OTTUMWA, IOWA LABORSHED AREA

A study in labor availability and workforce characteristics.

Survey data collected within the documented commuting area of

Ottumwa

Data compiled and analyzed by:

IOWA
Iowa Workforce Development

In partnership with:

IOWA
Economic Development

RELEASED 2026

workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed



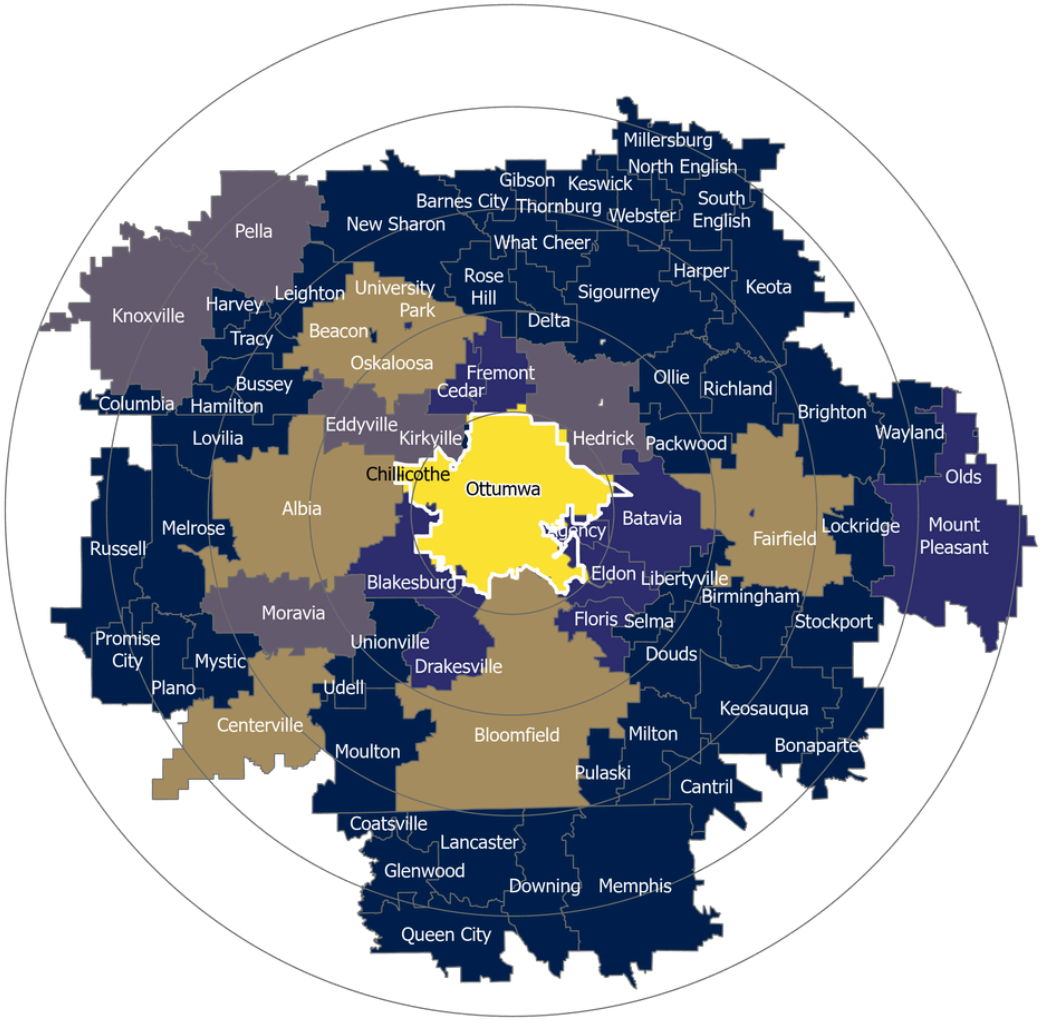
OTTUMWA, IOWA LABORSHED ANALYSIS

A Laborshed area is based on its commuting pattern, which defines the communities that contribute to an employment center's workforce. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supplied the residential ZIP codes of their employees.

The map below illustrates the documented Laborshed area for Ottumwa, Iowa

The contributing communities, along with the distance of each from the employment center, were entered into a statistical model which estimated the number of individuals, per community, who would consider an employment opportunity in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The map shows the estimated concentration levels, per community, of individuals who would accept employment in Ottumwa, Iowa.



Concentration of Those Likely to Accept Employment by Place of Residence (per ZIP Code)

- 0 - 113
- 114 - 287
- 288 - 474
- 475 - 3,793
- 3,794 - 8,075

AREA SHOWN



10-Mile Interval Between Rings

Estimated Total Population (18-64)

94,613

Estimated Total Likely to Accept Employment in Ottumwa

24,530

The data in the following pages is based on residential surveying that was conducted in the Laborshed area, as defined on the previous page. The Laborshed Survey is a random household survey of residents ages 18 to 64.

Employment Status* by Percent (Estimated Total Living in Laborshed Area)

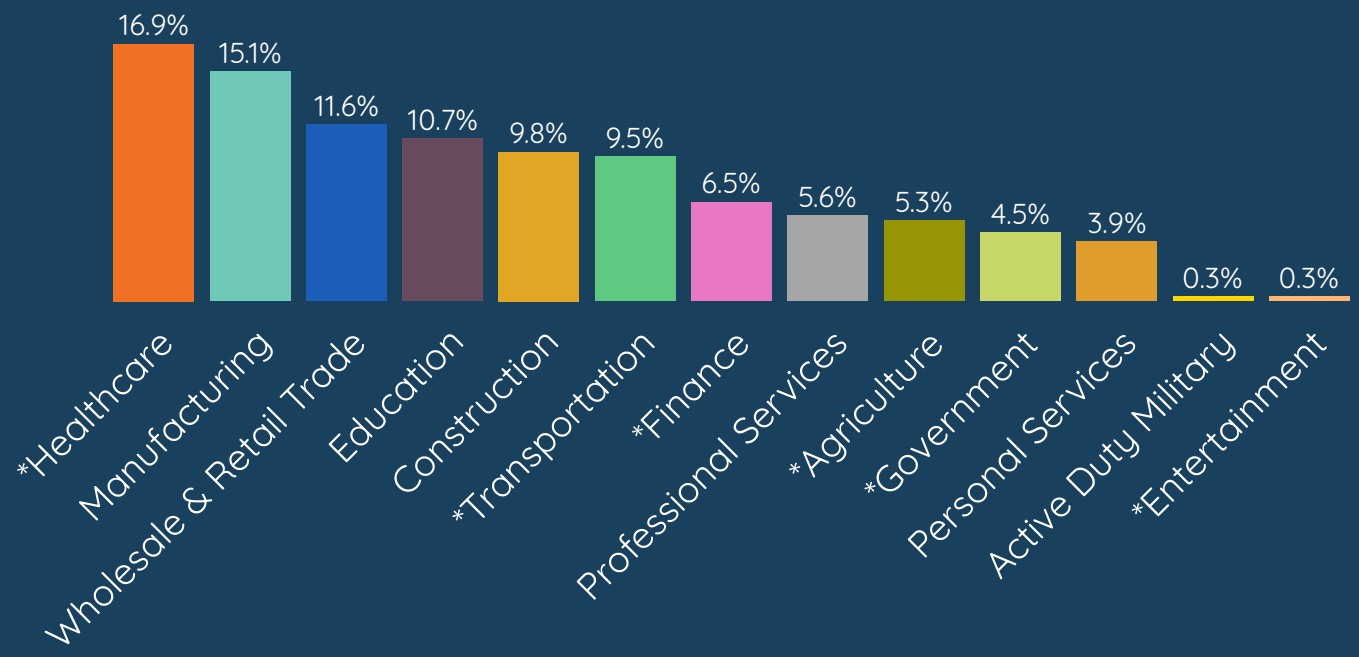
Employed	83.4%	(78,907)	Estimated Employed
Unemployed*	8.4%	(7,947)	Estimated Unemployed
Homemaker	4.2%	(3,974)	Estimated Homemakers
Retired	4.0%	(3,785)	Estimated Retired

*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

Percent Likely to Change or Accept Employment by Employment Status

Employed	32.8%
Unemployed	67.6%
Homemakers	29.4%
Retired	12.5%

Employed by Industry of Employment (%)



*Complete industry names: Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining; Entertainment & Recreation; Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate; Government & Public Administration; Healthcare & Social Services; and Transportation, Communications, & Utilities.

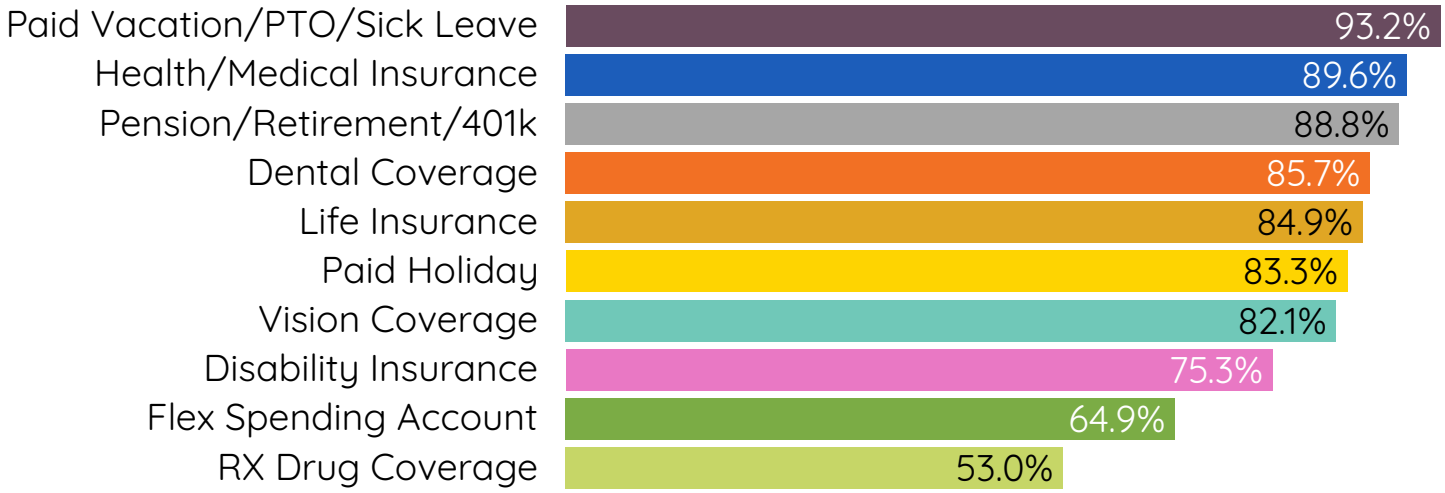


The employed are currently commuting an average:

15 miles one-way for work

18 minutes one-way for work

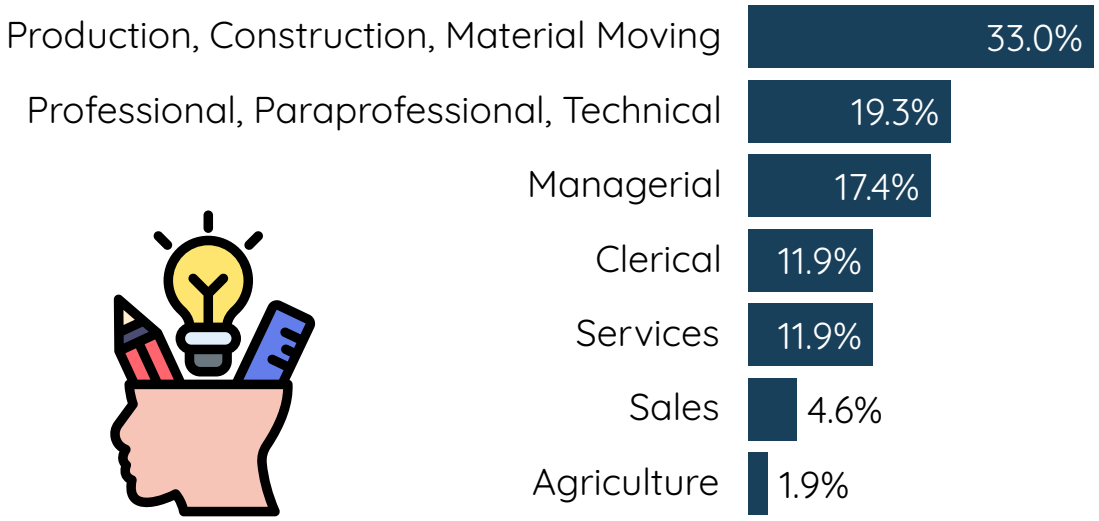
Top Benefits of the Full-Time Employed



EMPLOYED LIKELY TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT

20,837 **employed individuals are estimated to live in the Laborshed area who are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Ottumwa**

Occupational Categories of Employment

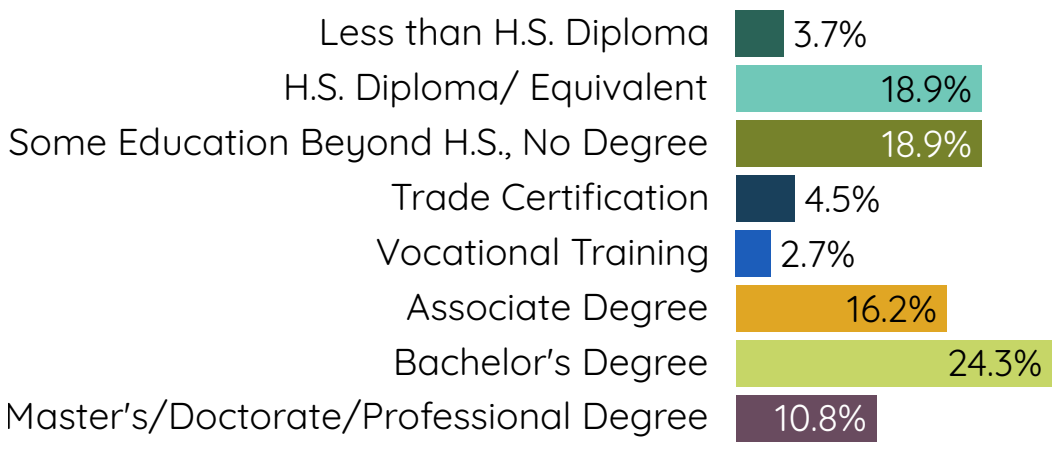


Median Hourly Wages

$20.00	Current
$25.00	Attracts 66% of workers
$29.12	Attracts 75% of workers

77.5%

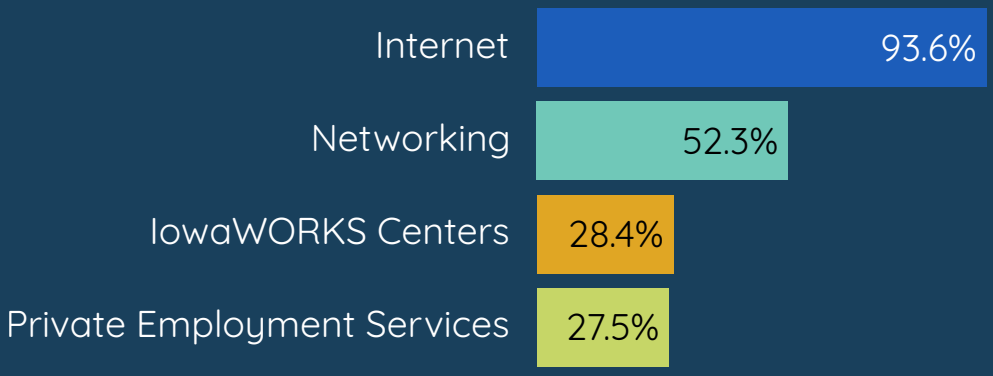
of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' have an education beyond high school



37.8%

of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' are ACTIVELY seeking new employment

Most Frequently Identified Job Search Resources



Top Sites Used



Indeed.com

Linkedin.com

Ziprecruiter.com

Top Newspapers Used



Insufficient survey data to report



Currently commuting an average:

13 miles one-way for work

17 minutes one-way for work

Willing to commute an average:

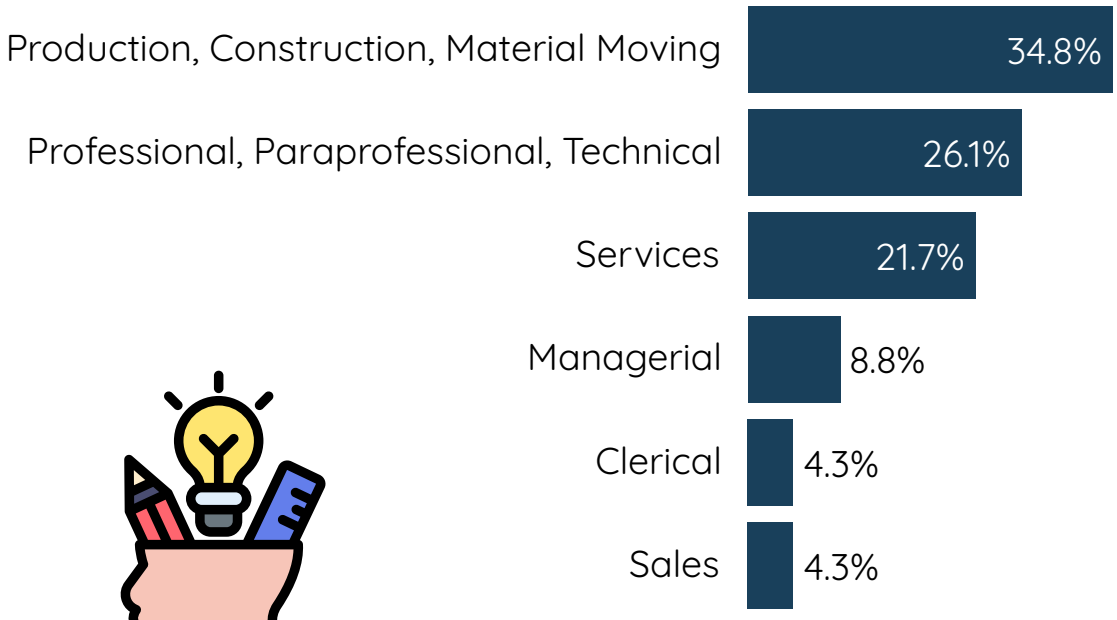
28 miles one-way for work

35 minutes one-way for work

UNEMPLOYED LIKELY TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

1,409 **unemployed individuals are estimated to live in the Labor shed area who are likely to accept employment in Ottumwa**

Occupational Categories of Most Recent Employment

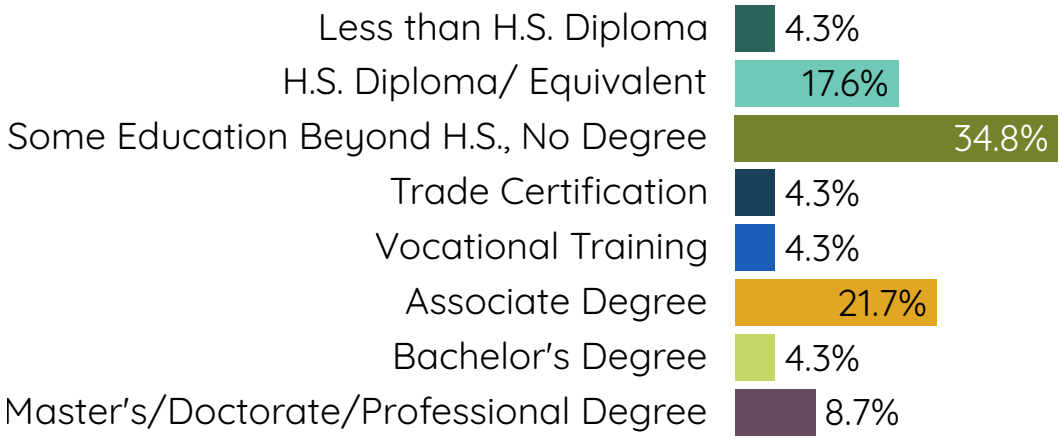


Median Hourly Wages

$16.00	Lowest willing to accept
$18.62	Attracts 66% of workers
$20.00	Attracts 75% of workers

78.3%

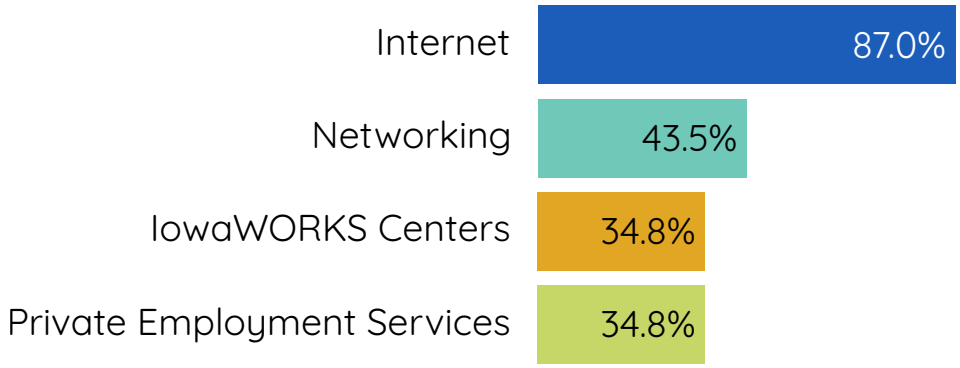
of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' have an education beyond high school



82.6%

of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' are ACTIVELY seeking employment

Most Frequently Identified Job Search Resources



Top Sites Used



Indeed.com
Linkedin.com
Ziprecruiter.com

Top Newspapers Used



The Des Moines Register

Willing to commute an average:

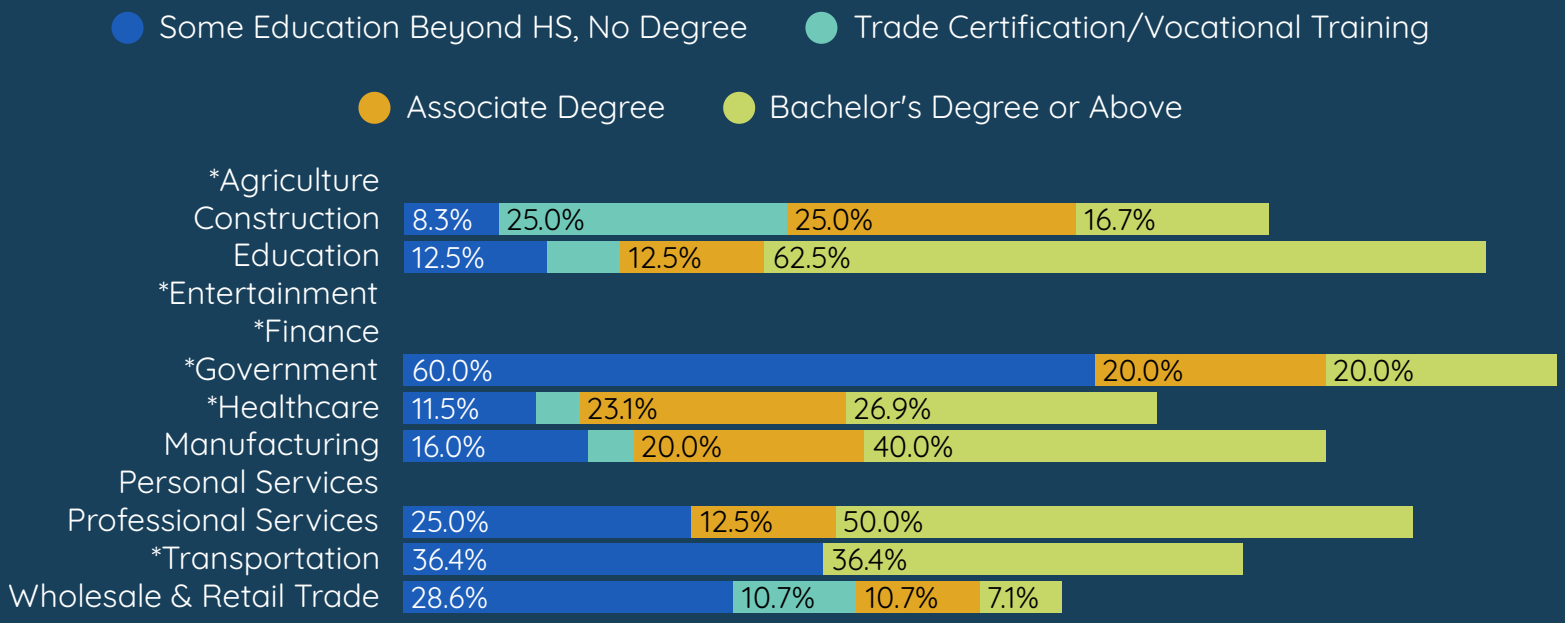
31 miles one-way for work

40 minutes one-way for work

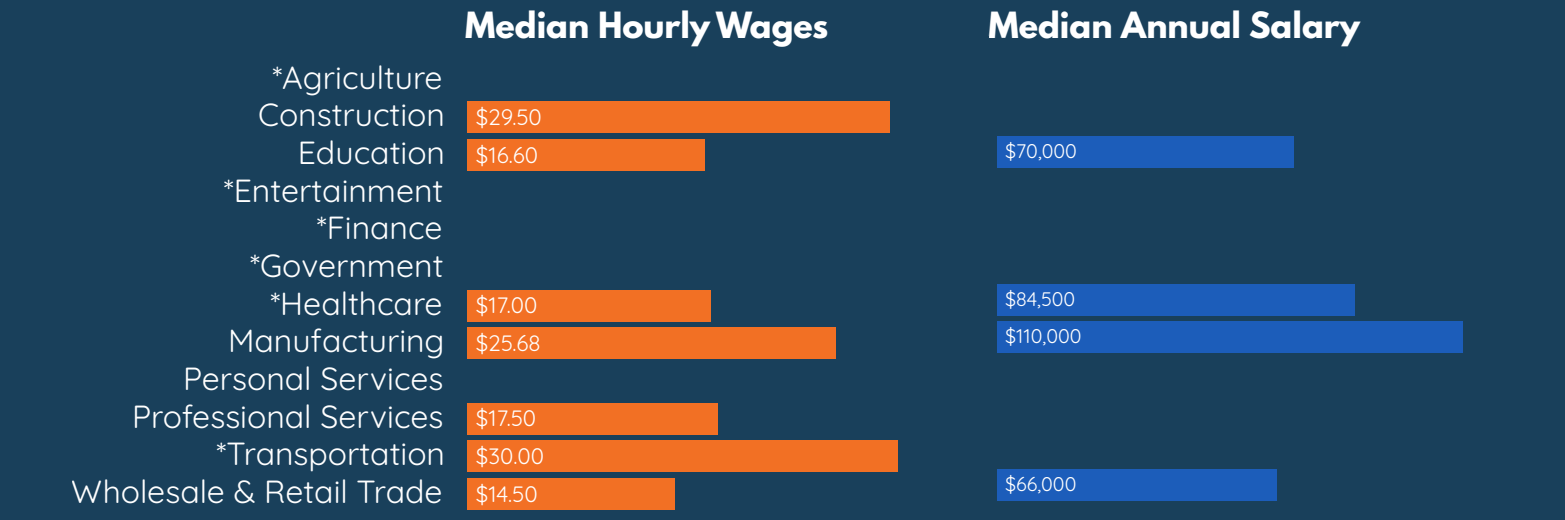
LIKELY TO CHANGE OR ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

This section is specific to survey respondents who indicated that they were **likely to change or accept employment**; all current employment statuses combined (employed, unemployed, homemaker, and retired)

Educational Attainment Beyond High School of Available Labor by Industry of Current or Former Employment



Wages of Available Labor by Industry of Current or Former Employment



Industries with no data in the charts above indicates insufficient survey data to report.
*Complete industry names: Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining; Entertainment & Recreation; Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate; Government & Public Administration; Healthcare & Social Services; and Transportation, Communications, & Utilities. **Note:** Survey respondents are classified within an industry based on the activities of their employer. A variety of occupations are included within each industry.

OUT COMMUTE

The out commute for Ottumwa is estimated at **20.4%**

Approximately **2,981**

people living in Ottumwa work in other communities

Top communities individuals are commuting to for work:

- Eddyville
- Oskaloosa
- Bloomfield



27.3% **of out commuters are likely to change their current employment situation**

Approximately **814** **people**

Salary earners, median annual salary:

$60,000

Hourly wage earners, median hourly wage:

$29.95



UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The underemployed are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours (**inadequate hours**); in positions that do not meet their skill or education level, or have worked for higher wages at previous employment (**mismatch of skills**); or are earning wages equal to or less than the national poverty level and work 35 or more hours per week (**low income**).

LOW HOURS	MISMATCH	LOW INCOME	TOTAL
2.2%	10.6%	0.7%	11.9%
458	2,209	146	2,480
Estimated in Laborshed Area	Estimated in Laborshed Area	Estimated in Laborshed Area	Estimated in Laborshed Area

Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once in the Total estimated underemployment. **Note:** To be counted as underemployed in any category the respondent mus be currently employed AND likely to change their current employment situation.

Data compiled and analyzed by:
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