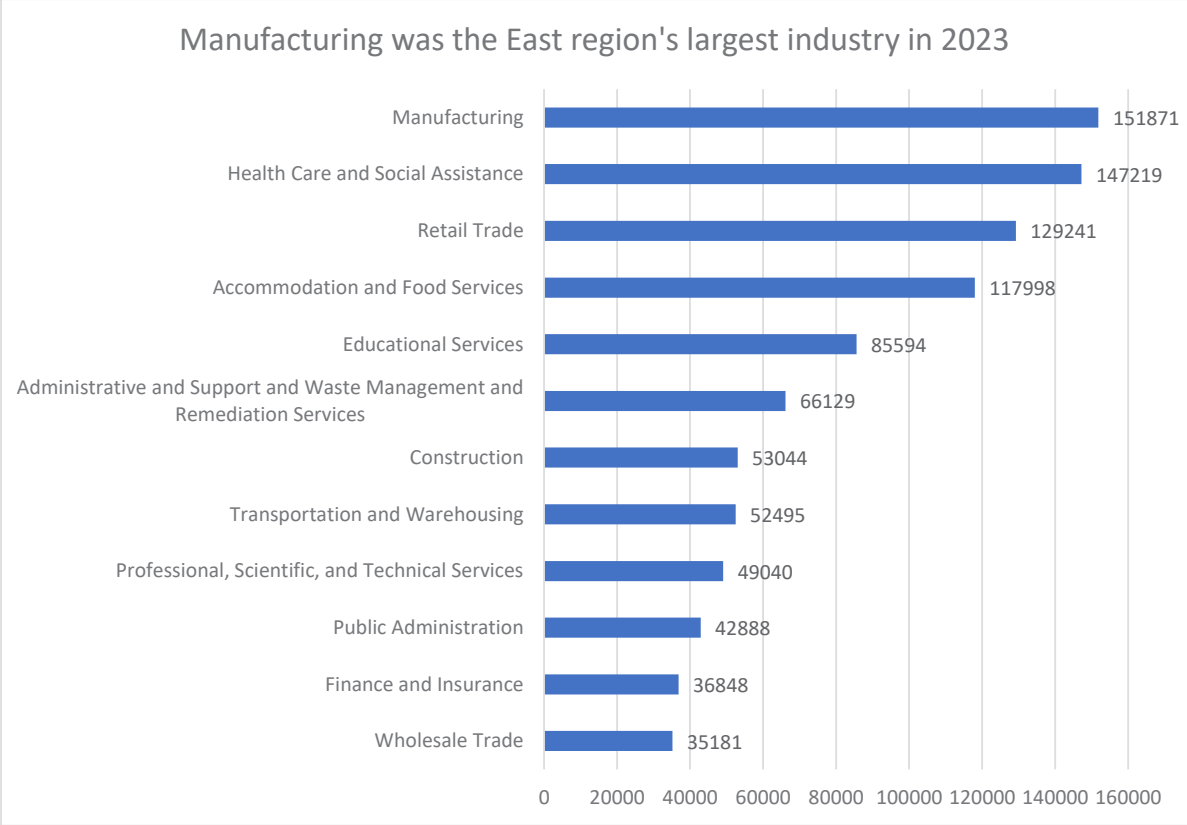


East Region's Economy, 2022-2023

Total employment in the East Region increased from 1,031,985 to 1,055,216, a growth rate of 2.2 percent or 23,231 jobs, continuing its pattern of expansion from the previous year.



Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIRED Division, QCEW, July 2024

Figure 26

Rapid employment growth in the Chattanooga MSA (4.2 percent), as well as steady growth in Knoxville (1.8 percent) and the Kingsport-Bristol TN-VA MSA (1.6 percent) fueled the regional growth trend.

The East Region consists of three Local Workforce Development Areas: East, Northeast, and Southeast, encompassing a total of 34 counties (see Appendix). The number of establishments showed an increase in 2023 to 70,461 from 67,643 the previous year. Total payroll in the East region increased to \$61.8B up from \$58.1B from the year before. This is the second consecutive year in which this region has seen an increase in payroll.

The average annual industry wage in the region, calculated by dividing the total payroll by the average number of workers, was \$58,545, which represented an increase from the previous year. Although the region's average annual industry wage showed an increase it was a much smaller rate, 3.8 percent, than that of the other two regions in the state, both of which grew by over 20%.

Unemployment in the East region was 3.4 percent in 2023, which remained unchanged from the year prior. Youth unemployment in 2022 (the latest available) remained below the state average at 9.39 percent. The percent of those individuals who are unemployed with a disability also rose in the East region to 18.15 percent. This represents an increase from 17.5 percent in 2022. However, the percent of individuals not in the labor force with a disability declined to 35.29% from 37.5% in the region last year, still above the state rate of 32 percent.

To summarize: In 2023 compared to 2022, the East Region saw an increase in employment. Payroll increased at a similar pace as in the region the previous year. However, the annual average industry wage for the East region grew at a significantly lower rate than it did in the other two regions. In 2023, the unemployment rate for youth and the percent of those in poverty remained lower than state rates. The East Region unemployment rate in general remained unchanged and just slightly above the state rate.

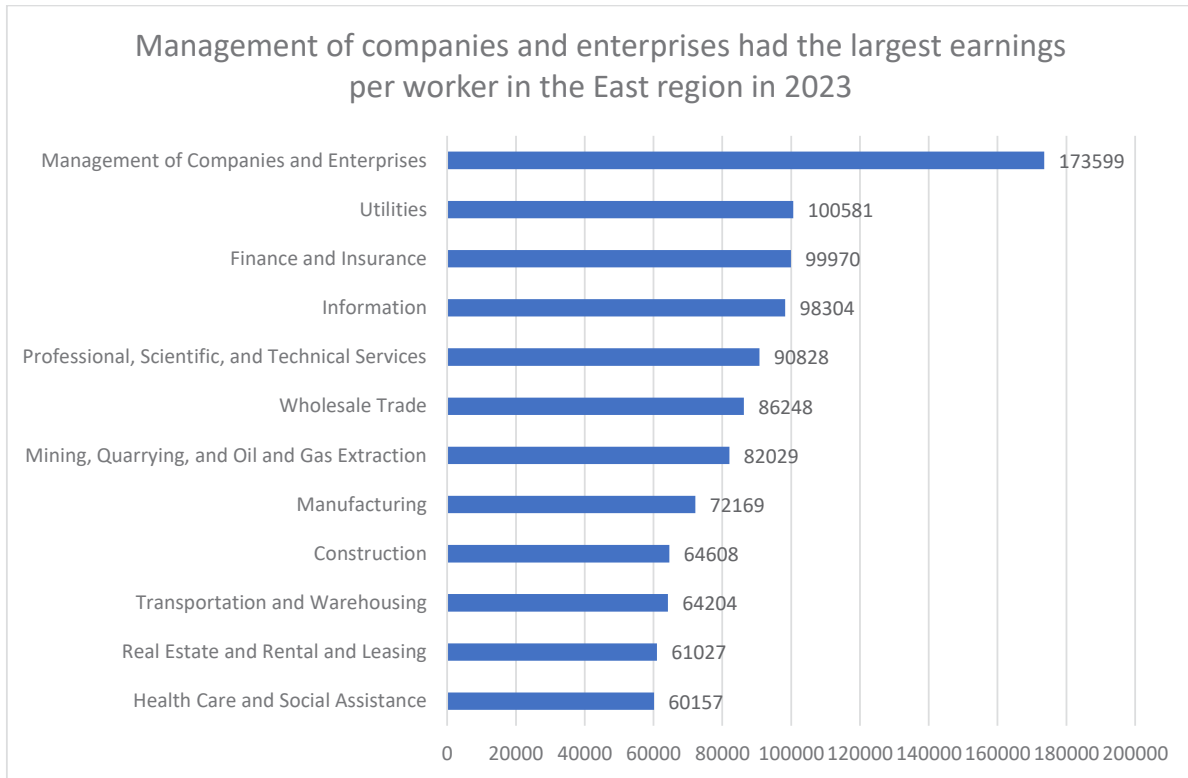
East TN Industry Employment and Earnings (2018-2023)

Total annual average employment in the East region in 2023 was 1,055, 216. 8,603. The five largest industry sectors :

- Manufacturing (152,632 jobs)
- Healthcare and Social Assistance 141,280
- Retail Trade (126,151)
- Accommodation and Food Services ((114,089))
- Educational Services (81,765)

Compared to 2018, the industries adding the most workers during 2023 included manufacturing (10,265 new jobs) and professional, scientific, and technical services (7,901 new jobs). The healthcare and social assistance industry sector has now grown 2% since 2018. Last year, this sector was still being reported as showing negative pre-pandemic growth. Having grown 2%

over the pre-pandemic level is significant for this industry in this region. All industry sectors saw an increase from their pre-pandemic earnings per worker. The East and West regions both had an increase of earnings per worker in all industries. The largest increases in earnings per worker were in the management , finance and insurance, and arts and recreation industry sectors. These three industries have seen their earnings per worker increase 50 percent or more from their pre-pandemic earnings. The industries with the highest earnings per worker were management of companies and enterprises, utilities, and finance and insurance.



Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIRED Division, QCEW, July 2024

Figure 27

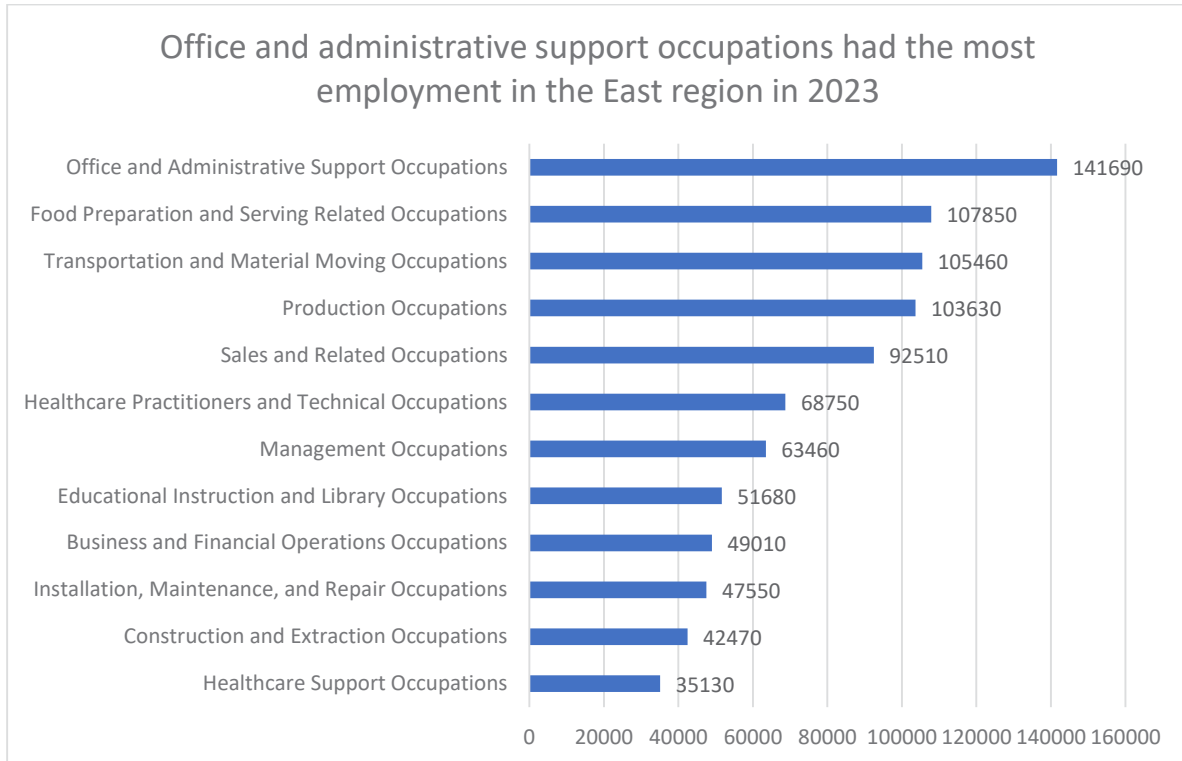
Table 27: Fastest Growing Industries in the East Region Include: Professional, Scientific, Technical Services, Agriculture, and Construction

East Region Industries	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2018 Earnings Per Worker	2023 Earnings Per Worker	% Change in Earnings Per Worker
Accommodation and Food Services	110,727	114,089	3,362	3%	18,321	23,594.00	29%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	67,764	66,835	-929	-1%	34,927	45,588.48	31%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,026	2,380	354	17%	34,516	38,403.99	11%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	15,925	14,980	-945	-6%	23,025	35,582.82	55%
Construction	44,475	50,434	5,959	13%	52,472	64,607.59	23%
Educational Services	77,868	81,765	3,897	5%	42,488	48,519.47	14%
Finance and Insurance	34,168	35,913	1,745	5%	66,101	99,970.23	51%
Health Care and Social Assistance	138,873	141,280	2,407	2%	50,471	60,156.98	19%
Information	12,274	11,888	-386	-3%	78,303	98,303.70	26%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,166	13,590	-2,576	-16%	85,520	173,598.76	103%
Manufacturing	142,367	152,632	10,265	7%	59,727	72,168.86	21%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,464	1,491	27	2%	62,257	82,029.27	32%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	27,077	26,791	-286	-1%	31,952	41,833.79	31%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	40,503	48,404	7,901	20%	75,192	90,827.77	21%
Public Administration	41,807	41,560	-247	-1%	47,902	58,530.03	22%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,483	12,552	1,069	9%	43,906	61,027.41	39%
Retail Trade	121,429	126,151	4,722	4%	29,007	37,640.98	30%
Transportation and Warehousing	46,113	51,790	5,677	12%	50,320	64,204.33	28%
Utilities	10,585	11,195	610	6%	91,079	100,581.41	10%
Wholesale Trade	30,613	34,613	4,000	13%	65,246	86,247.85	32%

Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce, QCEW Annual Averages, 2018 and 2023

East Region Occupational Employment

The office and administrative support occupational group remains the largest in the East region, according to the Occupational Employment and Wages Survey for 2023, which provides data on all industries except agriculture and the self-employed. Employment in this group in May 2023 was 141,690, which lost more than 16,000 jobs since May 2015. Transportation and material moving occupations, food preparation and serving, and production occupations were next in total numbers of jobs.



Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIRED Division, OEWS, May 2023, top occupational groups by employment

Figure 28



Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIRED Division, OEWS, May 2023, top occupational groups by salary

Figure 29

Table 28: East Region Job Growth 2015-2023

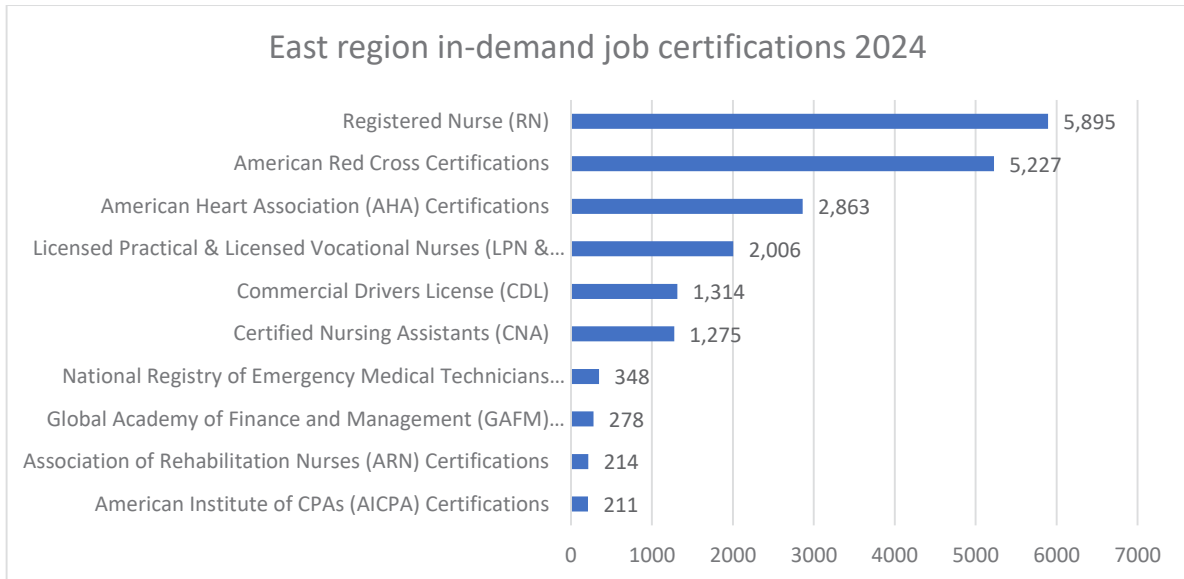
East TN Region- Occupational Group	May 2015 Jobs	May 2023 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2023 Median Hourly Earnings
Architecture and Engineering	17,920	17,260	-660	-4%	38.11
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8,650	10,400	1,750	20%	19.94
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	32,580	30,560	-2,020	-6%	14.80
Business and Financial Operations	29,970	49,010	19,040	64%	30.57
Community and Social Service	10,620	13,960	3,340	31%	22.34
Computer and Mathematical	14,770	18,300	3,530	24%	37.51
Construction and Extraction	33,010	42,470	9,460	29%	22.36
Educational Instruction and Library	52,210	51,680	-530	-1%	24.67
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,020	1,310	290	28%	16.55
Food Preparation and Serving Related	96,160	107,850	11,690	12%	13.44
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	67,360	68,750	1,390	2%	31.30
Healthcare Support	28,020	35,130	7,110	25%	16.43
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	43,290	47,550	4,260	10%	22.90
Legal	4,020	4,780	760	19%	37.40
Life, Physical, and Social Science	6,270	7,480	1,210	19%	33.24
Management	54,140	63,460	9,320	17%	47.26
Office and Administrative Support	157,990	141,690	-16,300	-10%	18.56
Personal Care and Service	25,870	19,610	-6,260	-24%	13.79
Production	92,970	103,630	10,660	11%	19.48
Protective Service	20,850	20,300	-550	-3%	20.83
Sales and Related	98,510	92,510	-6,000	-6%	14.70
Transportation and Material Moving	84,650	105,460	20,810	25%	17.35

Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce, OEWS, May 2015 and May 2023

The TDLWD jobs4tn.gov web site tracks the top in-demand job certifications and tools and technologies from its advertised jobs database, updated every day. The table following shows the most requested certifications, including nursing, emergency medical technicians, commercial driver licenses, and financial certifications. In July 2024, the most requested technologies included facility with Microsoft and other computer programs, use of forklifts, operation of motor vehicles, and use of personal protective equipment.

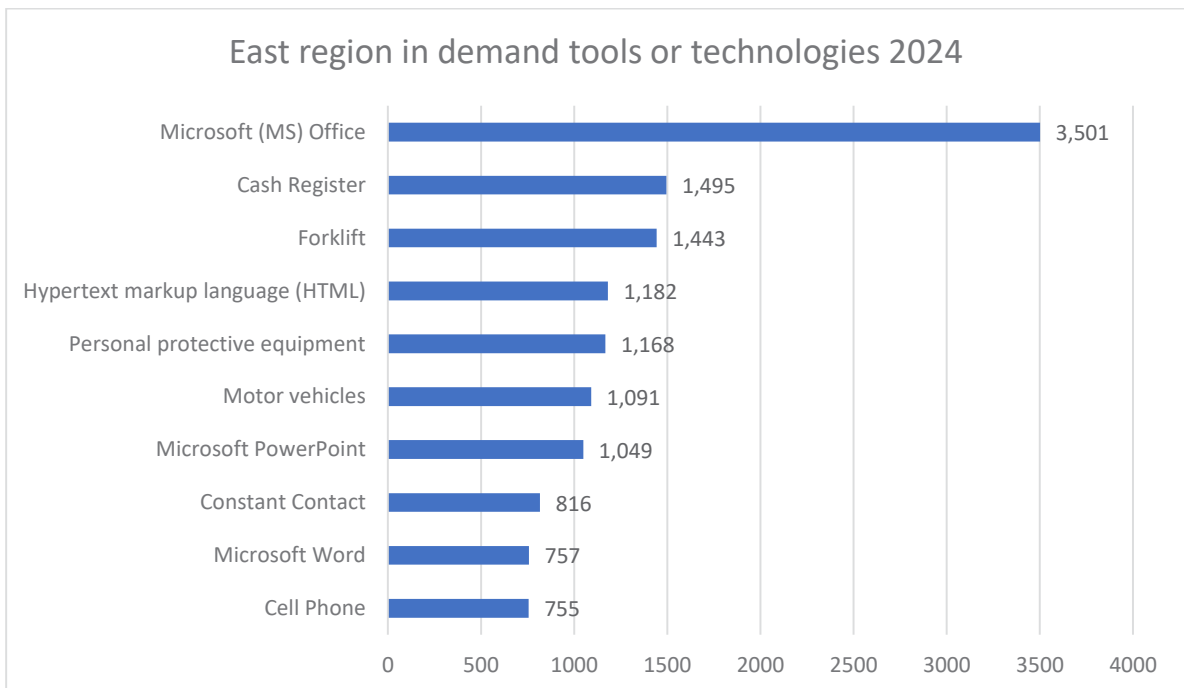
The top 10 employers posting jobs in the East Region in July 2024 included healthcare institutions, a local school system, and grocery stores. Top occupational postings included healthcare

practitioners and technical occupations, management, sales, and transportation and material moving occupations.



Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs July 2024

Figure 30



Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs July 2024

Figure 31

Table 29: Top Employers Posting Jobs in the East Region

Rank	Employer Name	Job Openings
1	Food City	1,499
2	Covenant Health	1,191
3	Ballad Health	1,004
4	Tacala, LLC	448
5	Knox County Schools	439
6	Oak Ridge National Laboratory	438
7	Community Health Systems, Inc.	356
8	Weigel's Farm Stores, Inc.	350
9	Erlanger Health System	338
10	Sonic Corp.	318

Source: Online Advertised Jobs data



Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, July 2024

Figure 32

East Region Labor Force Summary

Table 30: East Region Labor Force

	Southeast LWDA	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	East Region	State Total
Total Population 2022	679,446	525,455	1,292,014	2,496,915	7,051,339
Total Population 2023	688,327	531,841	1,310,556	2,530,724	7,126,489
Male Population 2022	338,938	261,002	645,499	1,245,439	3,459,277
Female Population 2022	340,508	264,453	646,515	1,251,476	3,667,212
Labor Force Participation Rate 2022 (5-Year Estimate)	57.4%	53.1%	59.8%	56.8%	58.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate 20223(5-Year Estimate)	57.2%	52.5%	58.2%	56.8%	59.5%
Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2022 Percent	3.6%	3.6%	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%
Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2023 Percent	3.5%	3.6%	3.2%	3.4%	3.3%
Educational Attainment 25 Years and Over (2022) Some College Or Higher - Percent	56.03%	50.01%	58.49%	55.95%	57.79%
Poverty Estimate, All Ages, Percent (2022)	11.46%	13.51%	11.47%	11.92%	14.00%
Percentage of Unemployed with a Disability (2022)	18.40%	19.62%	16.42%	18.15%	16.10%
Percent of Those Not in the Labor Force with a Disability (2022)	35.99%	38.56%	33.46%	35.29%	32.00%

Sources: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIRED Division, LAUS, and U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Five Year Estimates

Table 31: Educational Attainment 2022

Educational Attainment	East Region White Only	East Region Black Only	East Region Hispanic or Latino Only	Statewide White Only	Statewide Black Only	Statewide Hispanic or Latino Only
Population 25 years and over	1,537,571	94,629	55,547	3,704,326	726,292	204,442
High school graduate only	505,557	32,702	15,079	1,170,342	246,808	57,346
Percent high school graduate only	32.88%	34.56%	27.15%	31.59%	33.98%	28.05%
High school graduate or higher	1,371,149	82,637	35,983	3,345,355	639,823	135,989
Percent high school graduate or higher	89.18%	87.33%	64.78%	90.31%	88.09%	66.52%
Bachelor's degree or higher	417,099	17,977	9,663	1,144,871	162,237	38,648
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	27.13%	19.00%	17.40%	30.91%	22.34%	18.90%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five-year estimate 2022

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the East Region in 2023 was 56.80 percent, which is the same as in 2022. For the state of Tennessee, LFPR increased to 59.50 percent. The largest LWDA in the region, East LWDA, experienced a slight decline in LFPR. Unemployment rates remained unchanged from the previous year in the East region. The unemployment rate remained at 3.4 percent, while the state rate dropped to 3.3 percent.

Table 32: East Region Disability Status of Those in the Labor Force 2022

Area	Civilian Non institutional Population	Total Labor Force	Total Employed	Employed W Disability	Employed W/O Disability	Total Unemployed	Unemployed W Disability	Unemployed W/O Disability
Southeast LWDA	399,784	302,167	287,552	21,031	266,521	14,615	2,400	12,215
Northeast LWDA	306,356	219,105	206,134	15,639	190,495	12,971	2,545	10,426
East LWDA	755,711	561,417	535,432	34,665	500,767	25,985	4,783	21,202
East Region	1,461,851	1,082,689	1,029,118	71,335	957,783	53,571	9,728	43,843
Tennessee	4,170,846	3,174,114	3,016,358	200,005	2,816,353	157,756	25,408	132,348

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five-year estimate 2022

The Northeast LWDA reported the lowest rate of educational attainment in 2023, with 50.01 percent of the population aged 25 years or more having some college or additional education. This is a decrease from 2022 as well. Overall, the East region displays a lower level of educational achievement for adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher aged 25 and above than the state. The East LWDA has the highest educational attainment in the region, having achieved a level of educational attainment higher than the state’s. The percent of individuals who identify as either Black or Latino who achieved a bachelor’s degree aged 25 and above increased to 19.00% and 17.40% respectively, lower than the state rates, however a slight increase from 2022 for both demographics.

The poverty rate saw a significant decrease in 2022 for the East Region. In 2021, the poverty rate for the region was over 15 percent. The highest poverty rate in the region was in the Northeast LWDA at over 13 percent. Reducing poverty and increasing educational attainment remain key targets of workforce policy in this LWDA. All the LWDA’s in this region are reported to have poverty levels that are significantly lower than the state’s. Notably, the Southeast poverty rate decreased from 18.82 percent to 11.46 percent in the Southeast while in 2022-2023 the Chattanooga MSA employment grew over 4 percent.

Table 33: Disability Status of Those Not in the Labor Force, 2022

Area	Civilian Non-institutional Population	Total Not in Labor Force	Not in Labor Force W Disability	Not In Labor Force W/O Disability	% W Disability	% W/O Disability
Southeast LWDA	399,784	97,617	35,136	62,481	35.99%	64.01%
Northeast LWDA	306,356	87,251	33,650	53,601	38.57%	61.43%
East LWDA	755,711	194,294	65,021	129,273	33.47%	66.53%
East Region	1,461,851	379,162	133,807	245,355	35.29%	64.71%
Tennessee	4,170,846	996,732	319,284	677,448	32.03%	67.97%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables Five-Year Estimates

The East Region has a significantly higher percentage of those not in the labor force who have a disability. The rate of individuals not in the labor force with a disability for the region is 35.29, which is higher than the state’s. The Northeast LWDA is reported to have the highest rate of these individuals, with 38.57 percent. In 2022 youth unemployment decreased from 10.60 in 2021 percent to 9.39 . As the area continues to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, youth unemployment is an area that is expected to experience improvement.

Table 34: Youth Unemployment 2022

Area	Labor Force	Unemployment	Rate
Southeast LWDA	46,461	4,798	10.33%
Northeast LWDA	36,726	3,913	10.65%
East LWDA	92,527	7,792	8.42%
East Region	175,714	16,503	9.39%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables Five-Year Estimates

Table 35: Significant Barriers to Employment- East Region

	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	Southeast LWDA	East Region	State Total
Number of American Indians or Alaskan Natives alone	976	2,360	1,095	4,431	14,118
Population Ages 15-19	31,868	79,376	41,623	152,867	443,411
Population Ages 20-24	34,047	86,903	39,462	160,412	460,990
Population Ages 55+	183,934	414,047	241,834	839,815	2,061,038
Number of Veterans 2023	37,737	81,847	39,879	159,463	414,746
Number Below Poverty	22,678	162,461	88,468	273,607	943,548
Number With Disability	101,058	208,357	113,322	422,737	1,043,327
Number of Single Parent Families	11,706	27,520	15,516	54,742	182,176
Probationers and Parolees 2024	5,233	11,074	4,293	20,600	62,544
Community Correction 2024	353	116	211	680	3,377
Mental Health Court Statistics 2024	6	15	18	59	278
Limited English Speaking	908	5,810	3,063	9,781	41,562
Foster Care Services - Youth Aged Out 2024	86	154	88	328	854
Clients In Recovery Courts 2024	124	398	115	637	1,502
Disadvantaged Youth and Adults 2023	61,910	127,625	69,660	259,195	693,590
TANF 24 Months from 2024	118	171	122	411	1,477
Prison Population 2024	1,392	1,933	1,942	5,267	19,056
Jail Population 2024	3,345	5,589	3,457	12,391	31,508

Sources: Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates.

Probationers and Parolees: Lisa Helton and Adam Dawson, TN Dept of Correction

Mental Health Court and Recovery Court Statistics: Rebekah Provost-Emmons, Recovery Court Administrator, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Division of Substance Abuse Services.

Limited English Speaking: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022

Foster Care Services: Dave Aguzzi, Office of Independent Living, TN Dept of Children's Services.

TANF 24 Months from Ending Eligibility: Lakecia Peterson and Rebecca Mungle, Division of Family Assistance and Child Support, TN Dept of Human Services

Jail Population: Jail Summary Report, TN Dept of Correction, Decision Support
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/JailJune2023.pdf>

Prison Population: Linda F. Booker, Tennessee Bed Space and Operating Capacity Report
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/BedJune2023.pdf>