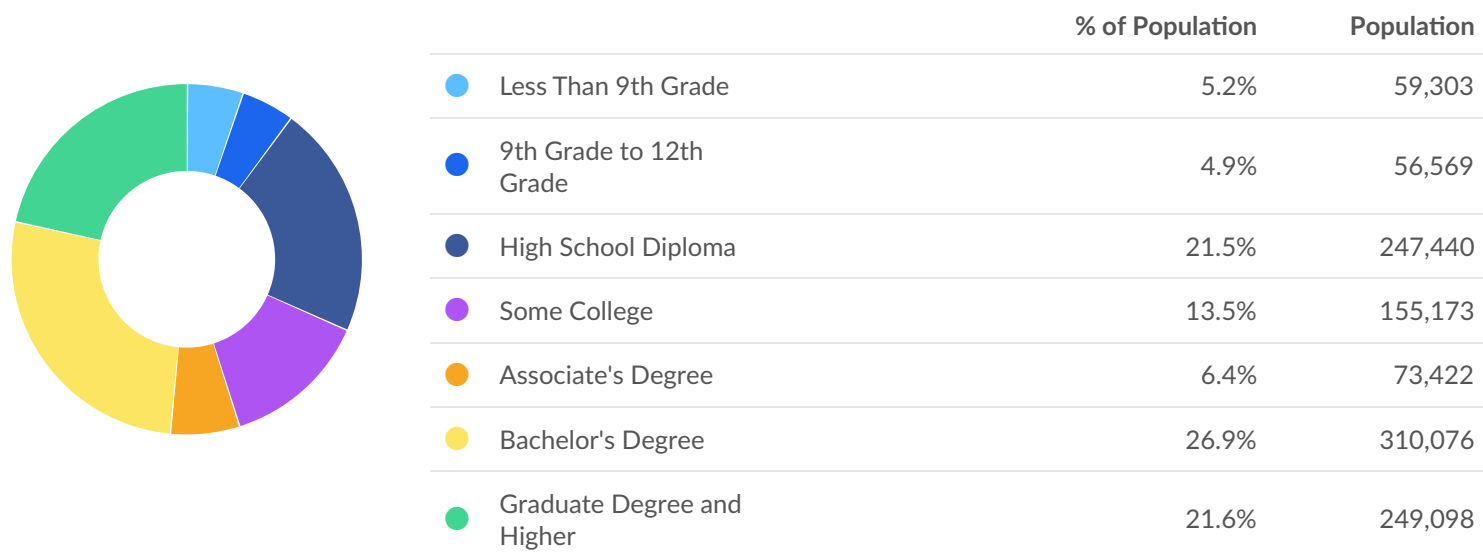
	Population (2026)	Labor Force (Feb 2026)	Jobs (2025)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	1,672,826	842,590	969,817	125.7	\$212.48B	\$179.23B	\$238.44B
State	9,673,110	4,882,339	4,746,473	121.5	\$909.27B	\$718.25B	\$723.37B

Feb 2026 Labor Force Breakdown



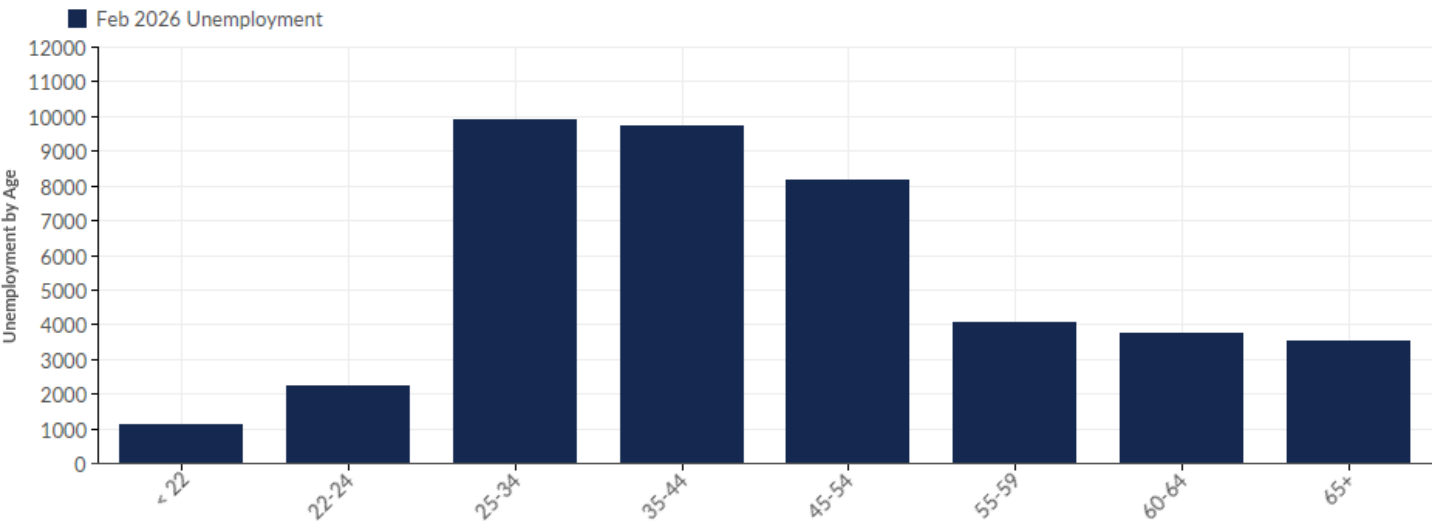
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **26.9% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.1% above the national average), and **6.4% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.5% below the national average).



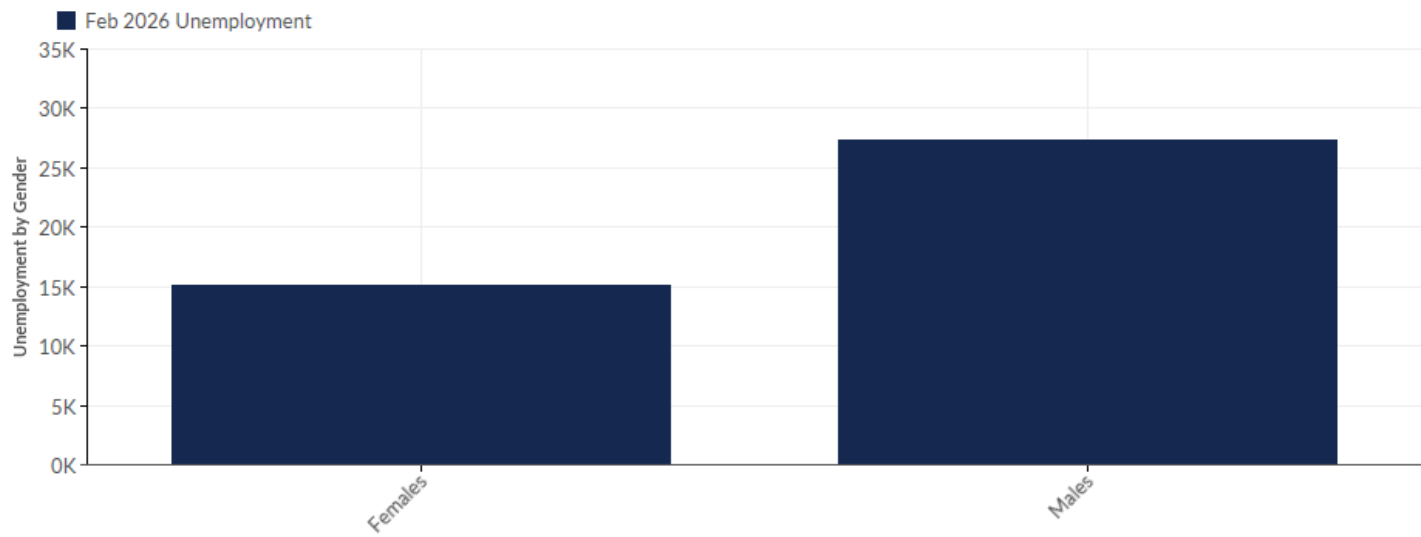
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



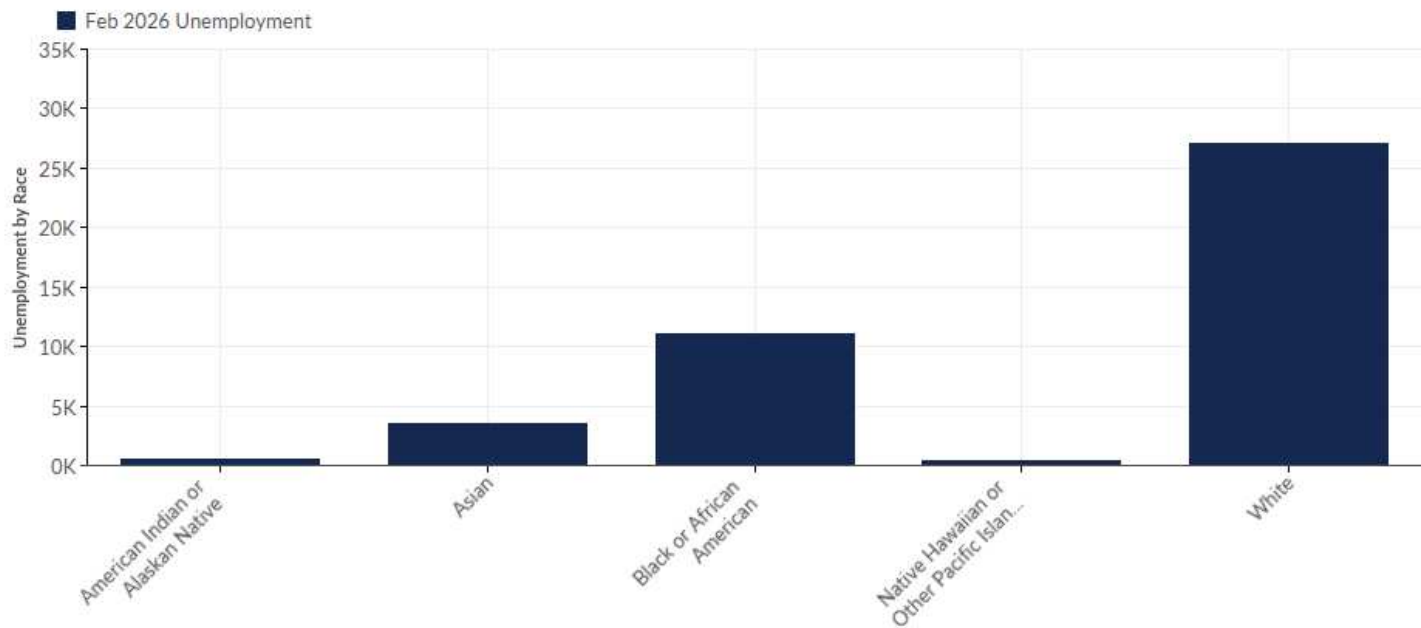
Age	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
< 22	1,125	2.65%
22-24	2,210	5.21%
25-34	9,902	23.35%
35-44	9,708	22.89%
45-54	8,144	19.20%
55-59	4,069	9.59%
60-64	3,754	8.85%
65+	3,502	8.26%
Total	42,414	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



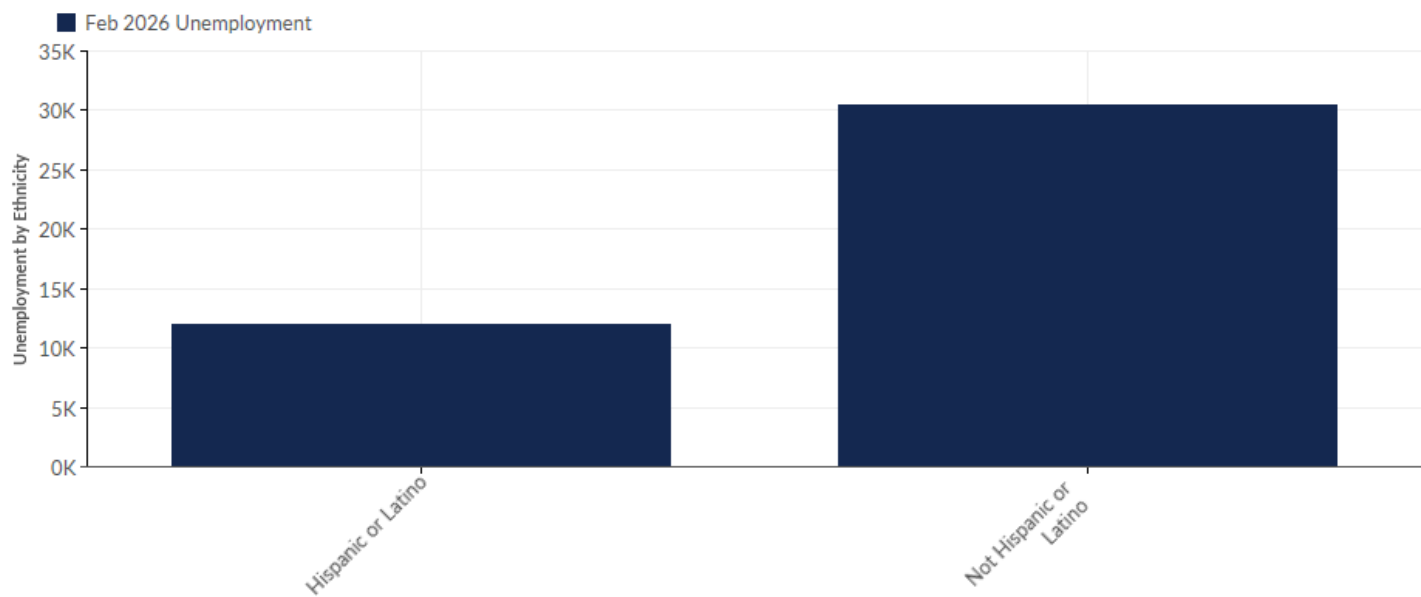
Gender	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
Females	15,093	35.58%
Males	27,321	64.42%
Total	42,414	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	498	1.17%
Asian	3,479	8.20%
Black or African American	11,057	26.07%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	353	0.83%
White	27,027	63.72%
Total	42,414	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

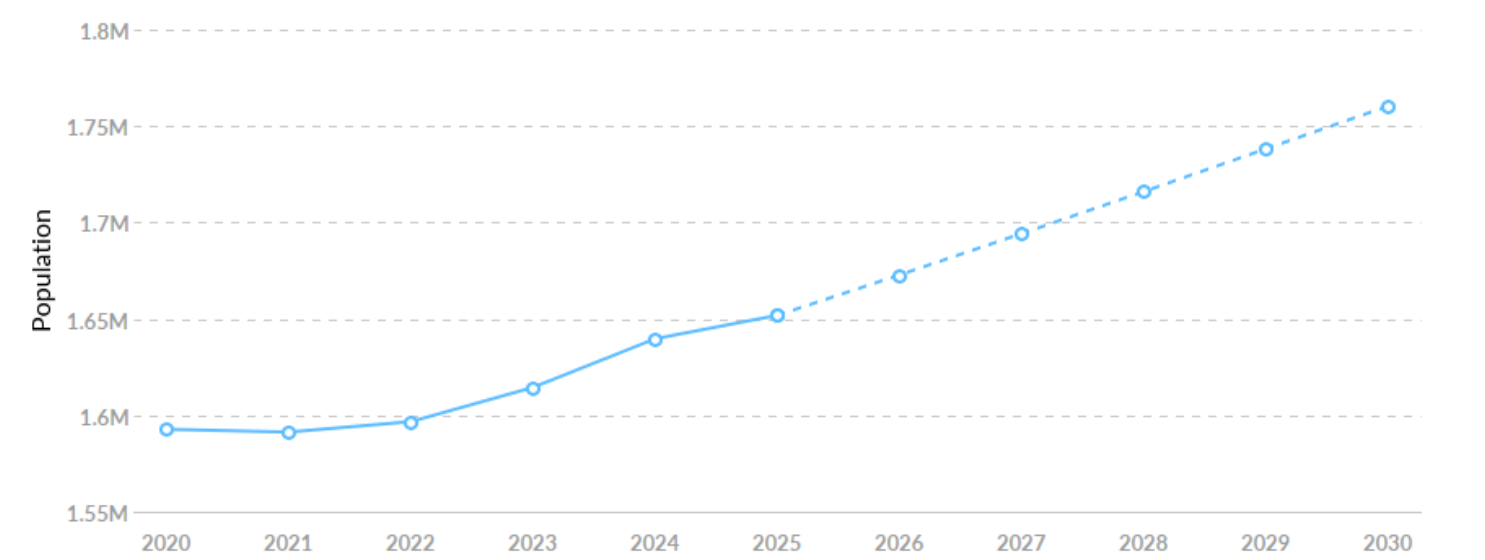


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Feb 2026)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	11,935	28.14%
Not Hispanic or Latino	30,479	71.86%
Total	42,414	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

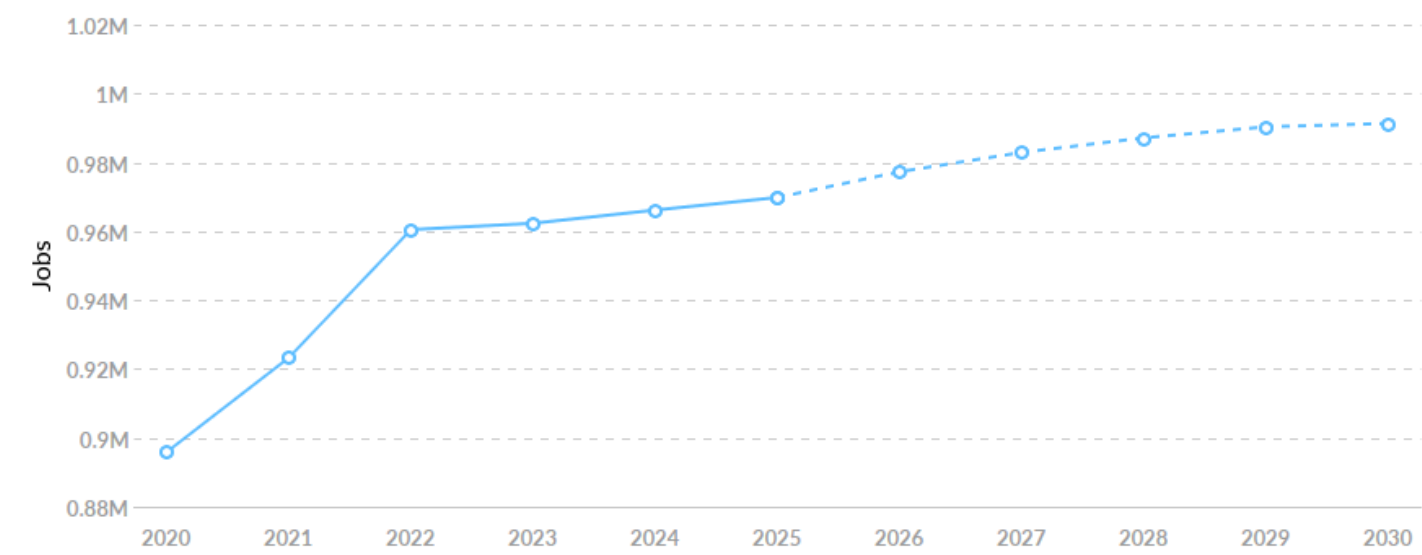
As of 2025 the region's population **increased by 3.7%** since 2020, growing by 59,128. Population is expected to **increase by 6.6%** between 2025 and 2030, adding 108,544.



Timeframe	Population
2020	1,592,740
2021	1,591,306
2022	1,596,725
2023	1,614,510
2024	1,639,724
2025	1,651,868
2026	1,672,826
2027	1,694,280
2028	1,716,055
2029	1,738,237
2030	1,760,412

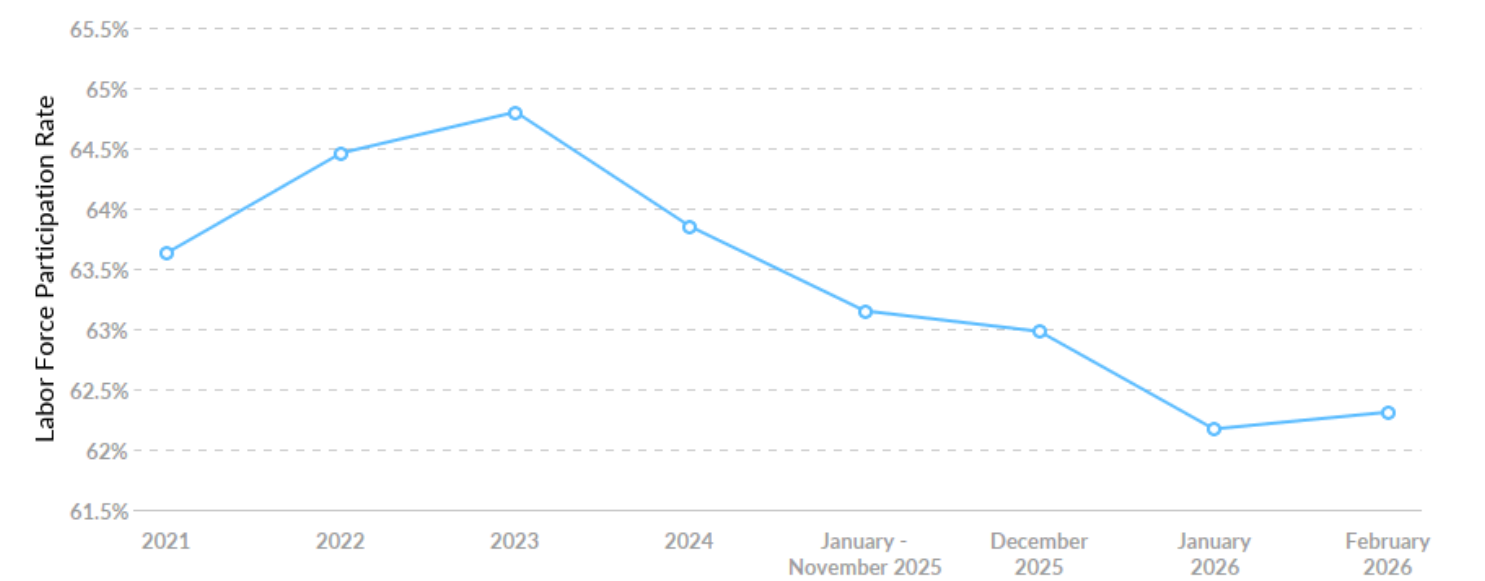
Job Trends

From 2020 to 2025, jobs increased by 8.3% in 3 New Jersey Counties from 895,883 to **969,817**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 10.6% by 2.3%**.



Timeframe	Jobs
2020	895,883
2021	923,282
2022	960,476
2023	962,315
2024	966,153
2025	969,817
2026	977,284
2027	982,902
2028	987,127
2029	990,326
2030	991,314

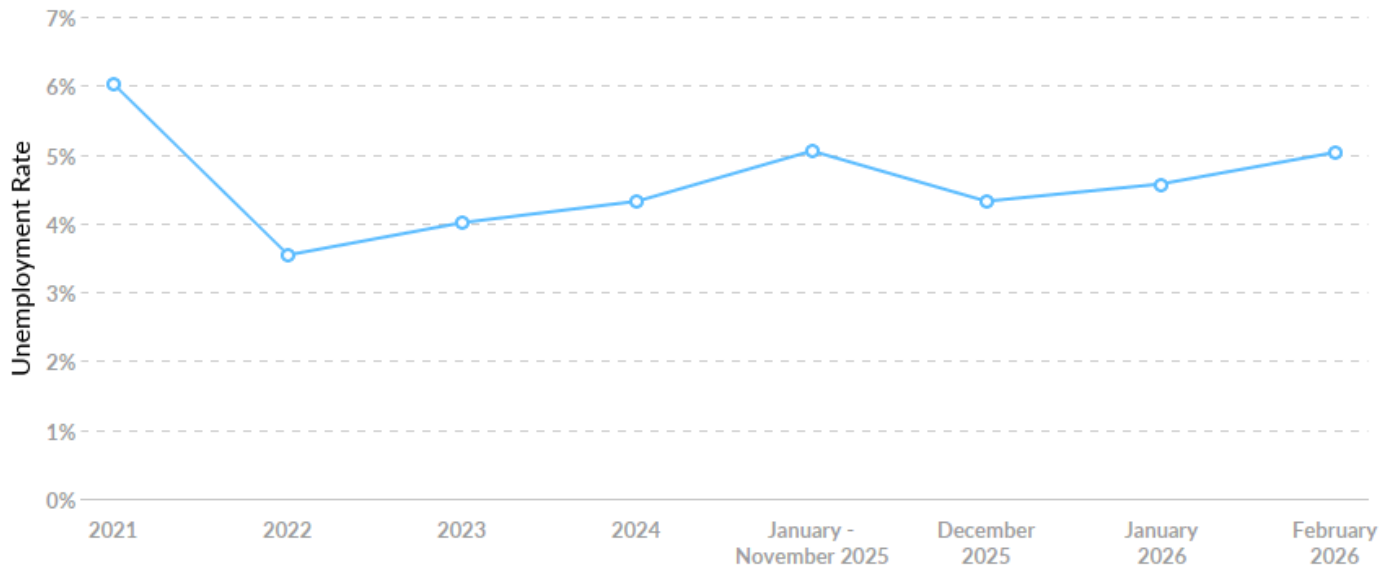
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2021	63.63%
2022	64.46%
2023	64.80%
2024	63.85%
January - November 2025	63.15%
December 2025	62.98%
January 2026	62.17%
February 2026	62.31%

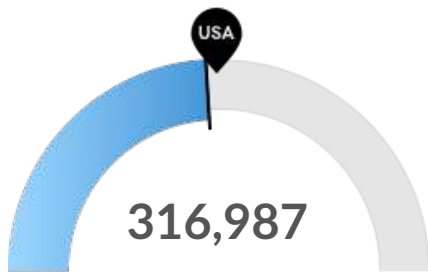
Unemployment Rate Trends

Your areas had a February 2026 unemployment rate of 5.03%, **decreasing from 6.02%** 5 years before.



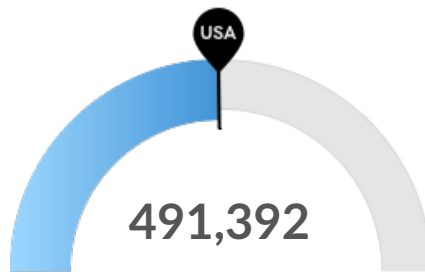
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2021	6.02%
2022	3.54%
2023	4.01%
2024	4.32%
January - November 2025	5.05%
December 2025	4.32%
January 2026	4.57%
February 2026	5.03%

Population Characteristics



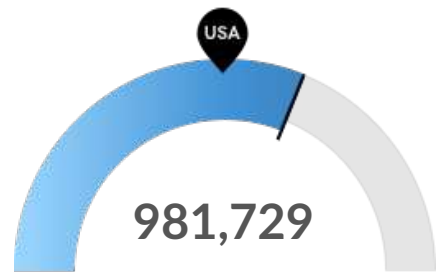
Millennials

Your area has 316,987 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 335,667.



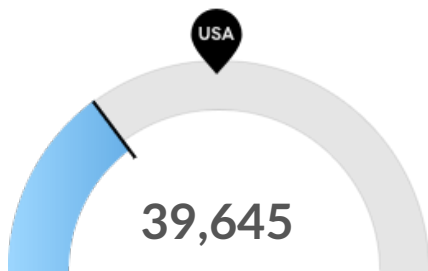
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is about average in your area. The national average for an area this size is 495,814 people 55 or older, while there are 491,392 here.



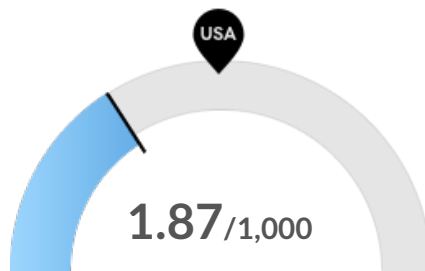
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is high in your area. The national average for an area this size is 697,512 racially diverse people, while there are 981,729 here.



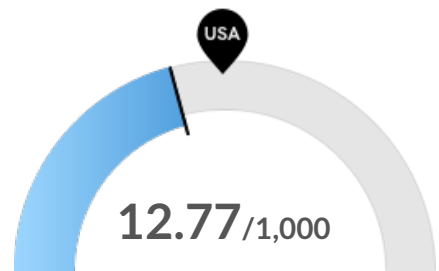
Veterans

Your area has 39,645 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 78,034.



Violent Crime

Your area has 1.87 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.38 per 1,000 people.

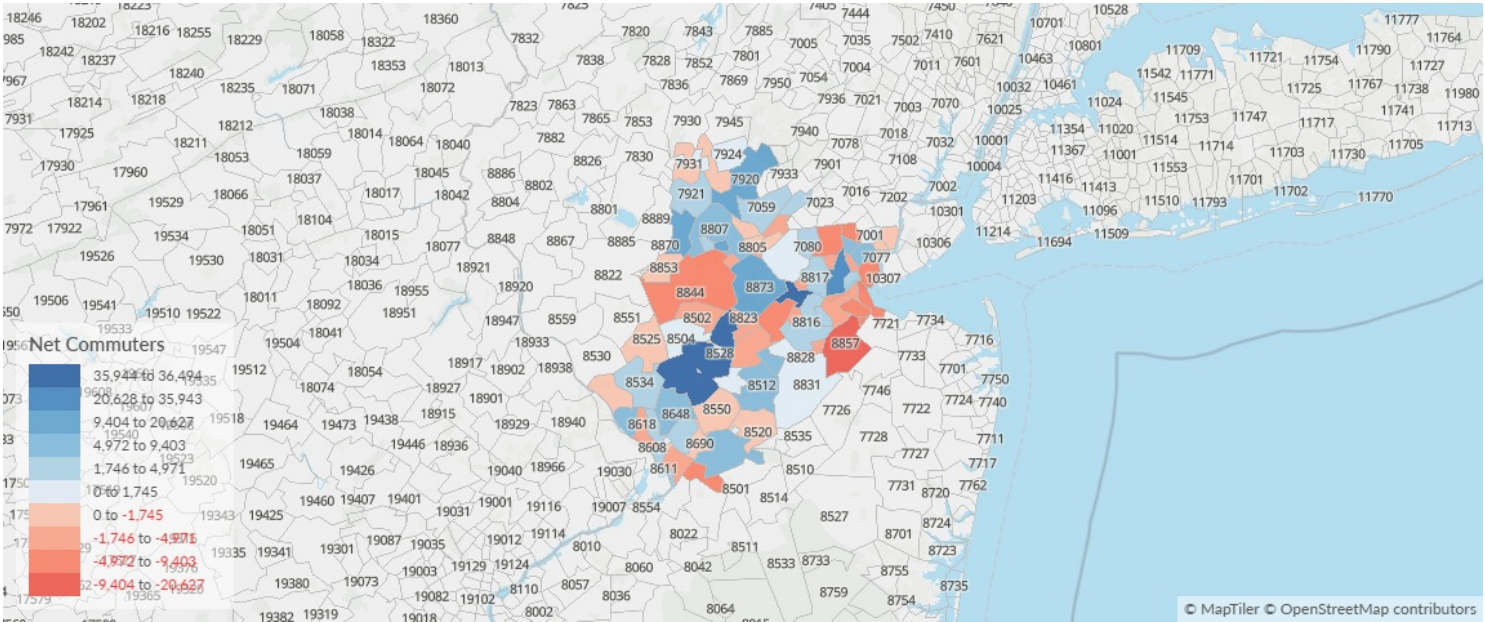


Property Crime

Your area has 12.77 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 16.44 per 1,000 people.

Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in the region currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions. For example, the #1 ranked ZIP for employment ranks #6 for resident workers. The top ZIP for resident workers is 8873.



Where Talent Works

ZIP	Name	2025 Employment
8540	Princeton, NJ (in Merce...	62,670
8901	New Brunswick, NJ (in ...	57,722
8873	Somerset, NJ (in Somer...	43,814
8831	Monroe Township, NJ (i...	31,003
8837	Edison, NJ (in Middlese...	30,976

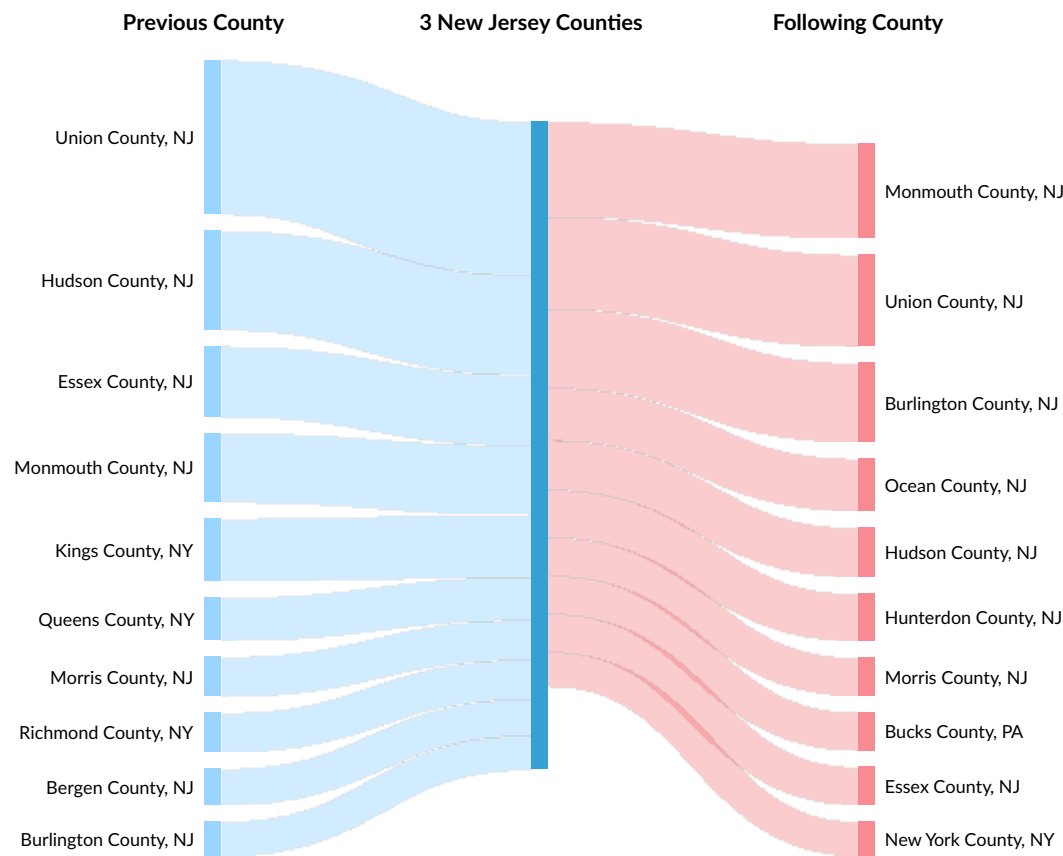
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2025 Workers
8873	Somerset, NJ (in Somer...	31,144
8831	Monroe Township, NJ (i...	30,496
8861	Perth Amboy, NJ (in Mid...	28,972
8854	Piscataway, NJ (in Midd...	27,938
8844	Hillsborough, NJ (in Som...	26,538

Inbound and Outbound Migration

The table below analyzes past and current residents of 3 New Jersey Counties. The left column shows residents of other counties migrating to 3 New Jersey Counties. The right column shows residents migrating from 3 New Jersey Counties to other counties.

As of 2023, 6,241 people have migrated from Union County, NJ to 3 New Jersey Counties. In the same year, 3,841 people left 3 New Jersey Counties migrating to Monmouth County, NJ. The total Net Migration for 3 New Jersey Counties in 2023 was - 7,480.



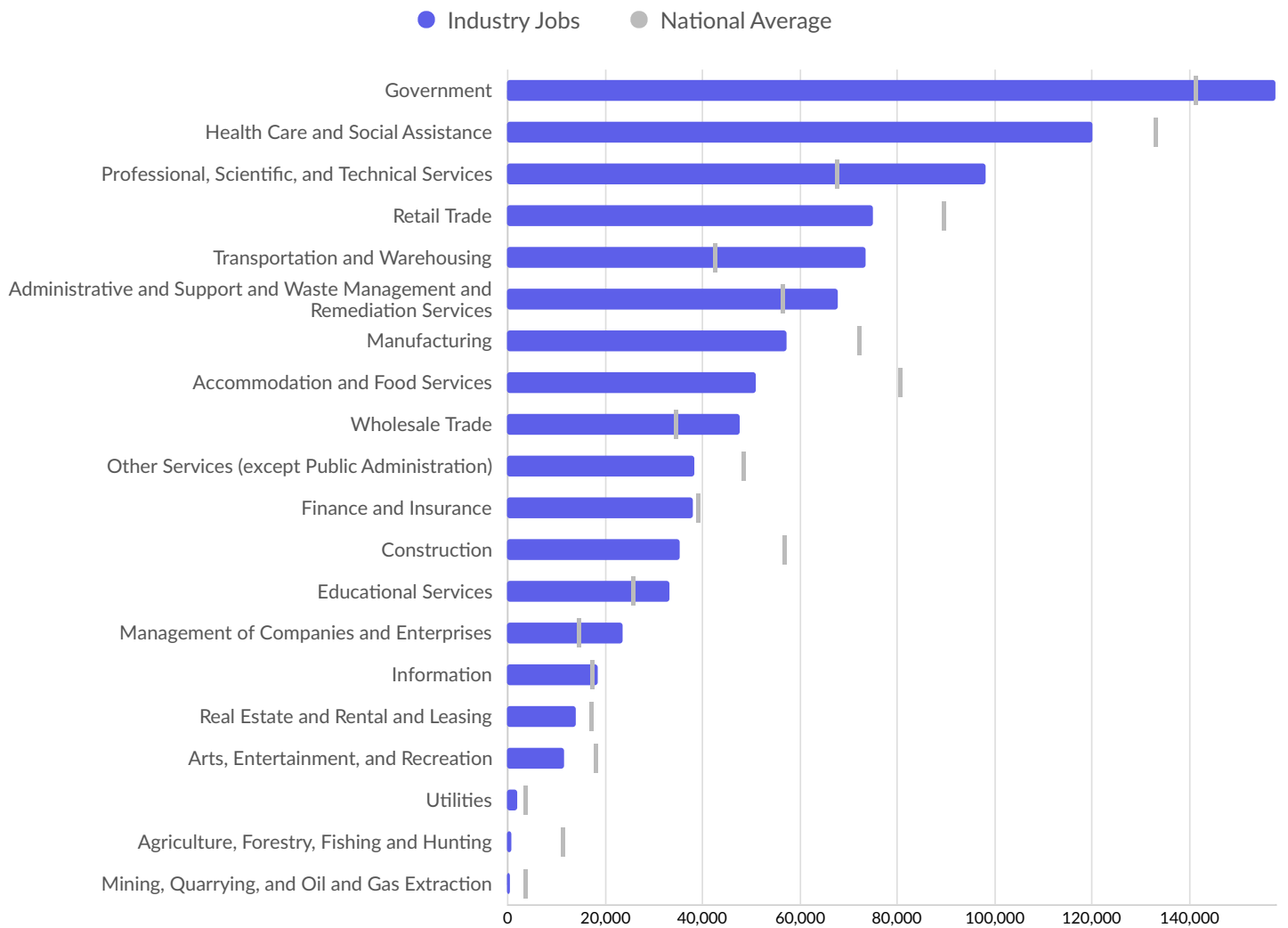
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Union County, NJ	6,241
Hudson County, NJ	4,024
Essex County, NJ	2,854
Monmouth County, NJ	2,795
Kings County, NY	2,536

Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Queens County, NY	1,742
Morris County, NJ	1,600
Richmond County, NY	1,600
Bergen County, NJ	1,475
Burlington County, NJ	1,397
Ocean County, NJ	1,300
New York County, NY	1,177
Hunterdon County, NJ	996
Bucks County, PA	865
Bronx County, NY	852
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Monmouth County, NJ	3,841
Union County, NJ	3,726
Burlington County, NJ	3,214
Ocean County, NJ	2,125
Hudson County, NJ	2,012
Hunterdon County, NJ	1,921
Morris County, NJ	1,551
Bucks County, PA	1,550
Essex County, NJ	1,547
New York County, NY	1,398
Kings County, NY	1,005
Bergen County, NJ	915
Philadelphia County, PA	903
Camden County, NJ	800

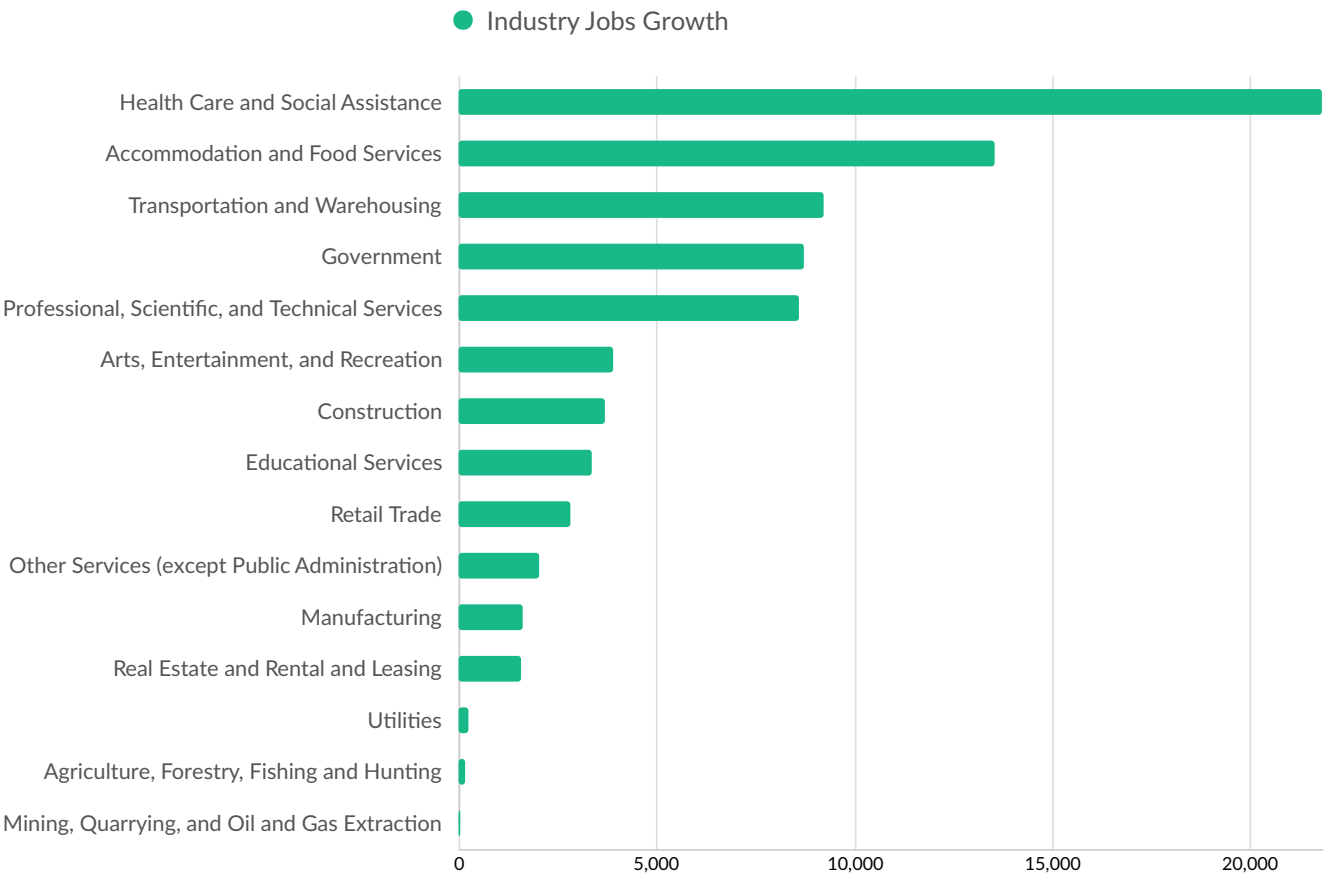
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Collin County, TX	667

Industry Characteristics

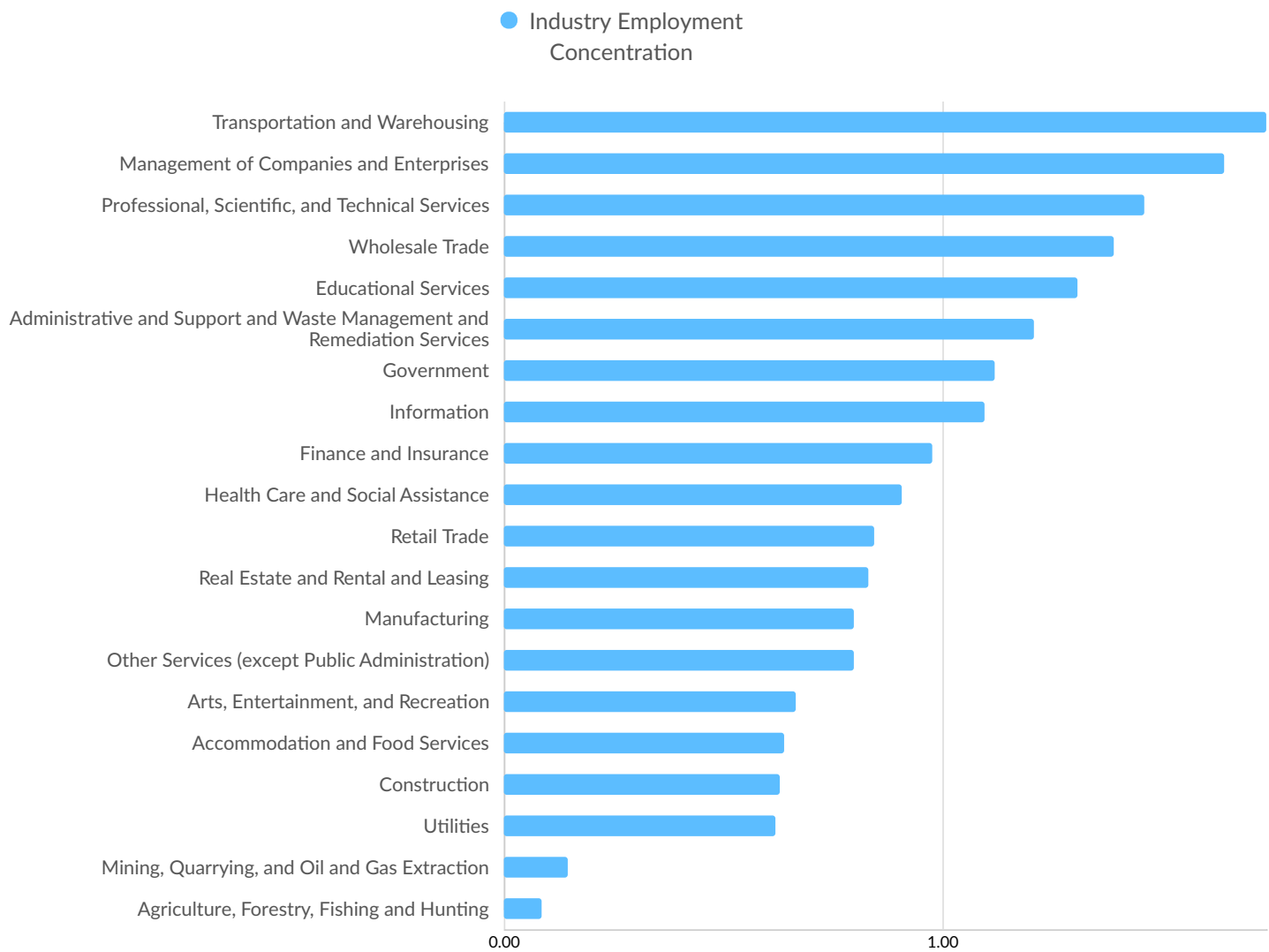
Largest Industries



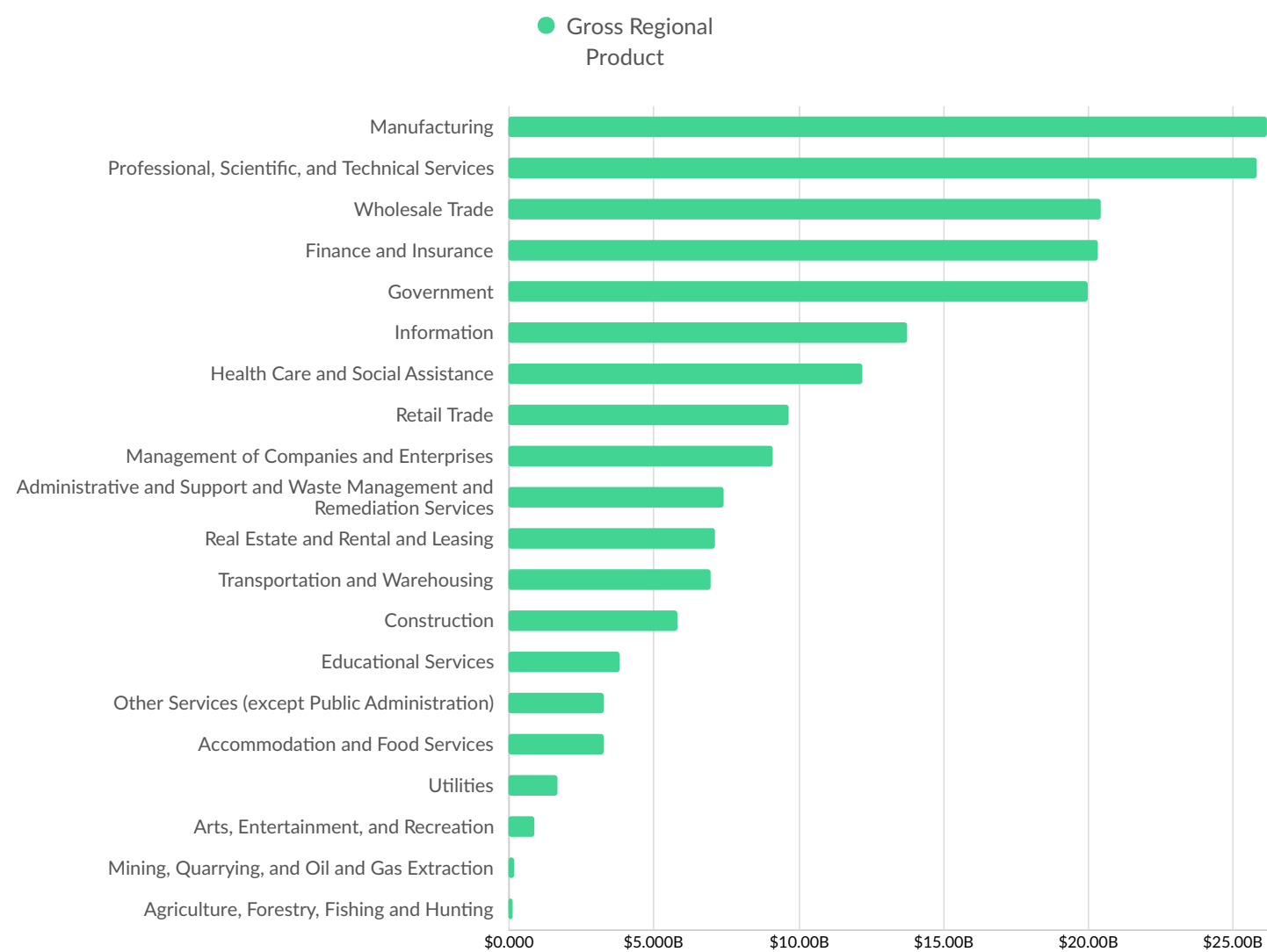
Top Growing Industries



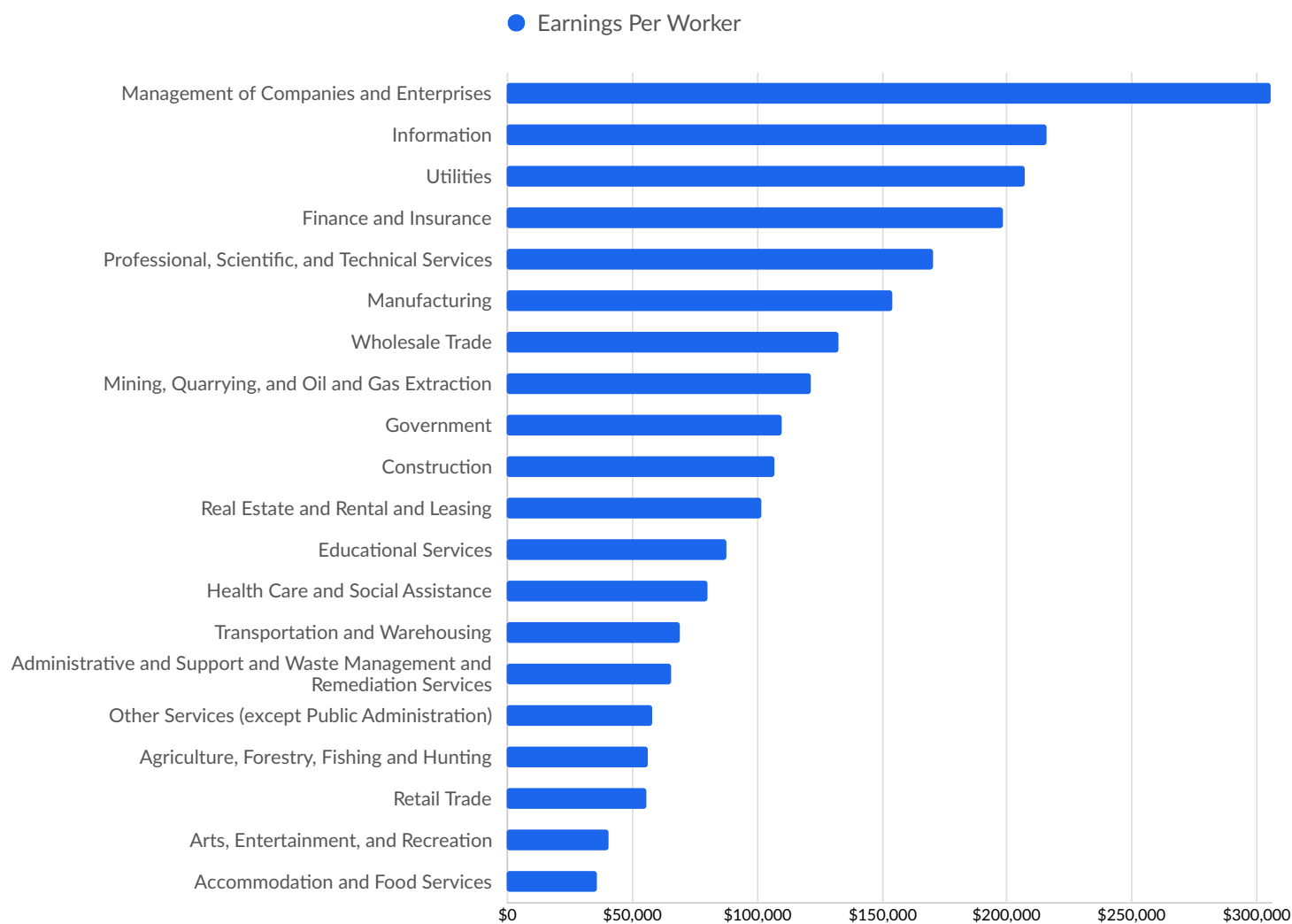
Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



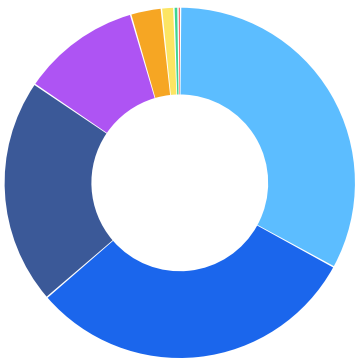
Business Characteristics

122,906 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 122,906 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 14,510 companies in your area posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
Rutgers University	9,010 	Rutgers University	4,819 
Johnson & Johnson	6,593 	Rutgers	2,864 
Princeton University	6,323 	RWJBarnabas Health	2,717 
Bristol-Myers Squibb	5,785 	ShopRite	2,297 
Verizon Communications	4,436 	CVS Health	2,240 
Bank of America	4,310 	Johnson & Johnson	2,035 
Amazon	3,795 	Bristol-Myers Squibb	1,902 
State Of New Jersey	3,009 	Robert Half	1,774 
AT&T	2,766 	Rutgers-The State University	1,763 
Merck KGaA Darmstadt Germany	2,473 	Hackensack Meridian Health	1,632 

Business Size

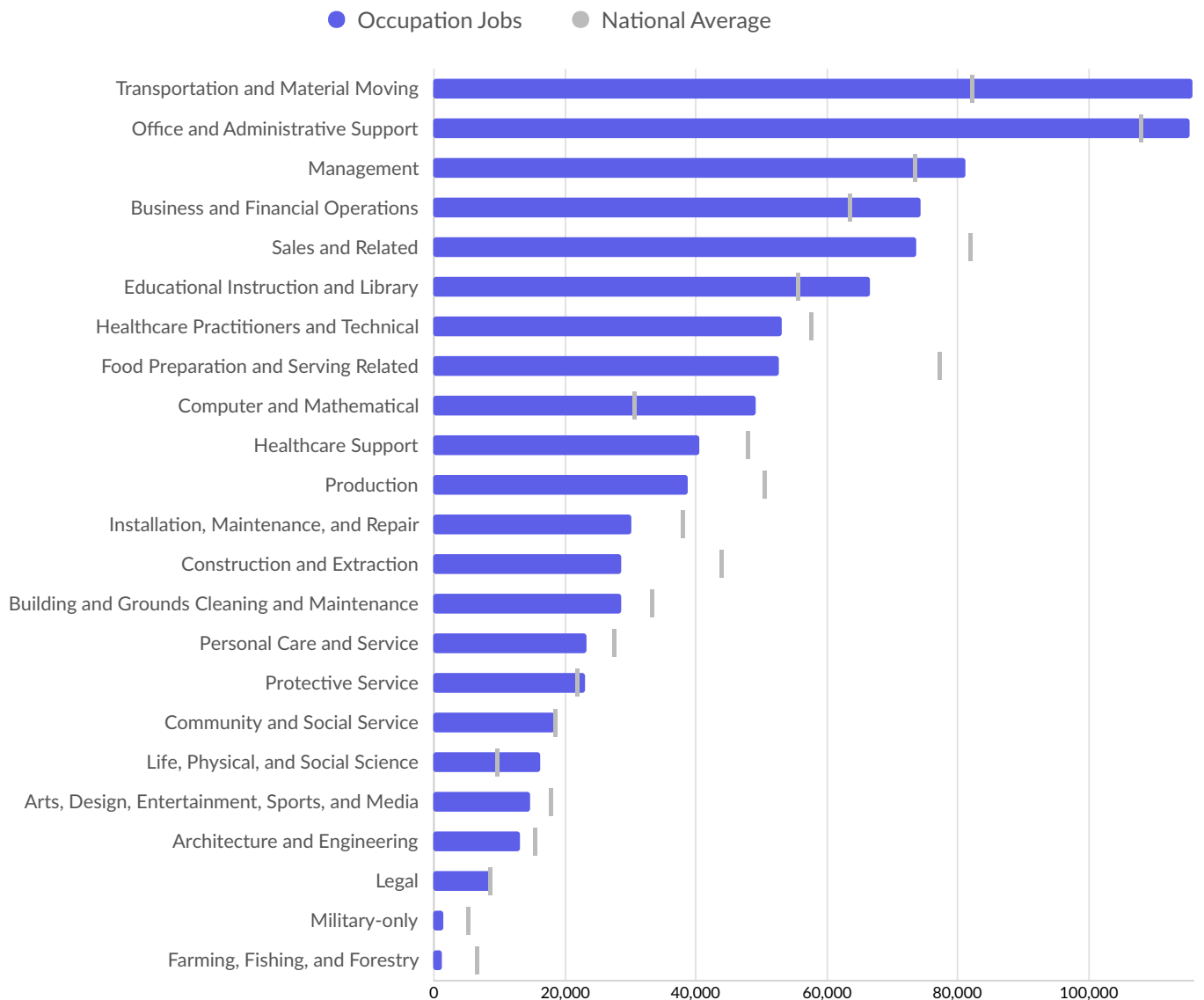


	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	32.9%	23,929
5 to 9 employees	30.7%	22,354
10 to 19 employees	20.8%	15,151
20 to 49 employees	11.0%	7,989
50 to 99 employees	2.8%	2,071
100 to 249 employees	1.1%	829
250 to 499 employees	0.4%	276
500+ employees	0.2%	166

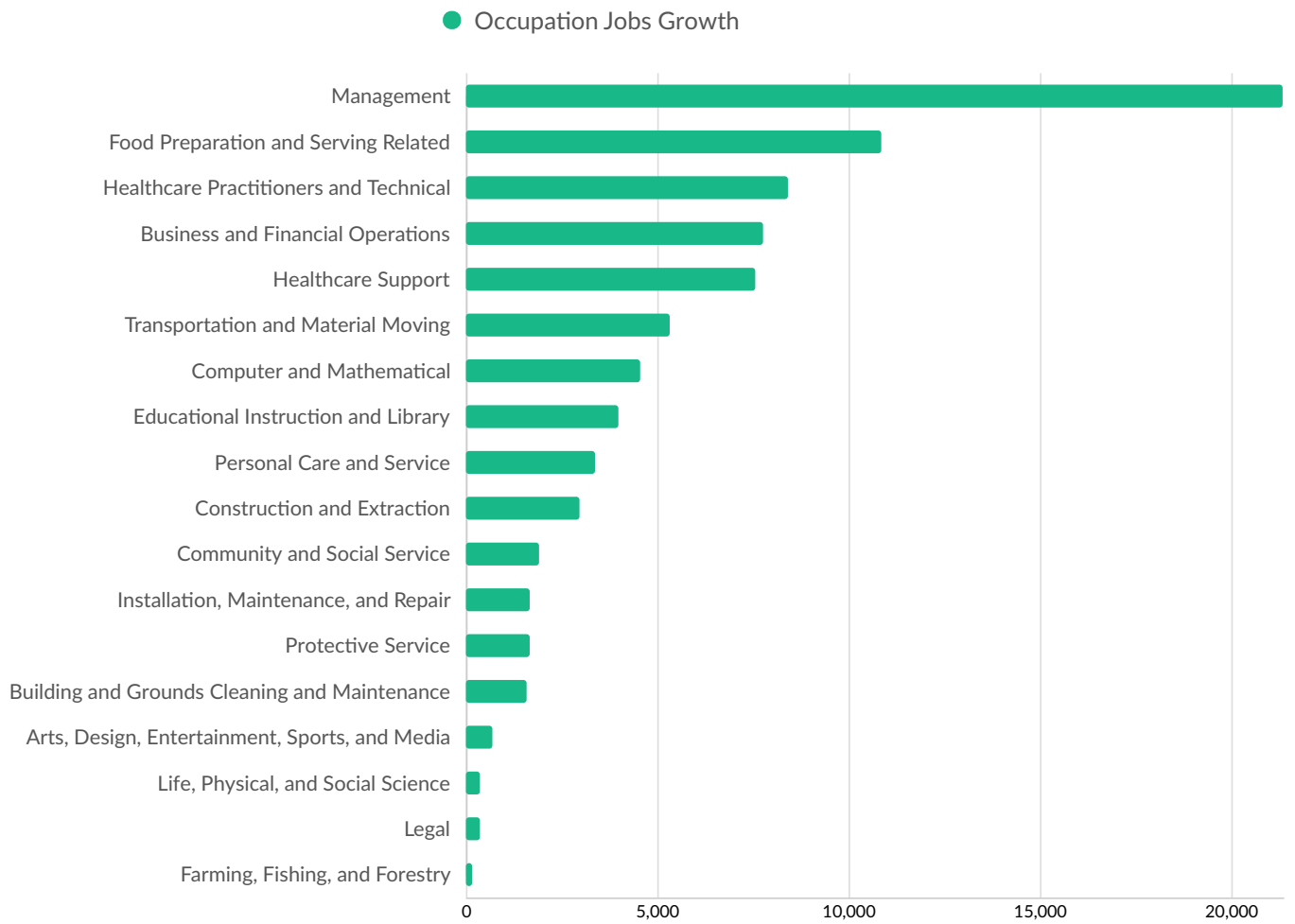
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

Workforce Characteristics

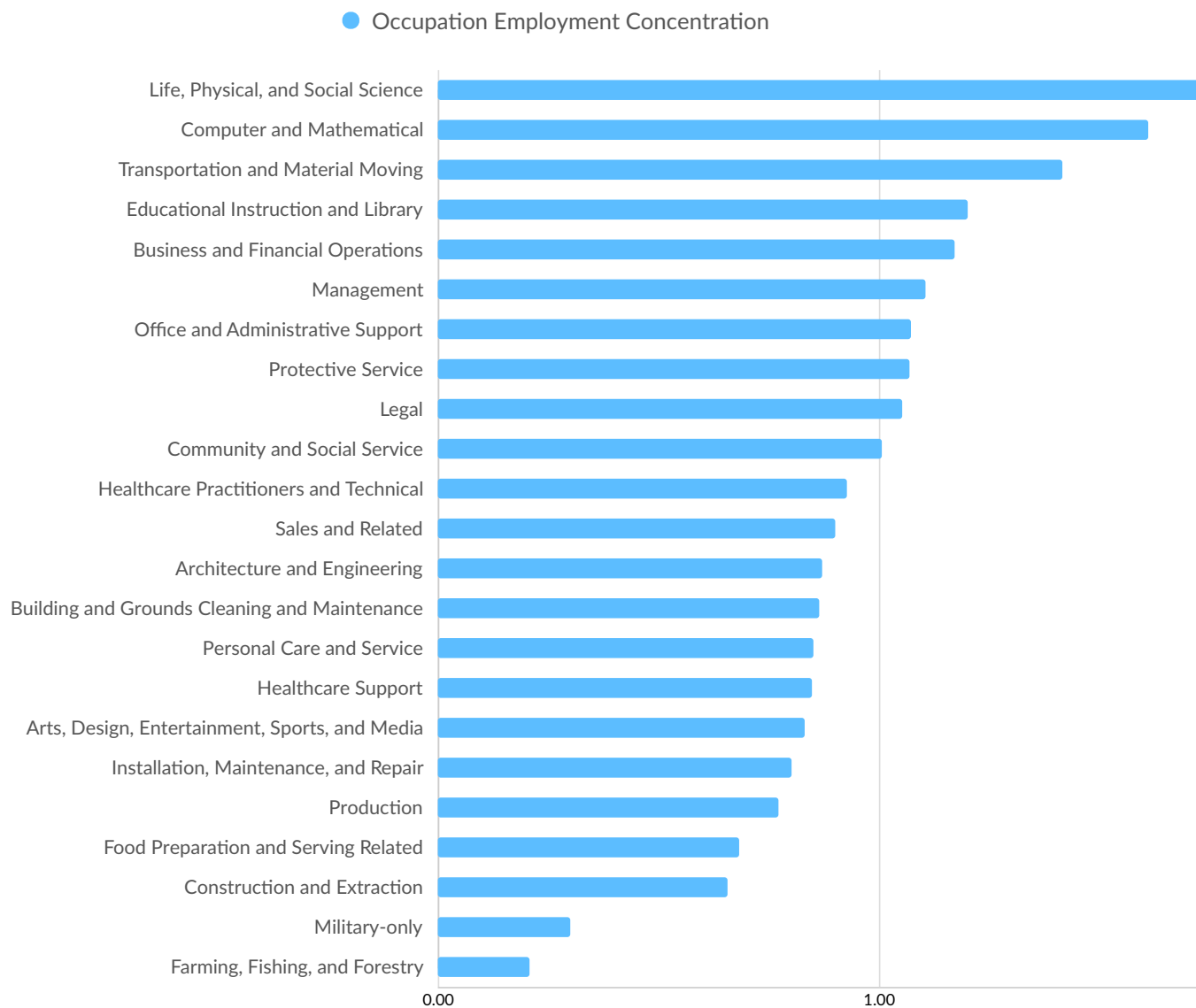
Largest Occupations



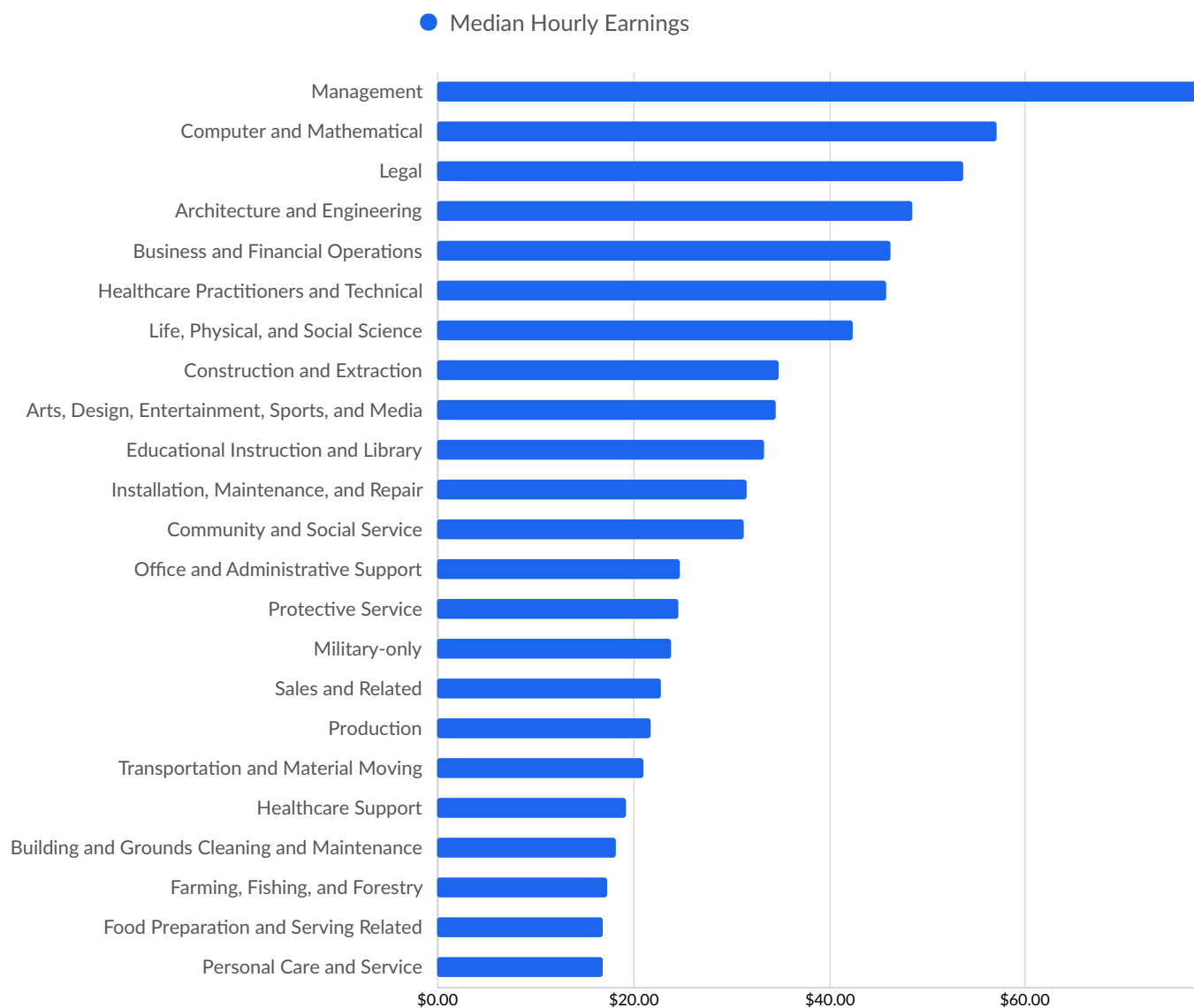
Top Growing Occupations



Top Occupation Employment Concentration



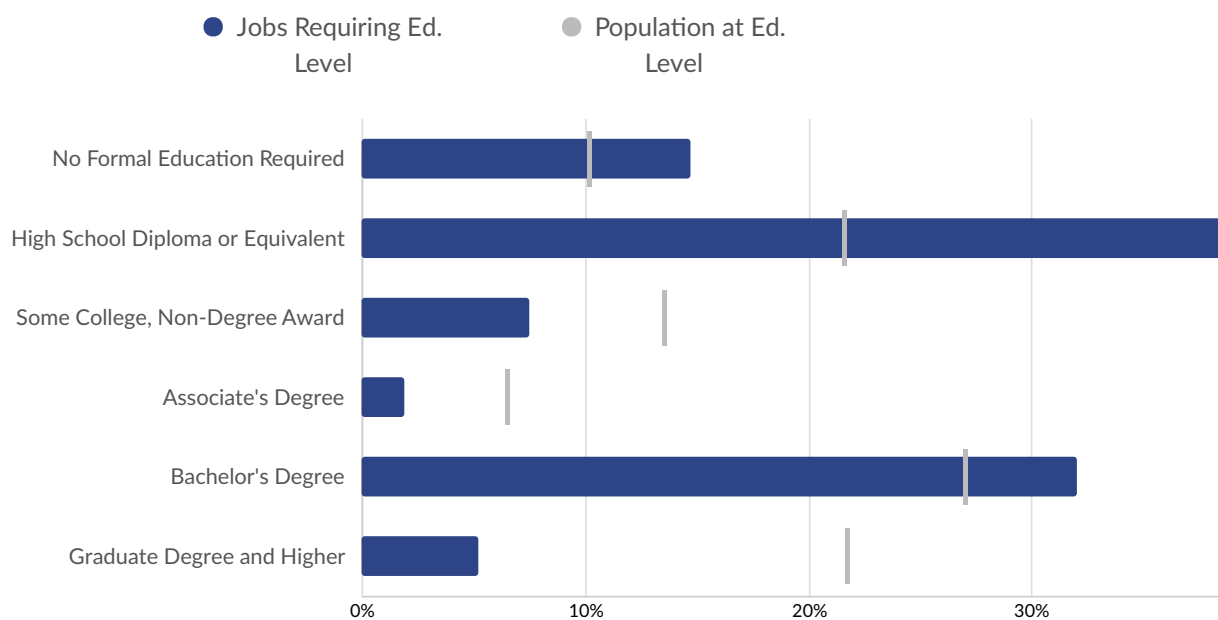
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations

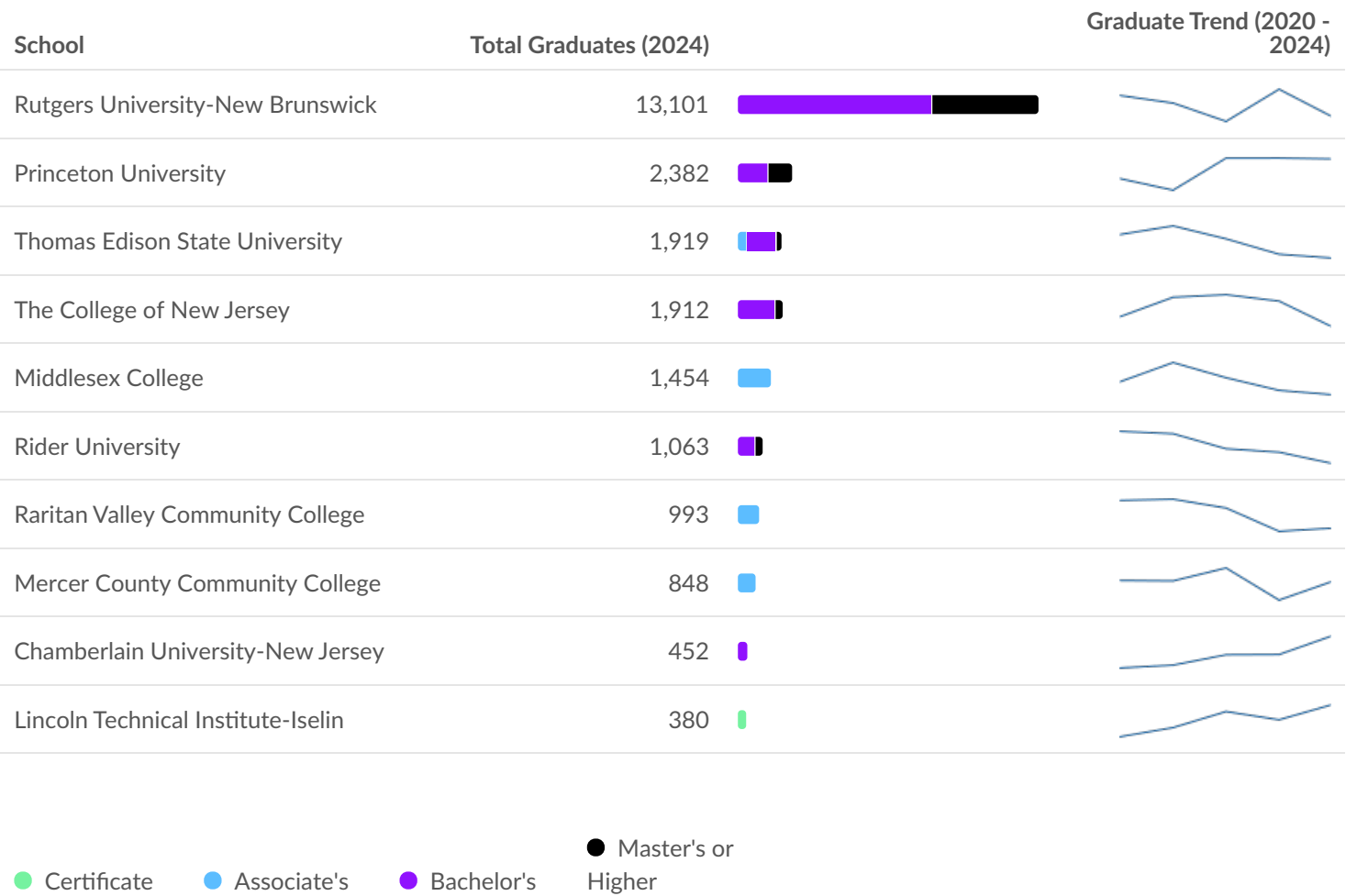


Underemployment



Educational Pipeline

In 2024, there were 26,340 graduates in 3 New Jersey Counties. This pipeline has shrunk by 3% over the last 5 years. The highest share of these graduates come from "Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies" (Associate's), "Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse" (Bachelor's), and "Psychology, General" (Bachelor's).



In-Demand Skills

