

Occupational Outlook: 2024 to 2034

August 3, 2026



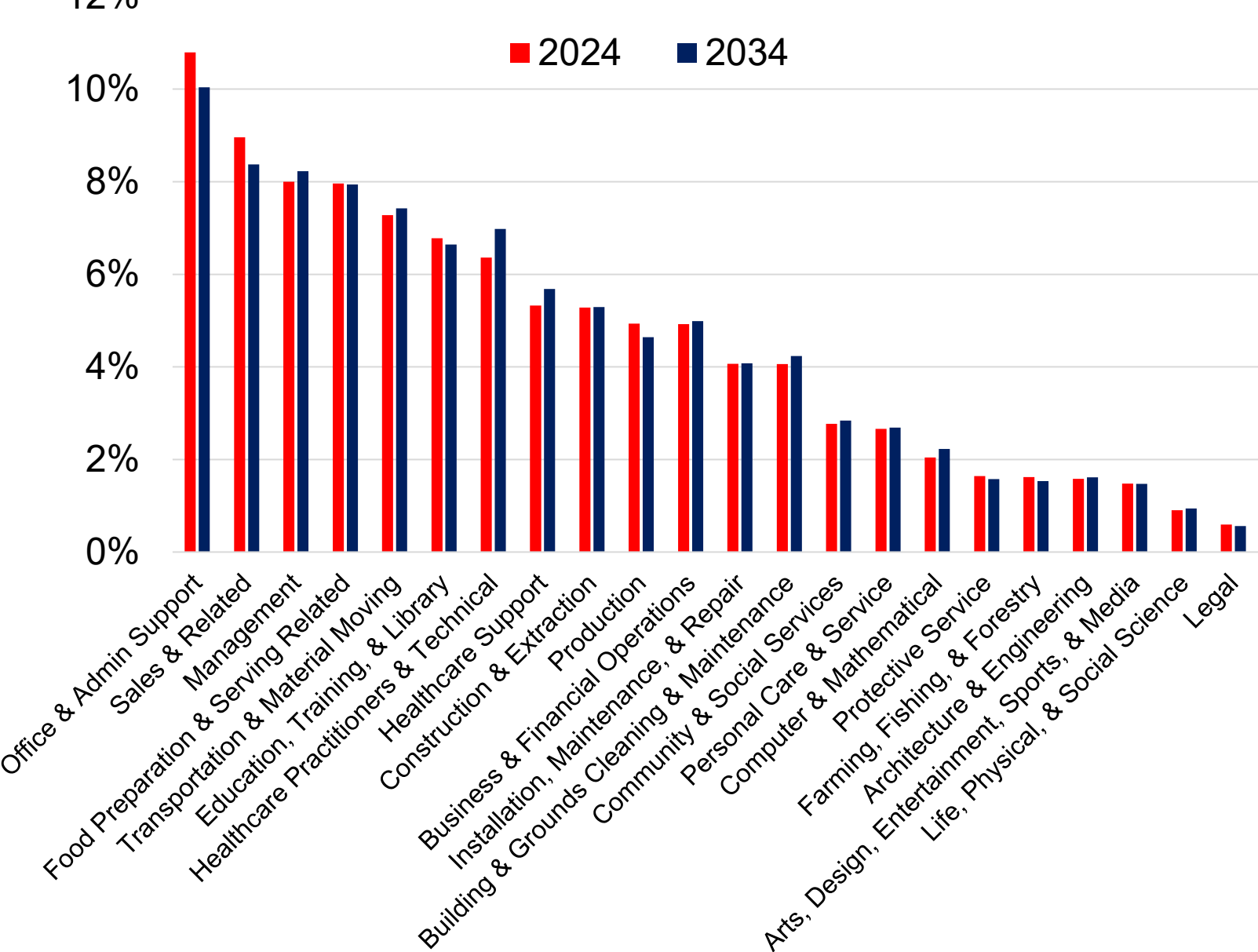
Overview

This report highlights occupational employment projections for Maine through 2034, how jobs are expected to shift across occupational groups and how those projected changes compare to shifts observed in recent decades.

Occupational groups are organized into four categories based on historic trends: (1) groups with a rising job share, (2) groups with a falling job share, (3) groups with a large and stable job share, (4) specialized groups with a small and stable job share.

For each group, a selection of detailed occupations is highlighted demonstrating the types of actionable information available from the [Job Outlook](#) and [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#) (OEWS) datasets. The two datasets are helpful resources for [Career Exploration](#) and educational planning purposes.

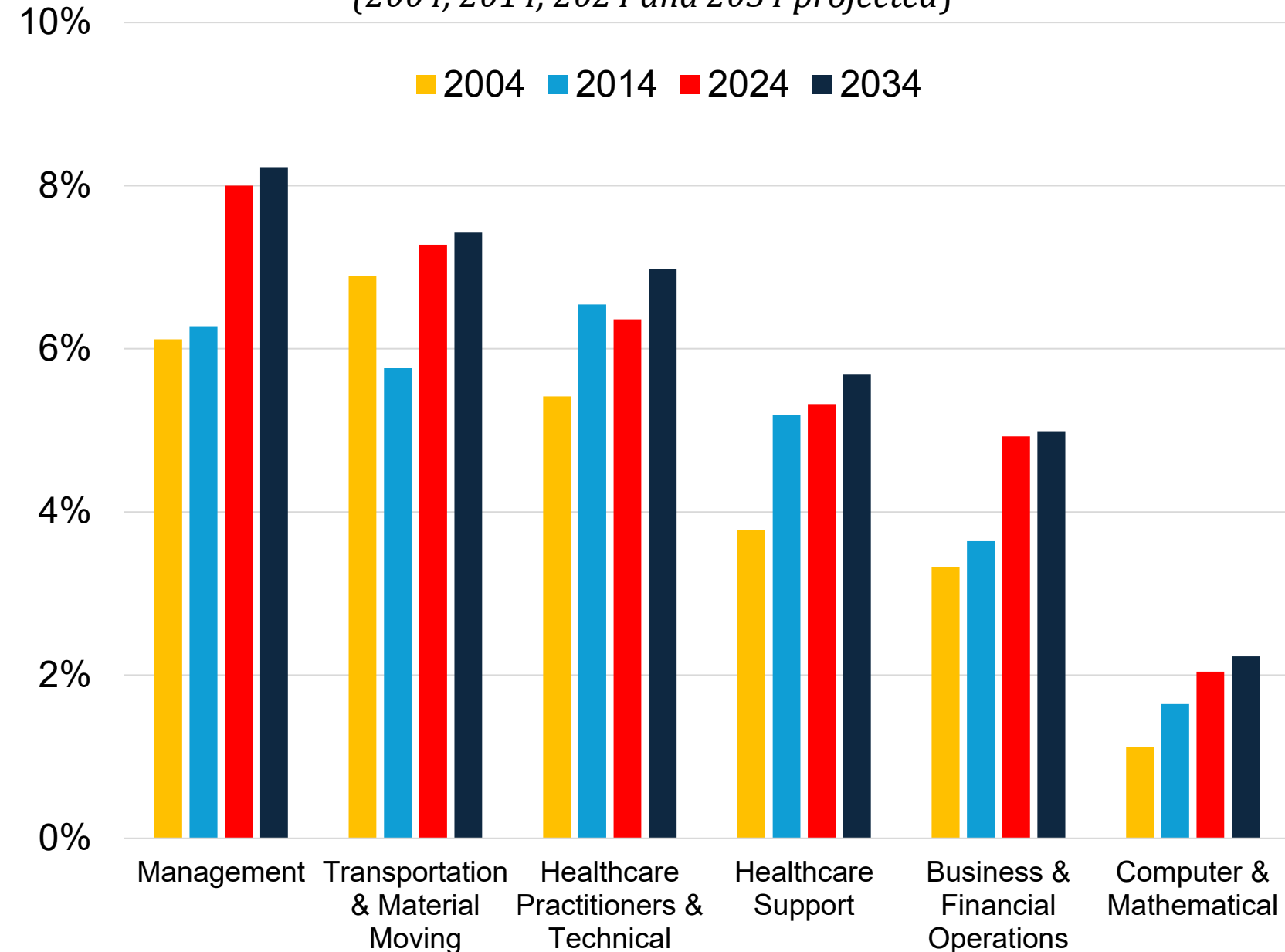
Share of Jobs by Occupational Group (2024 and 2034 Projected)



The occupational employment structure is projected to change modestly

The advancing population age structure, emerging technologies, and enhancements in productivity are among the many factors behind the long-term gradual shifts in occupational demand.

Share of Jobs by Occupational Group (2004, 2014, 2024 and 2034 projected)



Most occupational groups with a rising job share are expected to see further increases through 2034

The share of jobs in Healthcare occupations has increased in recent decades, a trend which is expected to continue through 2034. The share of jobs in the Management and the Business & Financial Operations groups is expected to change less in the coming decade than recent decades.

An advancing population age structure is a driver of growth in Healthcare occupations

As the population ages, demand for a variety of types of healthcare increases. Shifts over time from more care being provided by Physicians to expansion of responsibilities for other types of providers, such as Nurse Practitioners, have resulted in increased demand for specialized health occupations.

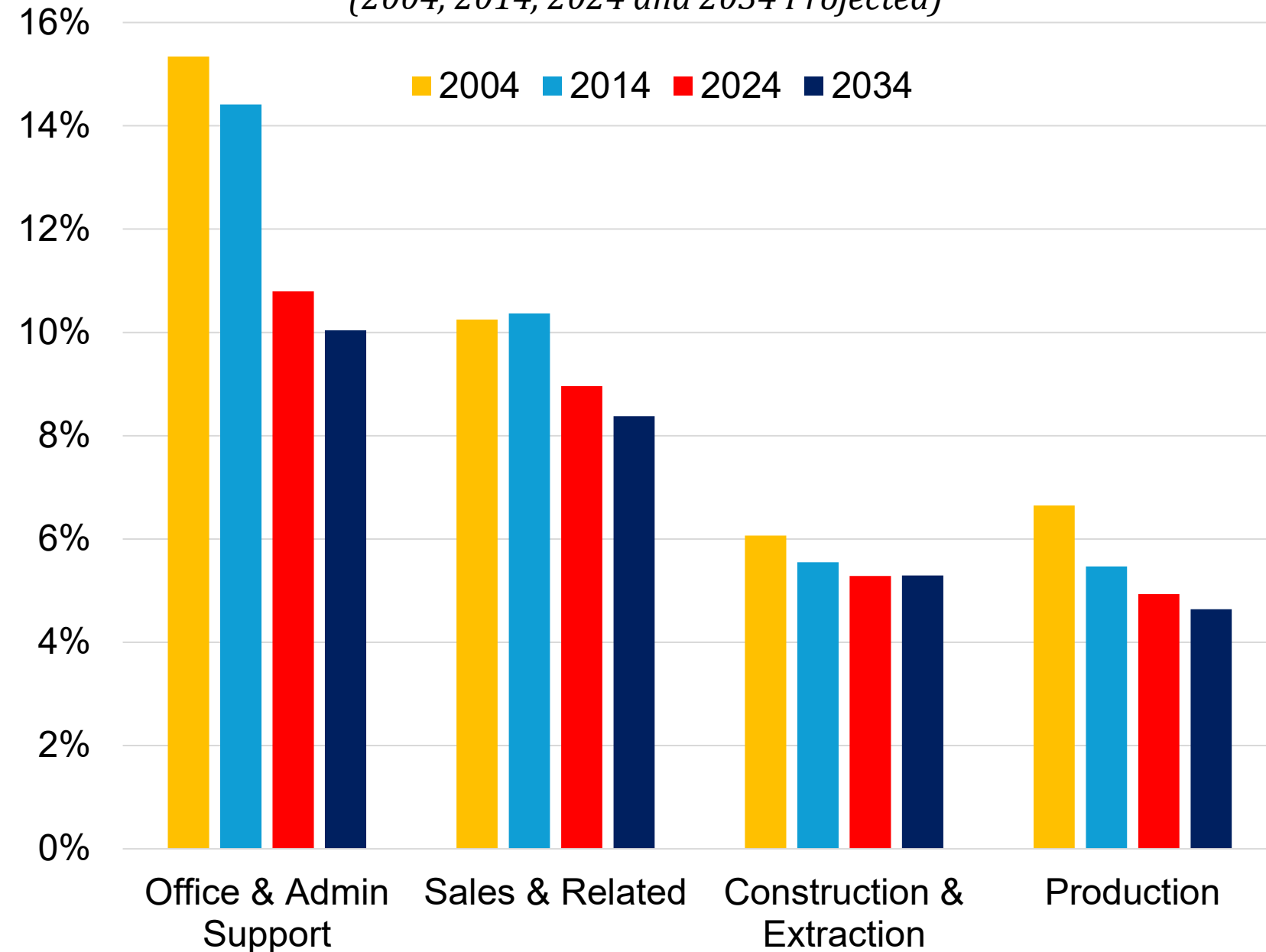
Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Management	58,700	\$106,400	4,680
General & Operations Managers	15,700	\$98,900	1,190
Financial Managers	3,200	\$133,600	250
Medical & Health Services Managers	2,500	\$120,300	250
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	46,700	\$87,000	2,900
Registered Nurses	16,900	\$87,000	980
Physical Therapists	2,000	\$99,700	90
Nurse Practitioners	1,700	\$130,300	160
Healthcare Support	39,100	\$44,100	5,820
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	19,600	\$38,600	3,050
Nursing Assistants	9,000	\$47,100	1,270
Medical Assistants	4,300	\$47,600	590

Occupational demand aligns with the consumption needs of the population

Economic activity relies on Transportation & Material Movers to keep products and materials moving through the supply chain. The expanding digital economy is expected to continue to drive growth in Computer & Mathematical and Business & Financial groups.

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Transportation & Material Moving	53,400	\$45,000	6,540
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	11,200	\$57,100	1,120
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	6,100	\$42,600	710
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	3,000	\$47,700	260
Business & Financial Operations	36,100	\$78,700	2,780
Accountants & Auditors	4,400	\$77,500	320
Human Resources Specialists	3,100	\$71,600	260
Management Analysts	3,000	\$75,500	250
Computer & Mathematical	15,000	\$91,300	960
Software Developers	2,800	\$123,100	190
Computer User Support Specialists	2,800	\$60,900	150
Computer Systems Analysts	2,700	\$95,800	200

Share of Jobs by Occupational Group
(2004, 2014, 2024 and 2034 Projected)



Occupations with a falling job share reflect advances in technology and productivity

Despite a modest decrease in the share of employment projected through 2034, these occupational groups are expected to have ample opportunity resulting from replacement needs due to retirements and turnover.

New technologies will continue to impact how jobs are performed

Developments in automation, artificial intelligence and online retail are expected to continue a trend in recent decades of falling demand for workers in Office & Administrative Support and Sales occupations. Despite the falling share of jobs in these two groups, they are projected to maintain the highest share of jobs of any group.

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Office & Administrative Support	79,200	\$48,100	7,640
Office Clerks, General	12,100	\$45,300	1,220
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	9,200	\$50,500	910
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive	7,300	\$49,800	720
Sales & Related	65,800	\$38,400	7,620
Retail Salespersons	18,300	\$36,600	2,300
Insurance Sales Agents	5,600	\$63,000	410
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	3,900	\$64,000	290

Skilled trades are expected to maintain a similar job share and job openings are projected mostly from replacement

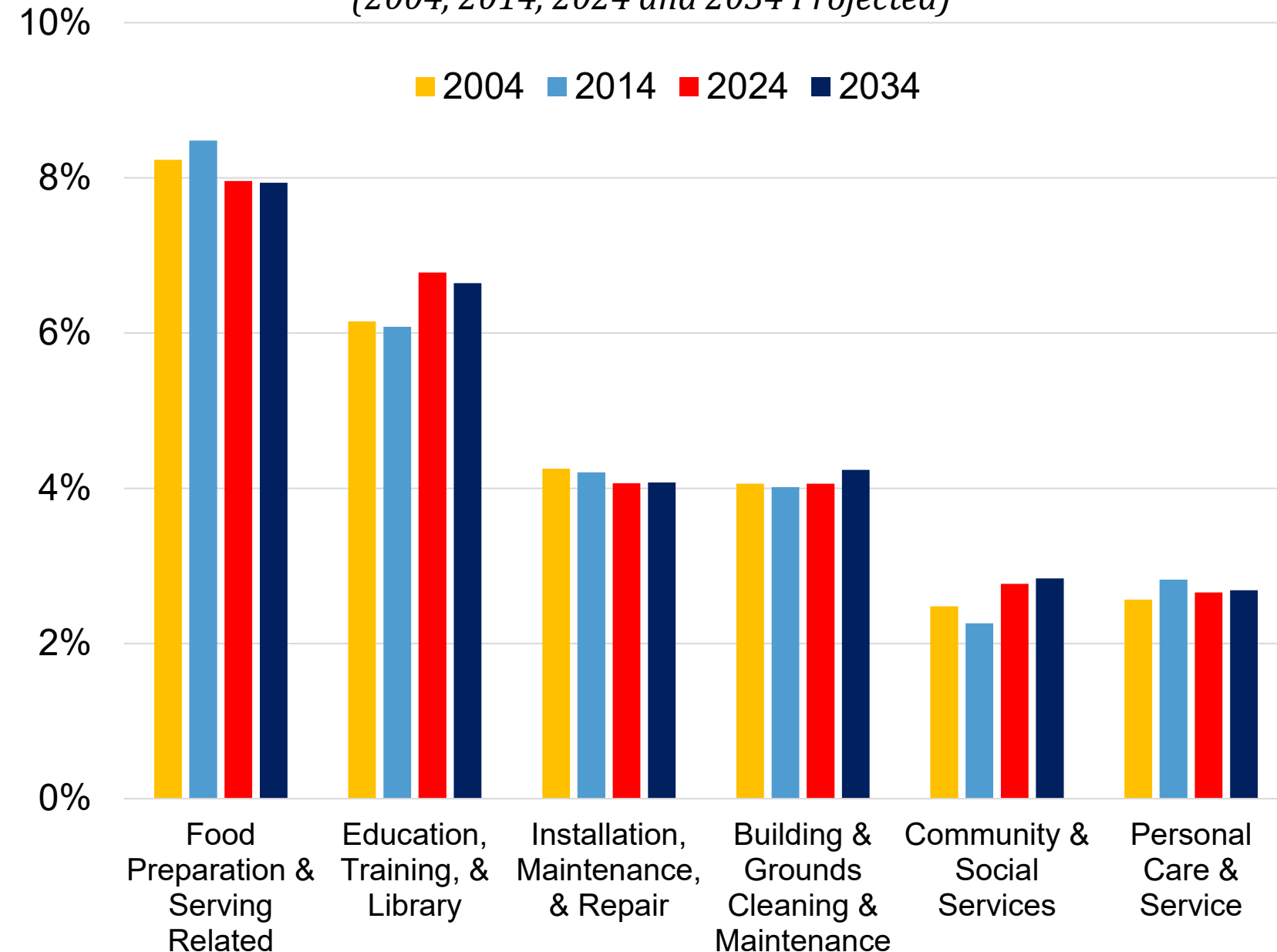
Following a significant impact from the Great Recession, demand for workers in the Construction and Production groups have stabilized. Many jobs in these groups are high paying, and replacement needs are projected to lead to significant numbers of job openings.

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Construction & Extraction	38,800	\$60,300	2,990
Carpenters	7,300	\$62,200	510
Electricians	3,700	\$75,400	340
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	2,700	\$64,000	230
Production	36,200	\$49,400	3,550
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	2,100	\$62,200	210
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	1,800	\$53,600	180
Machinists	1,600	\$59,200	160

Share of Jobs by Occupational Group (2004, 2014, 2024 and 2034 Projected)

Occupations with little change reflect the consistent demand for their skills and services

Many occupations within these groups work in the provision of services for people and businesses, leading to a consistency in demand for the various services they provide.



These occupations provide services to businesses and the community

Many of these occupations work directly for, or with, customers to provide a specific service. Many occupations in these groups require lower levels of educational attainment, are lower paying, and have high job opening rates due to job turnover.

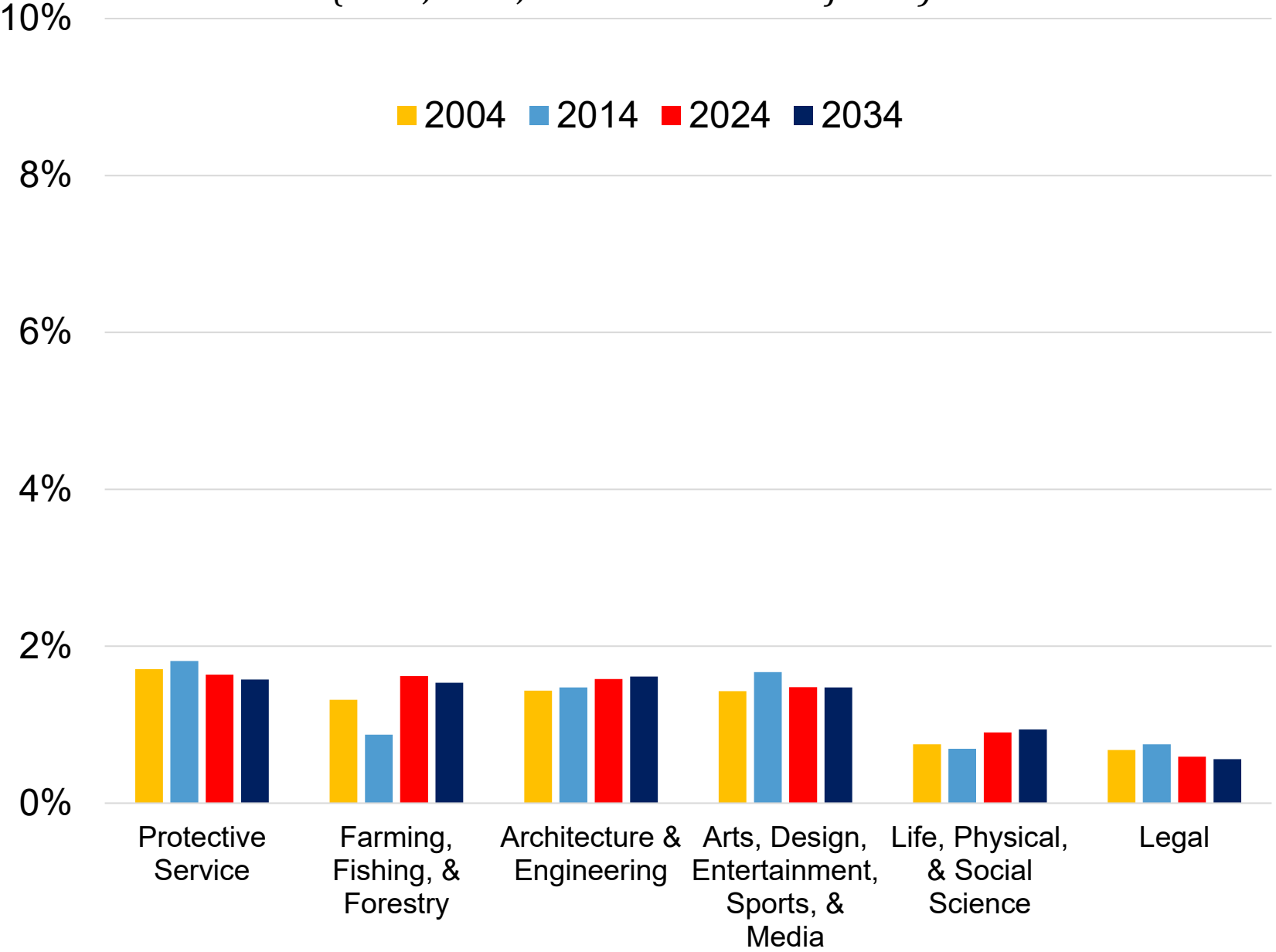
Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Food Preparation & Serving Related	58,400	\$37,000	10,580
Fast Food & Counter Workers	17,200	\$34,700	3,920
Waiters & Waitresses	9,000	\$43,400	1,680
Cooks, Restaurant	5,100	\$45,300	840
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	29,800	\$41,140	4,120
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	11,000	\$38,900	1,600
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	8,300	\$46,000	1,160
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	6,700	\$37,600	910
Personal Care & Service	19,500	\$37,600	3,250
Childcare Workers	6,600	\$36,400	1,080
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	2,200	\$44,000	260
Recreation Workers	1,400	\$37,500	270

Occupations requiring specialized skills often are higher paying

High-skill service jobs will remain in demand and provide a pathway for many to higher wage employment opportunities. While some occupations will require an advanced post-secondary education, others may typically require specialized training that could include professional certification or apprenticeship.

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Education, Training, & Library	49,800	\$57,900	4,210
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	7,700	\$62,400	480
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education	6,100	\$64,900	360
Middle School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education	4,300	\$63,600	270
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	29,800	\$60,000	2,540
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	5,900	\$49,400	550
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	4,100	\$52,000	330
Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	2,300	\$63,200	190
Community & Social Services	20,300	\$56,200	1,850
Social & Human Service Assistants	4,800	\$47,700	500
Child, Family, & School Social Workers	2,100	\$63,300	160
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Health Counselors	1,800	\$60,000	160

Share of Jobs by Occupational Group
(2004, 2014, 2024 and 2034 Projected)



Smaller occupational groups are projected to maintain similar employment shares

Most occupations within these groups are smaller in terms of total jobs but have impactful roles in providing goods and services.

Occupations vary widely though many serve their community or provide goods and services to residents or businesses

Despite their smaller size, these occupations have important roles in our communities including in the areas of public safety, producing food and timber, performing arts, and media services among many others.

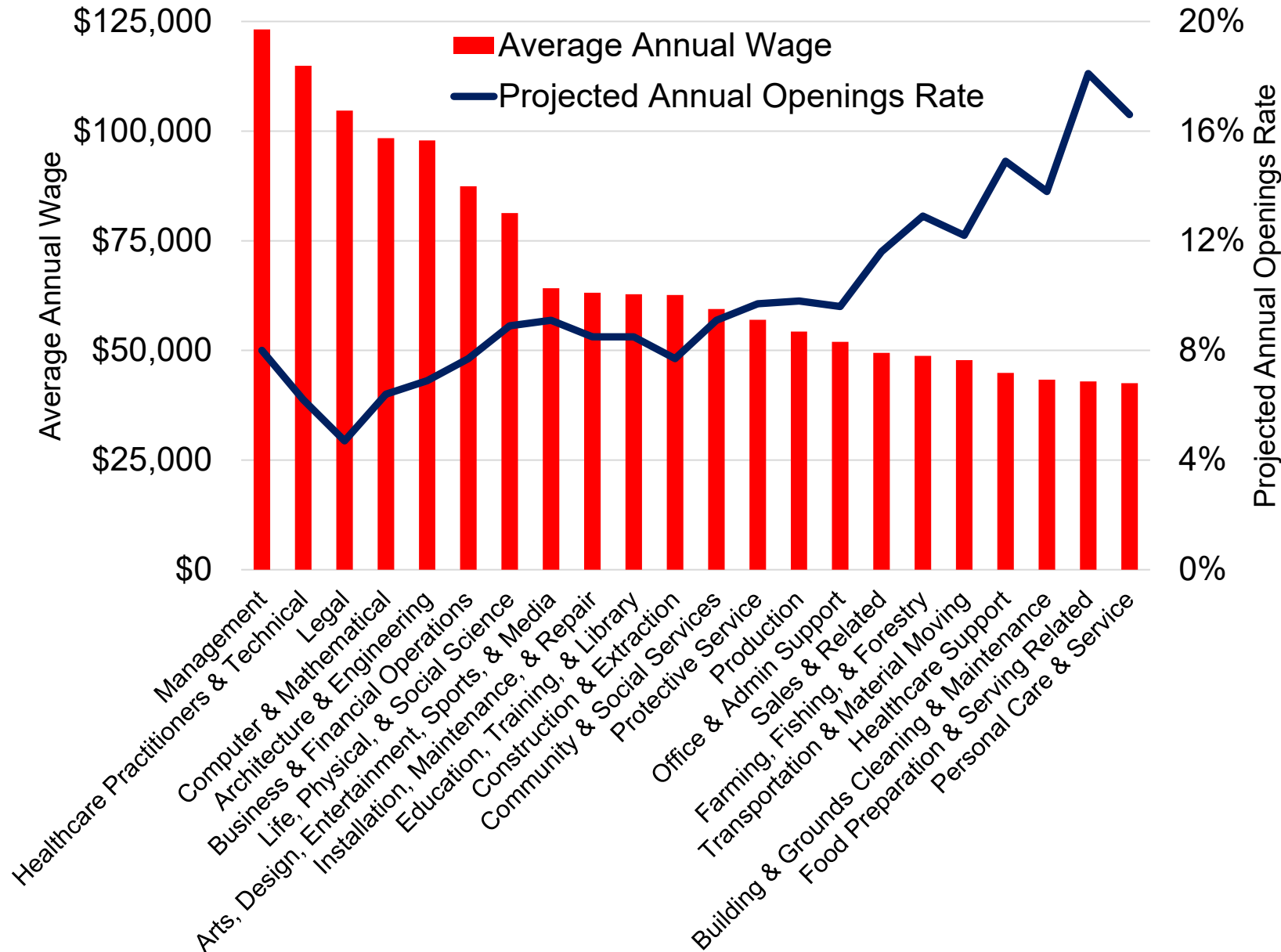
Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Protective Service	12,000	\$51,700	1,170
Firefighters	2,500	\$48,300	170
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	2,000	\$67,100	140
Correctional Officers & Jailers	1,100	\$52,700	70
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	11,900	\$45,900	1,530
Farmworkers & Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	2,600	\$39,100	350
Logging Equipment Operators	1,600	\$44,800	200
Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, & Aquacultural Animals	900	\$42,200	110
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	10,800	\$53,200	990
Public Relations Specialists	1,300	\$62,500	100
Graphic Designers	800	\$60,000	50
Art Directors	400	\$100,300	30

Specialized occupations often are higher paying and are smaller in terms of total jobs

These occupational groups contain some of the highest paying occupations. Many occupations within these groups typically require post-secondary education, graduate education or other formal credentials.

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2025 Median Annual Wage	Annual Job Openings Projected
Architecture & Engineering	11,600	\$94,400	800
Civil Engineers	1,500	\$97,800	90
Electrical Engineers	1,000	\$114,600	60
Architectural & Civil Drafters	700	\$66,200	60
Life, Physical, & Social Science	6,600	\$75,300	590
Biological Technicians	500	\$60,200	60
Occupational Health & Safety Specialists	500	\$97,600	50
Environmental Scientists & Specialists, Including Health	500	\$66,500	40
Legal	4,400	\$82,500	210
Lawyers	2,600	\$113,100	70
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	1,300	\$62,400	110

Average Wages in 2025 & Projected Annual Job Opening Rates (by Major Occupational Group, 2024-2034)

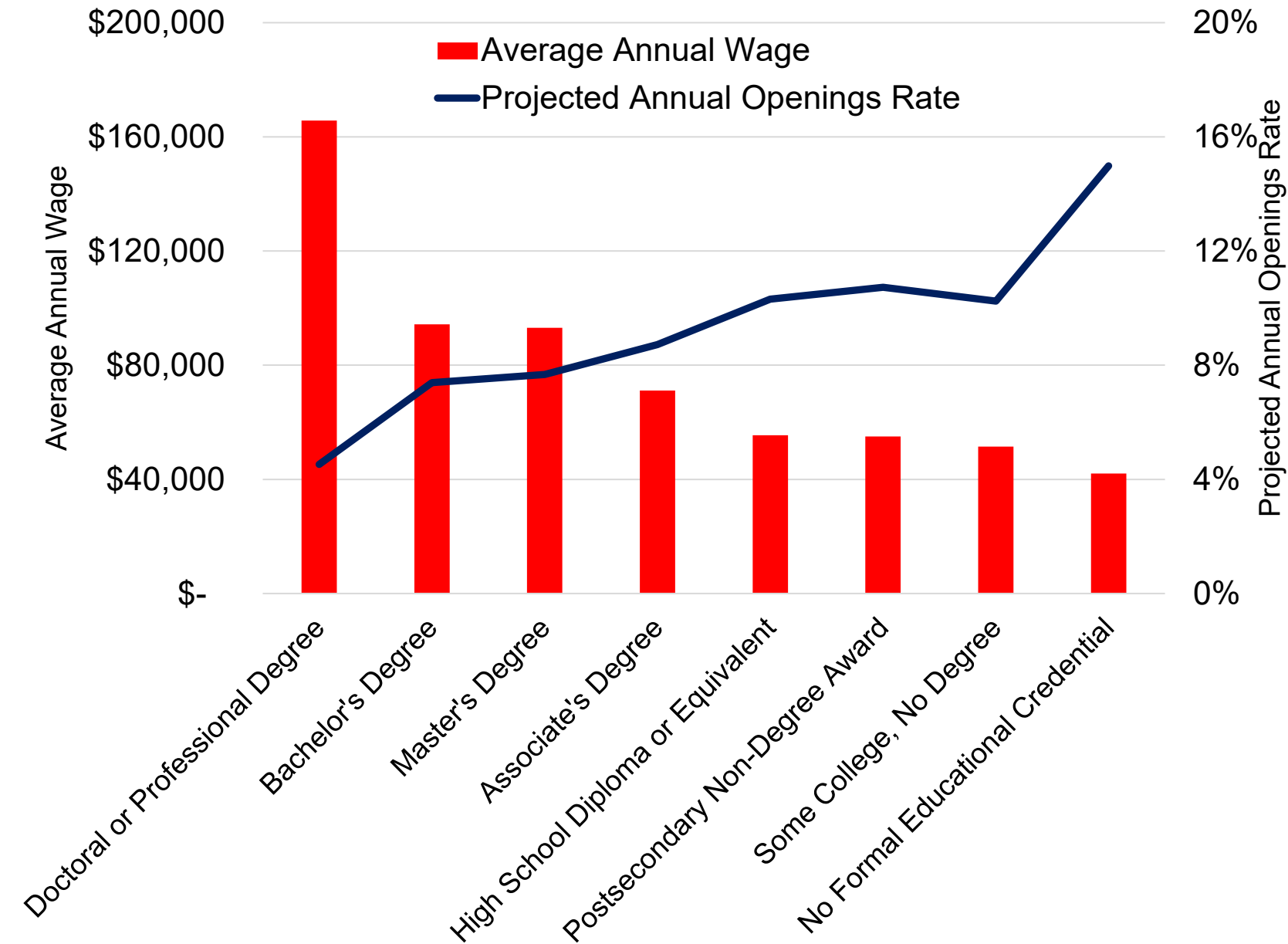


High paying occupations often have the lowest job opening rates

Occupations with higher wages generally have lower opening rates, while occupations with lower wages generally have higher opening rates. Lower wage occupations tend to employ a younger, less established workforce, while high wage occupations have an older, more established workforce and higher retention.

Average Wages in 2025 & Projected Annual Job Opening Rates

(by Typical Education Requirement, 2024-2034)



Educational requirements are correlated with both wages and turnover rates

Occupations that typically require higher levels of educational attainment generally offer higher wages and have higher retention rates. Conversely, occupations that require no, or minimal, educational attainment generally offer lower wages and have higher turnover rates.

Takeaways

Changes in occupational employment typically occur over many years, driven by factors that include technology, industry, population and other structural economic changes.

Through 2034, the share of jobs in the Sales and the Office & Administrative Support occupational groups are projected to fall while the job share in Healthcare occupations are expected to rise. The overall occupational mix is expected to stay relatively stable.

Across all occupations, over 77,000 job openings per year are projected across varying educational levels as an advancing population age structure and other job turnover are expected to contribute to openings largely from replacement needs.