

New York City has 2.9 million resident workers without a college degree. In support of efforts to improve economic opportunities for all New Yorkers, this Info Brief presents the major findings of an analysis of occupation and wage data that provides detailed information on the employment and wage opportunities across different economic sectors for workers with different levels of education.

Overview

- Private employment in New York City reached an **all-time high in 2016**. The largest gains were in sectors in which employment is concentrated in lower wage occupations – food services and ambulatory health care – as well as in highly paid professional services jobs. (See Figure 1).
- Several fast-growing sectors are a good source of jobs in occupations not requiring a college degree and paying decent wages (greater than \$40,000).
- Of the nearly 4 million jobs in New York City, 1.7 million (43 percent) were in occupations that typically require only a high school diploma or less.
- Average annual wages for **these occupations across all industries was \$33,580**. (See Figure 2).
- **Food services (restaurant) and retail jobs** accounted for over **one-third of all the jobs** available to workers with less education. Wages were below average in these sectors.

Figure 1: High Growth Sectors and Middle Wage Jobs

Change in NYC employment in top 10 fast-growing sectors, 2010-2016

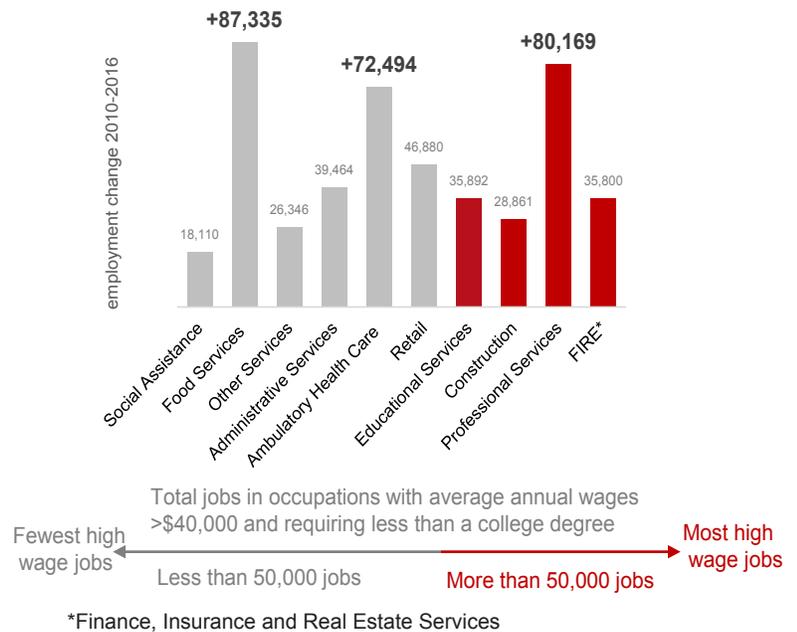
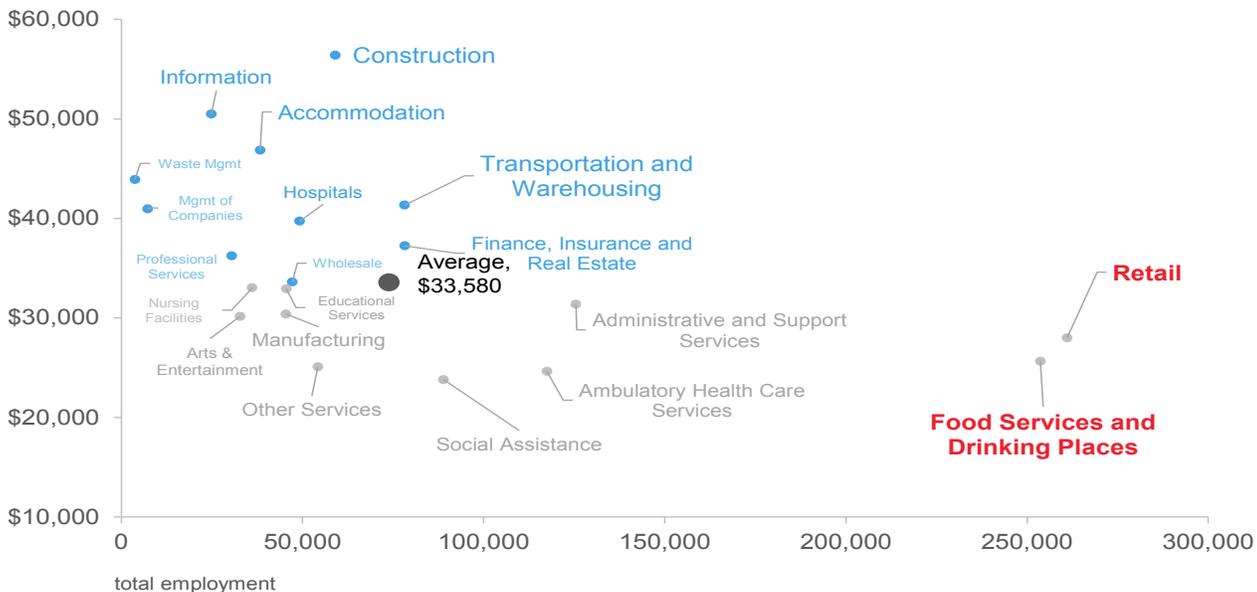


Figure 2: Occupations Requiring a High School Diploma or Less

Average annual wages and total employment by sector



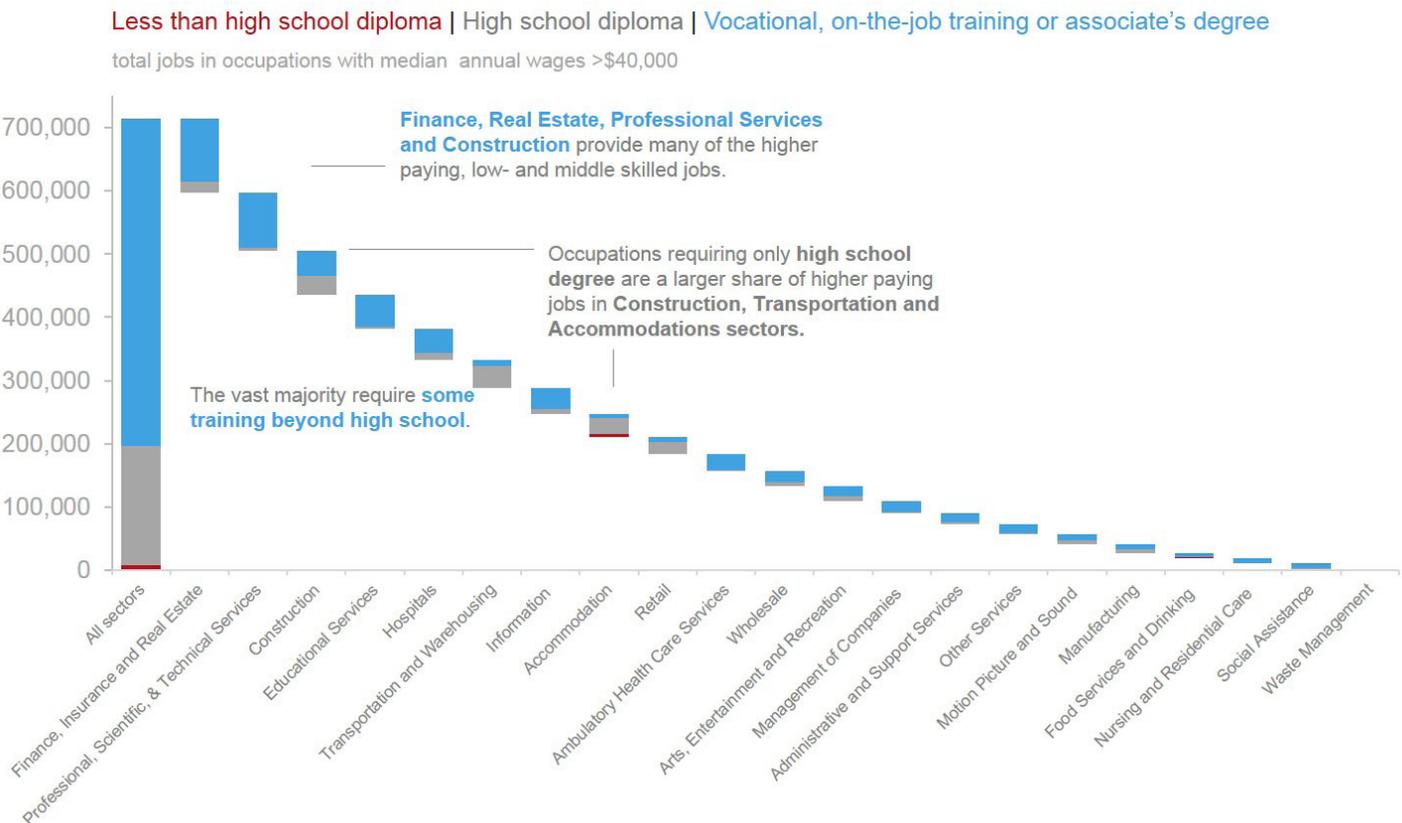
Middle wage job opportunities

This analysis defined “middle wage” jobs as those in occupations requiring less than a four-year college degree and paying average annual wages of \$40,000 or higher. The total numbers of middle wage jobs were aggregated by common industry classifications to identify sectors providing the greatest number of middle wage jobs.

- Jobs requiring less than a college degree and paying average wages of \$40,000 or more accounted for **approximately 715,000 jobs**, representing about one-fifth of the city’s total private employment.
- The vast majority of middle wage job opportunities are in **occupations requiring some training beyond high school**, such as a vocational school, an associate’s degree or on-the-job training.
- Approximately **40 percent of all middle wage jobs** were in the following three major sectors: finance, insurance and real estate services; professional, scientific and technical services; and construction.
- **Educational services and hospitals** were also a significant source of opportunity, providing over 14 percent of all middle wage jobs.
- Manufacturing accounted for two percent of middle wage jobs in New York City.

Figure 3: Middle Wage Jobs

By sector and educational attainment



Data sources: Employment and wage data are based on a special tabulation from NYS Department of Labor of the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey for New York City businesses. The survey collected information in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, and adjusted for 2015 dollars. Typical educational requirements are based on standards from O*Net, an occupational database sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor. Employment change numbers in Figure 1 are based on New York City data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages from NYSDOL for 2010 and 2016.

About the Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning (DCP) plans for the strategic growth and development of the City through ground-up planning with communities, the development of land use policies and zoning regulations, and its contribution to the preparation of the City’s 10-year Capital Strategy. For more information, go to: nyc.gov/data-insights