COLUMBUS JUNCTION , IOWA LABORSHED AREA

A study in labor availability and workforce characteristics.

Survey data collected within the documented commuting area of

Columbus Junction

Data compiled and analyzed by:

IOWA
Iowa Workforce Development

In partnership with:

IOWA
Economic Development

RELEASED 2026

workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed



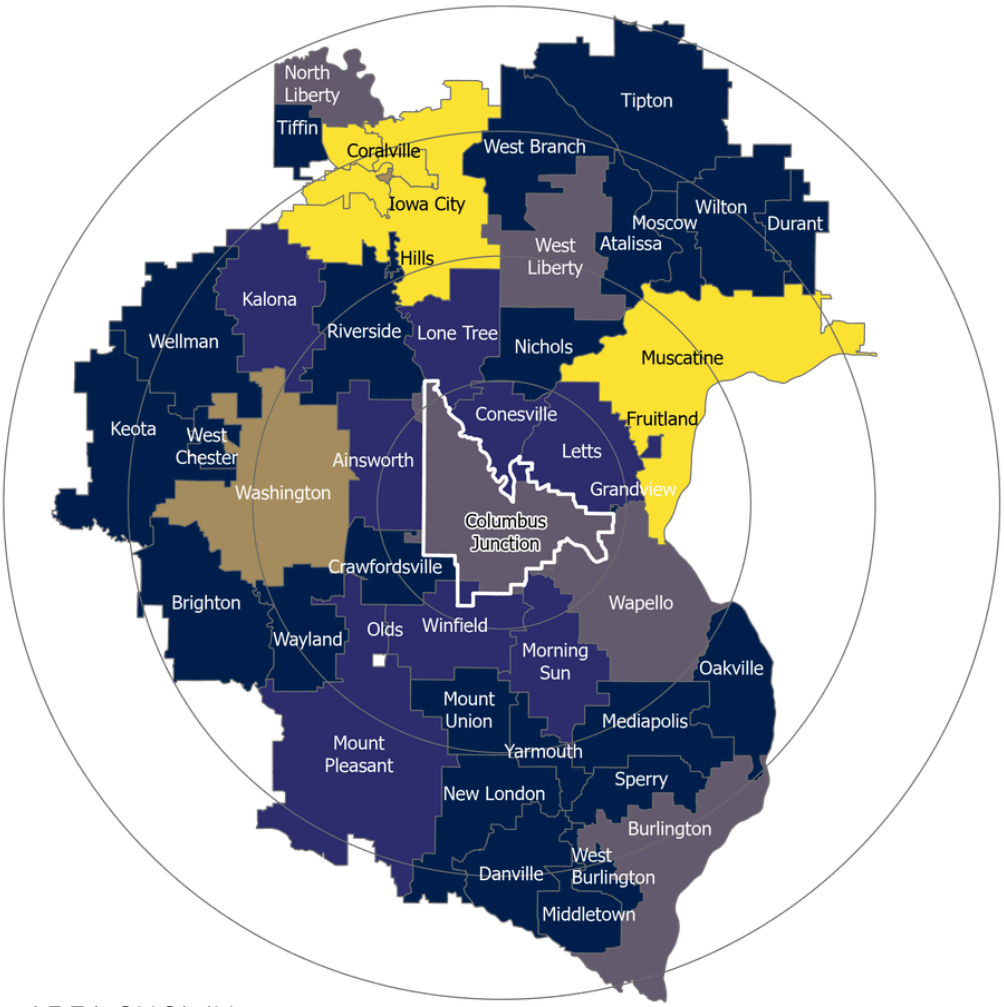
COLUMBUS JUNCTION, IOWA LABORSHED ANALYSIS

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 Columbus Junction, 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 Columbus Junction, Iowa.

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



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

- 1 - 202
- 203 - 674
- 675 - 2,000
- 2,001 - 8,620
- 8,621 - 13,547

AREA SHOWN



10-Mile Interval Between Rings

Estimated Total Population (18-64)

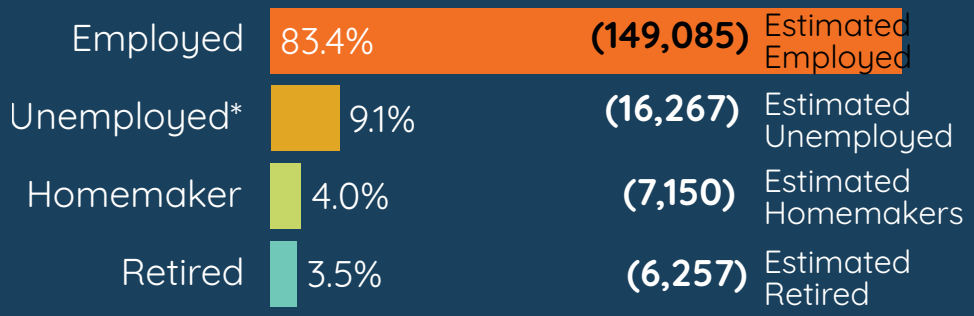
178,759

Estimated Total Likely to Accept Employment in Columbus Junction

47,555

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)

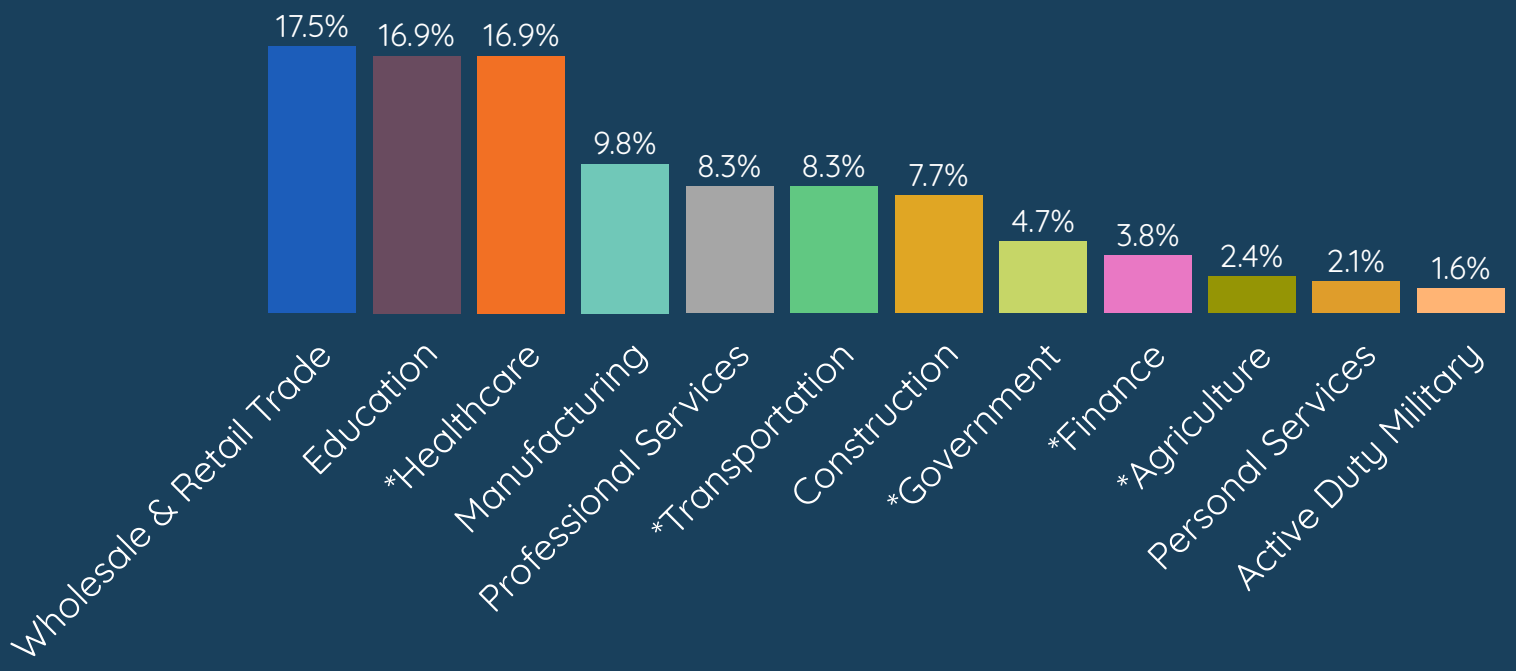


*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

Percent Likely to Change or Accept Employment by Employment Status

Employed	30.2%
Unemployed	62.2%
Homemakers	31.3%
Retired	14.3%

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.

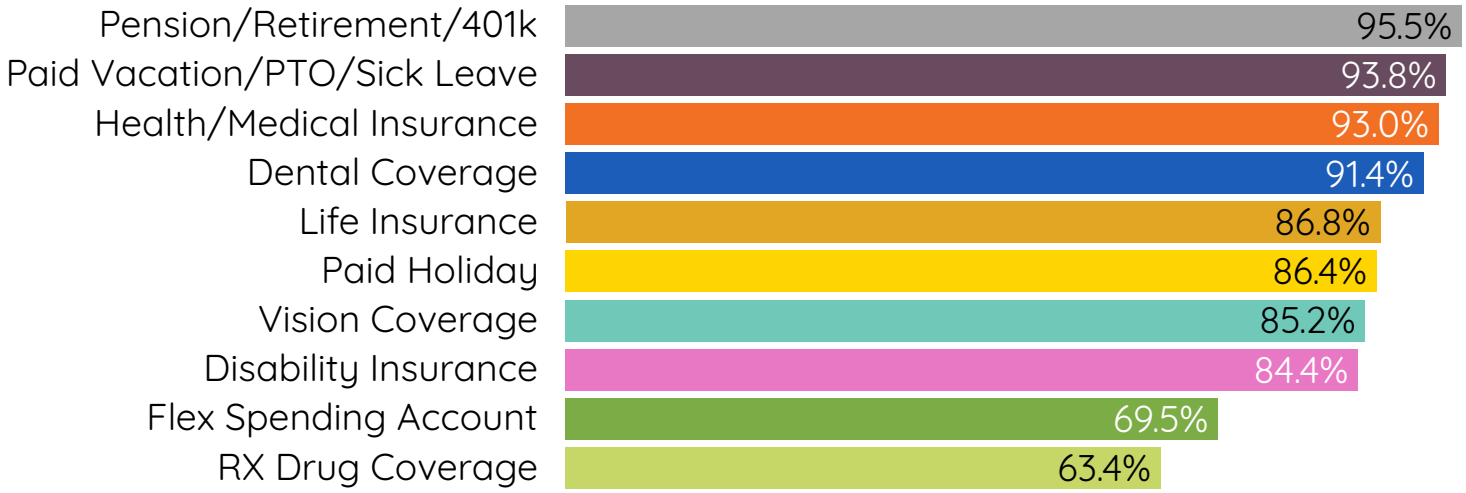


The employed are currently commuting an average:

16 miles one-way for work

21 minutes one-way for work

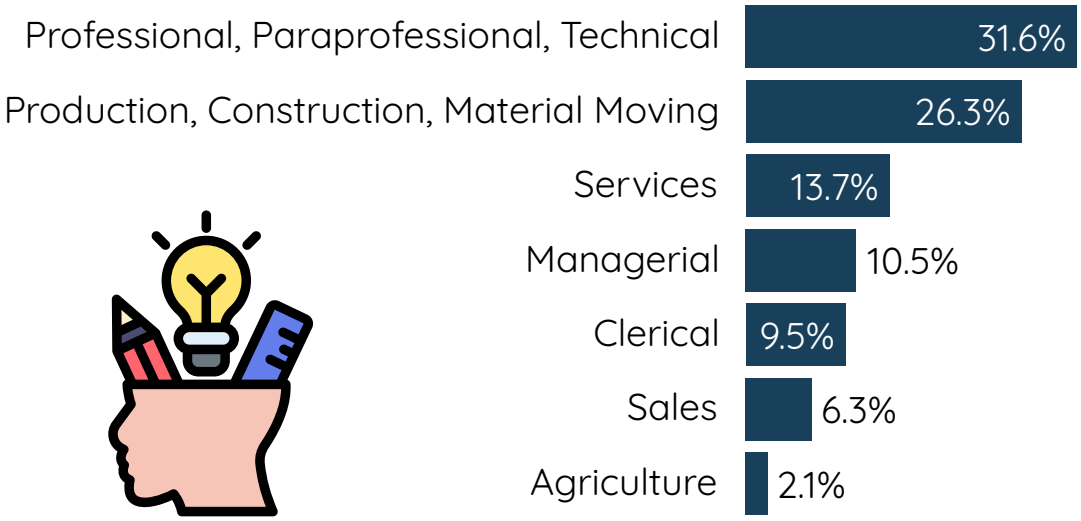
Top Benefits of the Full-Time Employed



EMPLOYED LIKELY TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT

41,635 **employed individuals are estimated to live in the Laborshed area who are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Columbus Junction**

Occupational Categories of Employment

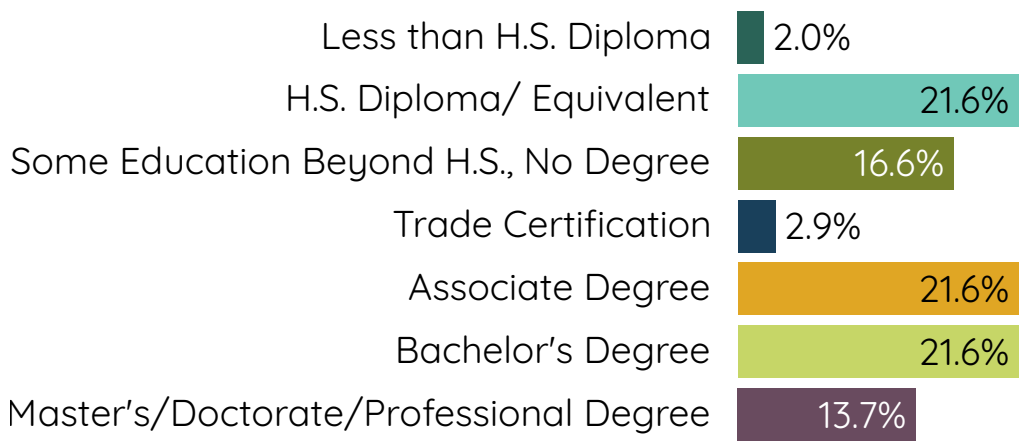


Median Hourly Wages

$20.00	Current
$25.14	Attracts 66% of workers
$28.00	Attracts 75% of workers

76.5%

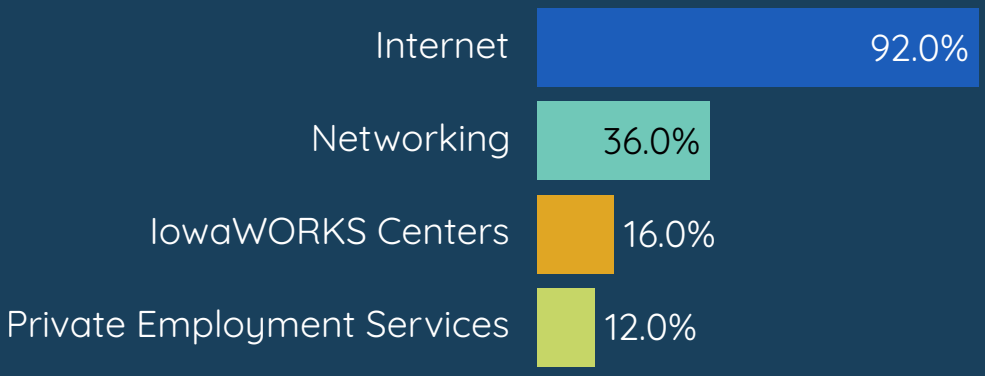
of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' have an education beyond high school



29.4%

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

Top Newspapers Used



*Insufficient survey data to report



Currently commuting an average:

15 miles one-way for work

22 minutes one-way for work

Willing to commute an average:

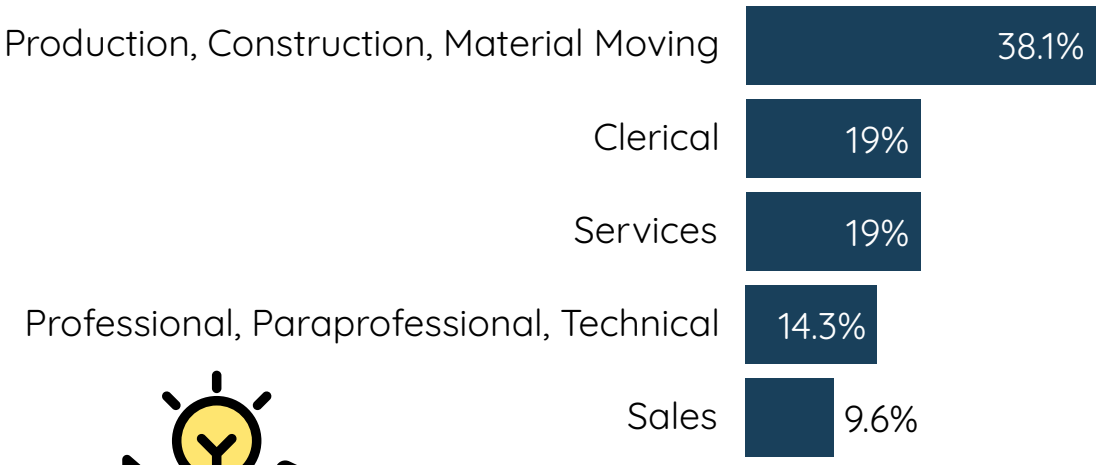
29 miles one-way for work

36 minutes one-way for work

UNEMPLOYED LIKELY TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

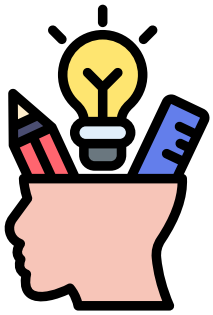
1,749 **unemployed individuals are estimated to live in the Labor shed area who are likely to accept employment in Columbus Junction**

Occupational Categories of Most Recent Employment



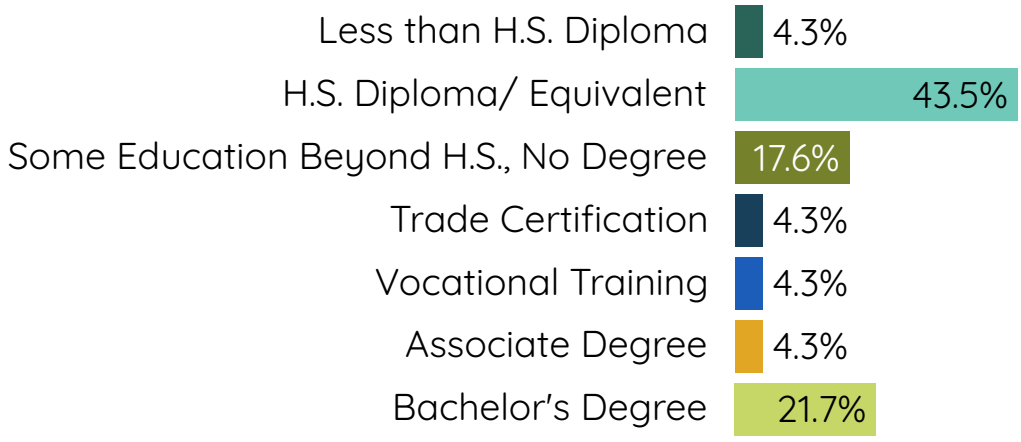
Median Hourly Wages

$18.00	Lowest willing to accept
$20.00	Attracts 66% of workers
$21.00	Attracts 75% of workers



52.2%

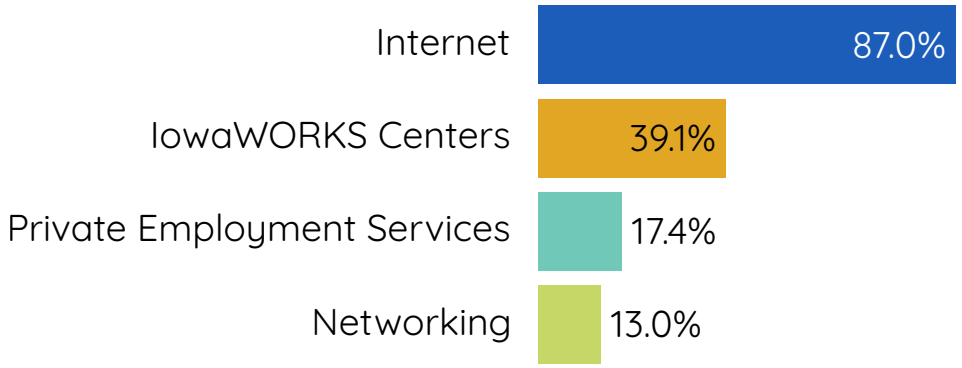
of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' have an education beyond high school



65.2%

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

Most Frequently Identified Job Search Resources



Top Sites Used



Indeed.com

Ziprecruiter.com

Top Newspapers Used



*Insufficient survey data to report



Willing to commute an average:

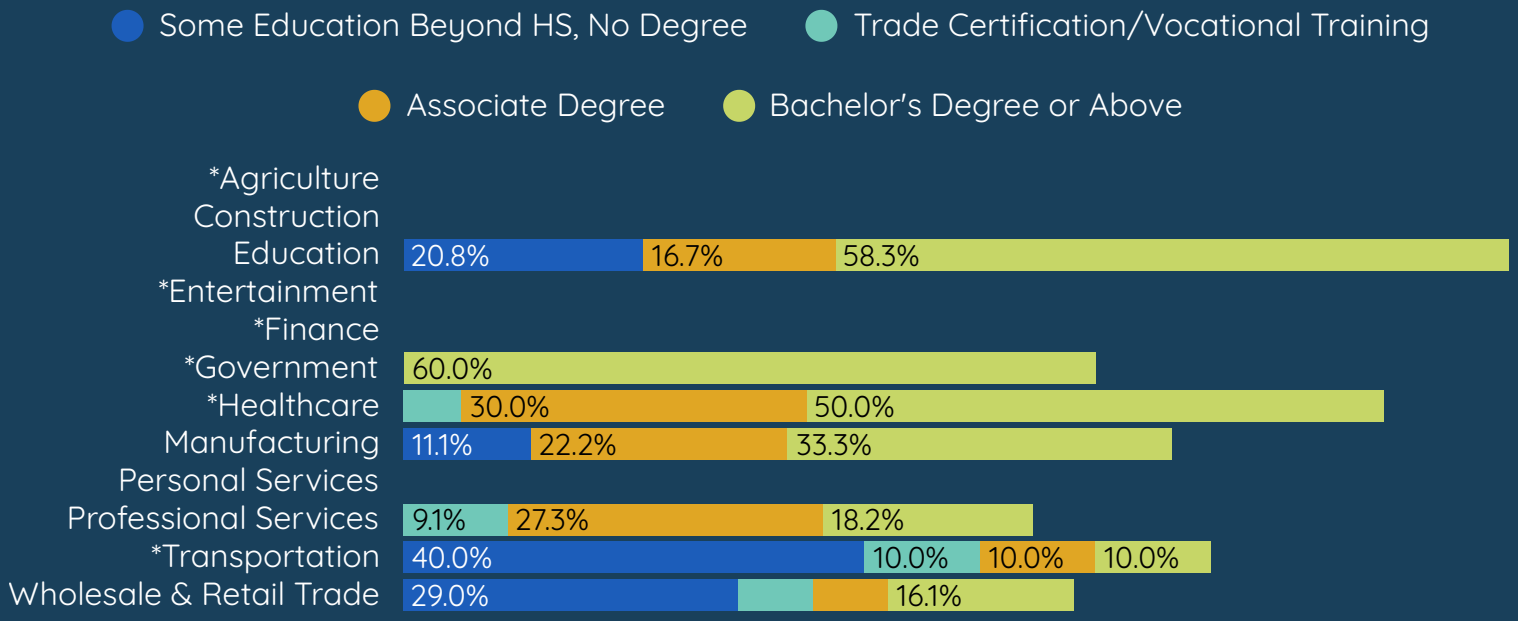
22 miles one-way for work

29 minutes one-way for work

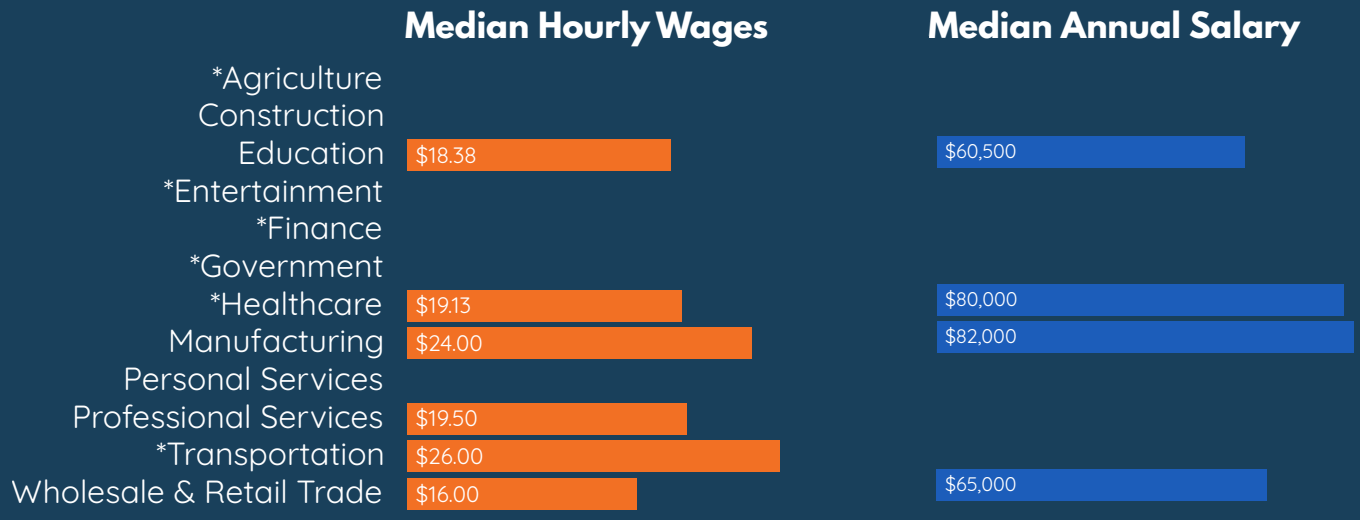
LIKELY TO CHANGE OR ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

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 Columbus Junction is estimated at **51.9%**

Approximately **855** **people living in Columbus Junction work in other communities**

Top communities individuals are commuting to for work:

- Iowa City
- Muscatine
- Washington
- Coralville

30.4% **of out commuters are likely to change their current employment situation**

Approximately **260** **people**



Salary earners, median annual salary:

$70,000

Hourly wage earners, median hourly wage:

$26.75



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
3.0%	10.4%	0.0%	12.6%
1,249 Estimated in Laborshed Area	4,330 Estimated in Laborshed Area	0 Estimated in Laborshed Area	5,246 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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