




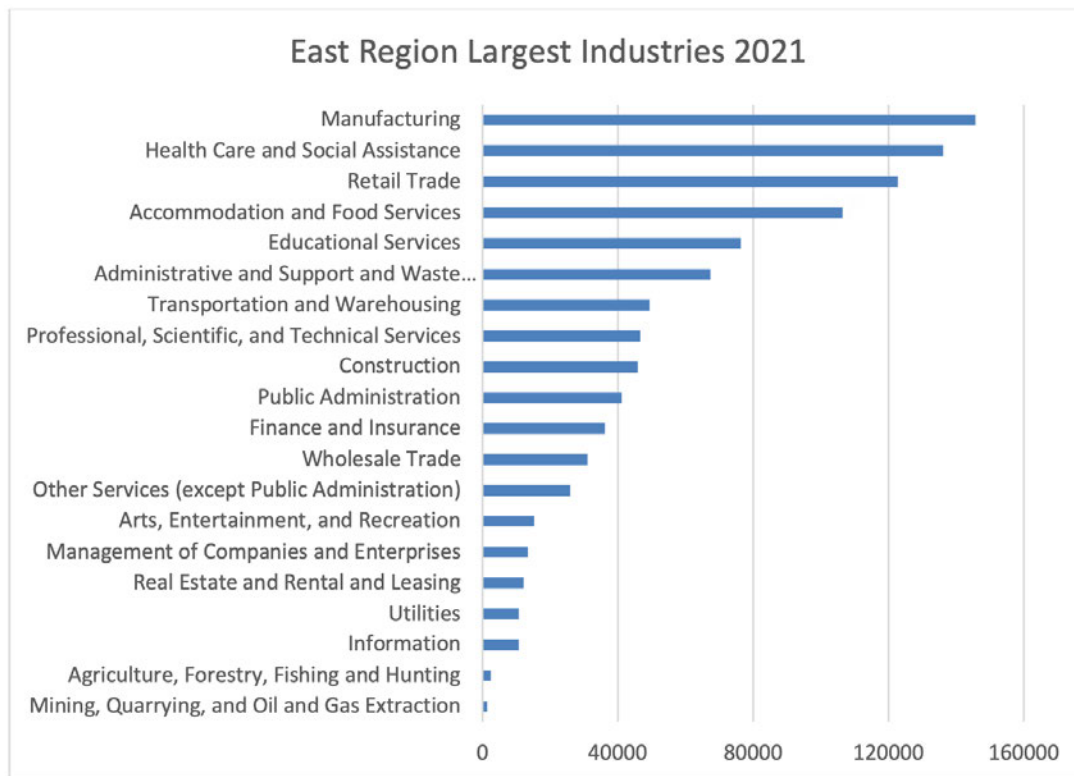


## Tennessee East Region's Economy | 2021

 <p><b>Employment</b></p>	<p><b>Total Employment</b></p> <p>2021: 1,088,055 3.9% 2020: 1,046,880 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>New Jobs</b></p> <p>2021: 41,175 2020: -54,423 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>MSA Employment 2020-2021</b></p> <p>Cleveland: -0.8% Johnson City: 4.4% Chattanooga: 4.0% Knoxville: 4.4% <b>Stronger</b></p>
 <p><b>Employers</b></p>	<p><b>Average Number of Establishments</b></p> <p>2021: 62,777 7.7% 2020: 58,264 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Total Wages</b></p> <p>2021: \$53.2 Billion 9.5% 2020: \$48.6 Billion <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Counties Increased Employment</b></p> <p>2021: 32 2020: 4 <b>Stronger</b></p>
 <p><b>Wages &amp; Income</b></p>	<p><b>Average Annual Wage</b></p> <p>2021: \$46,124 6.1% 2020: \$43,476 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>East Median Wage</b></p> <p>2021: \$37,629 5.9% 2020: \$35,525 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Counties Increased Annual Wages</b></p> <p>2021: 34 2020: 32 <b>Stronger</b></p>
 <p><b>Labor Force &amp; Demographics</b></p>	<p><b>Unemployment Rate</b></p> <p>2021: 4.3% -3.2% 2020: 7.5% <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Labor Force</b></p> <p>2021: 1,132,083 0.6% 2020: 1,125,127 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Unemployment Rates</b></p> <p>Youth 2020: 11.0% % In Poverty, 2020: 15.2% <b>Stronger</b></p>
 <p><b>Job Outlook</b></p>	<p><b>Ratio of Unemployed to Job Openings</b></p> <p>June 2021: 1.55 1.37% June 2020: 2.22 <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Projected Annual Growth Rate, All Occupations</b></p> <p>2018-2028: 0.76% <b>Stronger</b></p>	<p><b>Projected Annual Avg. Job Openings</b></p> <p>2018-2028: 140,975 <b>Stronger</b></p>

## East Region Overview



Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR<sup>2</sup>ED Division, QCEW.

Figure 28

### East Region's Economy, 2020-2021

Total employment in the East Region, excluding agriculture and the self-employed, increased from 1,046,880 to 1,088,055, an increase of 3.9 percent or 41,175 jobs. This rate of job growth was slightly slower than the state. It was led by the faster job growth in the metro areas of Johnson City, Knoxville, and Chattanooga, all growing by 4 percent or more; only Cleveland had negative growth.

The East Region consists of three Local Workforce Development Areas: Northeast, East Tennessee, and Southeast, encompassing a total of 34 counties. Of these, 32 counties increased in employment from 2020 to 2021, compared to only four the previous year. The average number of establishments increased to 62,777 over the year and payroll increased by 9.5 percent to \$53.2 billion. The increase in payroll was at a slower rate than the state but still accounts for nearly 3 in every 10 payroll dollars in the state.

The average annual industry wage in the region, calculated by dividing the total payroll by the average number of workers, increased by 6.1 percent to \$46,124. The median occupational wage increased to \$37,629, just 71 dollars less than the state median.

Regarding the labor force, the average unemployment rate decreased from 2020 to 2021 to 4.3 percent, the same as the state rate. The labor force increased over the year by a .6 percent. Youth unemployment in 2020 (the latest available) increased to 11.0 percent, lower than the state rate. The percent of those in poverty decreased to 15.2 percent, while remaining above the state rate of 14.6 percent. In June 2021 the number of unemployed compared to the number of job listings on the state job bank, jobs4tn.gov, was 1.55 percent, decreasing from the higher rate in 2020 but still indicating more unemployed individuals than jobs in the region.

To summarize: In 2021 compared to 2020, the East Region saw positive growth in employment, with metropolitan areas leading the growth. Payroll increased, somewhat slower than the rest of the state. The level of the annual average wage increased. The median wage increased to within \$71 of the state median wage. In 2021, the unemployment rate dropped to the state level. In 2020, the unemployment rate for youth was less than the state rate. The poverty rate remained higher than the state rate. Electric vehicle manufacturing will bolster employment and create new skill demands in the region.

## **East TN Industries and Occupations (2018-2021)**

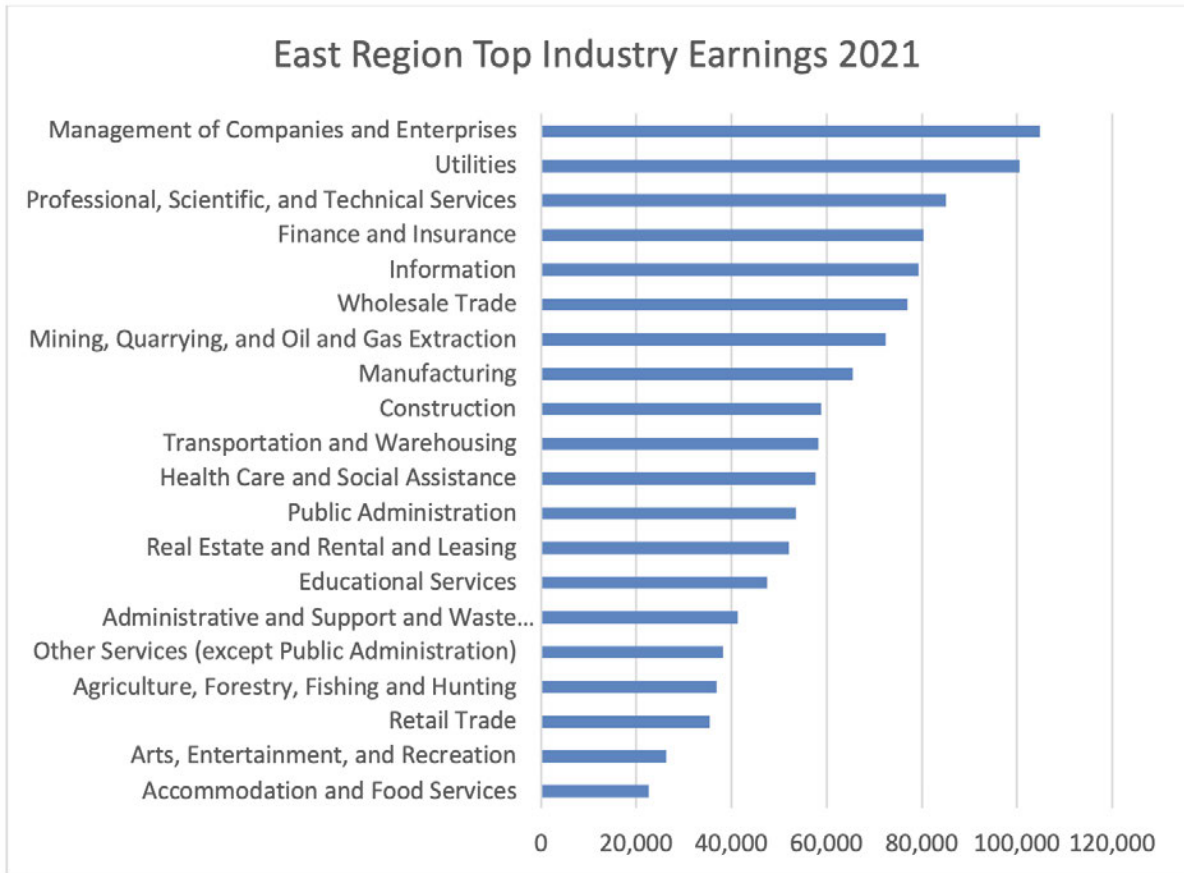
Total employment in the East Region in 2021, excluding self-employed and agricultural workers, was 1,088,055. The five largest industry sectors in 2021 were

- Manufacturing (145,709)
- Health care and social assistance (136,181 jobs)
- Retail trade (122,703)
- Accommodation and food services (106,504)
- Educational services (76,443)

Compared to 2018, the industries adding the most workers included the professional, scientific, and technical (6,150), manufacturing (3,342), and transportation and warehousing (3,306) industries. Some of the largest industries lost jobs from 2018 to 2021, including healthcare and social assistance (-2,692), accommodation and food service (-4,223), and educational services (-1,425). However, all industry sectors increased in earnings

per worker (total LWDA payroll divided by the average number of workers). The largest increases were in the accommodation and food services, management of companies and enterprises, retail trade, and finance and insurance. The industries with the highest earnings per worker were the management of companies and enterprises, utilities, and professional, scientific, and technical industries. The lowest earnings per worker were in the accommodations and food services industry.

<b>East Tennessee Local Workforce Development Areas and Counties</b>	
<u>Northeast Tennessee</u>	
Carter	Johnson
Greene	Sullivan
Hancock	Unicoi
Hawkins	Washington
<u>East Tennessee</u>	
Anderson	Knox
Blount	Loudon
Campbell	Monroe
Claiborne	Morgan
Cocke	Roane
Grainger	Scott
Hamblen	Sevier
Jefferson	Union
<u>Southeast Tennessee</u>	
Bledsoe	McMinn
Bradley	Meigs
Grundy	Polk
Hamilton	Rhea
Marion	Sequatchie



Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR<sup>2</sup>ED Division, QCEW 2021.

Figure 29

**Table 27: East Region Among Largest Percent Change in Jobs Include Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Transportation and Warehousing**

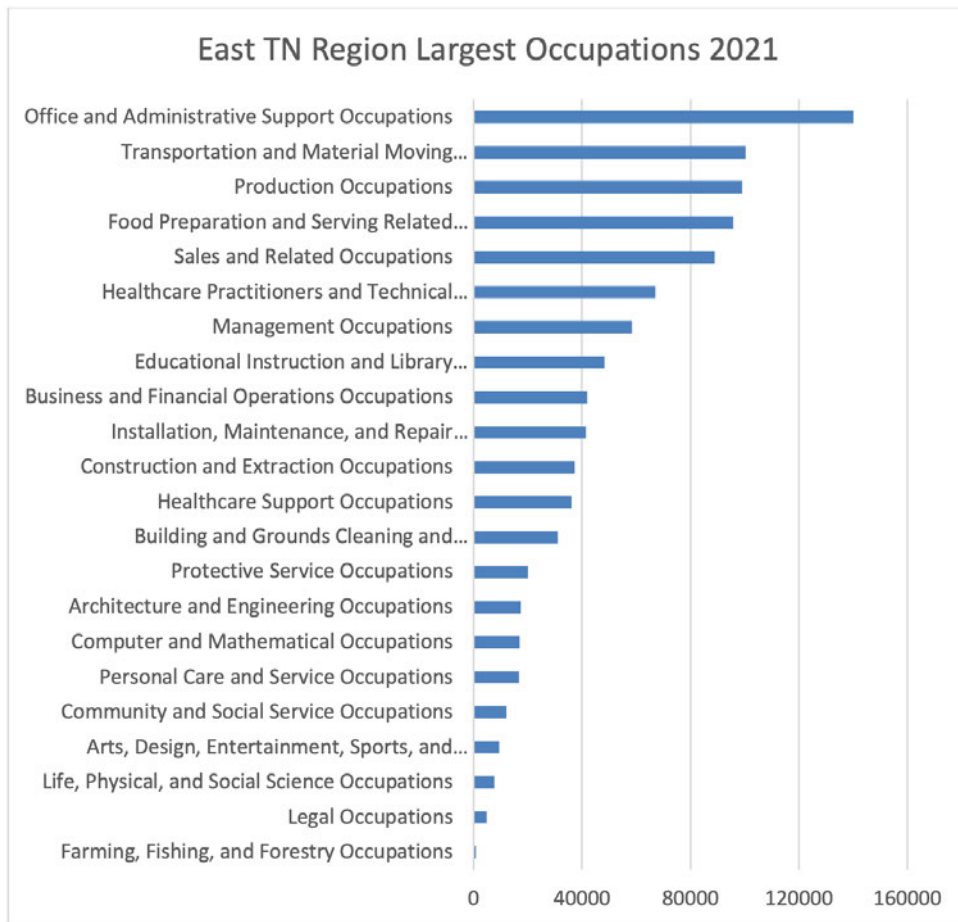
East Region Industries	2018 Jobs	2021 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2018 Earnings Per Worker	2021 Earnings Per Worker	% Change in Earnings Per Worker
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,026	2,454	428	21%	34,515.54	36,928.44	7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	40,503	46,653	6,150	15%	75,191.72	85,092.47	13%
Transportation and Warehousing	46,113	49,419	3,306	7%	50,320.44	58,299.47	16%
Finance and Insurance	34,168	36,200	2,032	6%	66,100.66	80,402.16	22%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,483	12,160	677	6%	43,906.13	52,127.34	19%
Construction	44,475	45,983	1,508	3%	52,471.84	58,839.72	12%
Manufacturing	142,367	145,709	3,342	2%	59,727.09	65,409.14	10%
Wholesale Trade	30,613	31,150	537	2%	65,245.57	76,926.09	18%
Utilities	10,585	10,697	112	1%	91,079.15	100,532.01	10%
Retail Trade	121,429	122,703	1,274	1%	29,007.30	35,402.10	22%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	67,764	67,326	-438	-1%	34,926.63	41,259.62	18%
Public Administration	41,807	41,230	-577	-1%	47,901.65	53,518.98	12%
Educational Services	77,868	76,443	-1,425	-2%	42,487.89	47,492.30	12%
Health Care and Social Assistance	138,873	136,181	-2,692	-2%	50,471.24	57,737.66	14%
Accommodation and Food Services	110,727	106,504	-4,223	-4%	18,320.81	22,647.84	24%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,464	1,403	-61	-4%	62,257.03	72,465.59	16%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	27,077	25,929	-1,148	-4%	31,951.61	38,280.77	20%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	15,925	15,224	-701	-4%	23,025.39	26,224.09	14%
Information	12,274	10,640	-1,634	-13%	78,303.38	79,398.31	1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,166	13,535	-2,631	-16%	85,520.25	104,870.28	23%

Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce, QCEW Annual Averages, 2018 and 2021

## 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 2021, which provides data on all industries except agriculture and the self-employed. Employment in this group in May 2021 was 140,160; however, it decreased by 17,830 jobs between 2015 and 2021. Transportation and material moving, production, and food preparation and serving were next largest in total numbers of jobs.

Occupational groups which added the most jobs from 2015 to 2021 included transportation and material moving, business and finance, healthcare support, and production. Office and administrative support, sales and related, and personal care and service occupations lost the most jobs over the six-year period. Other than management, the occupational groups with the highest median earnings included architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, life, physical and social science, and legal occupations. These earnings results show the importance of STEM education and training in achieving higher earnings.



Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR<sup>2</sup>ED Division, OEWS May 2021.

Figure 30



Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR<sup>2</sup>ED Division, OEWS May 2021.

Figure 31

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 below shows the most requested certifications, including nursing credentials, CPR, and commercial driver license certifications, first aid, and emergency medical technician. For June 2022, the most requested technologies included facility with Microsoft Office, use of cell phone, ladders, operation of cash registers and forklifts, and use of personal protective equipment among others.

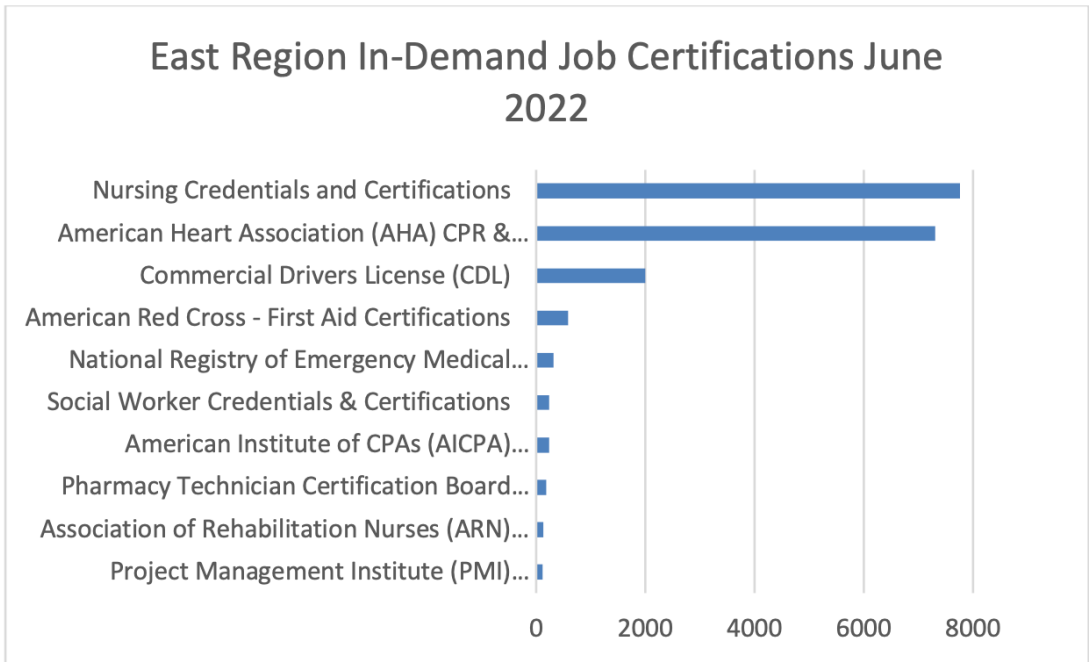
Of the top 10 employers posting jobs in the East Region on September 1, 2022, 4 included healthcare institutions; others included grocery stores/food marts, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the University of Tennessee. Reflecting the top occupational groups and those adding the most new jobs, top job postings in the region included healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, management, sales, and transportation and material moving occupations.



Table 28: East Region Job Growth, 2015-2021

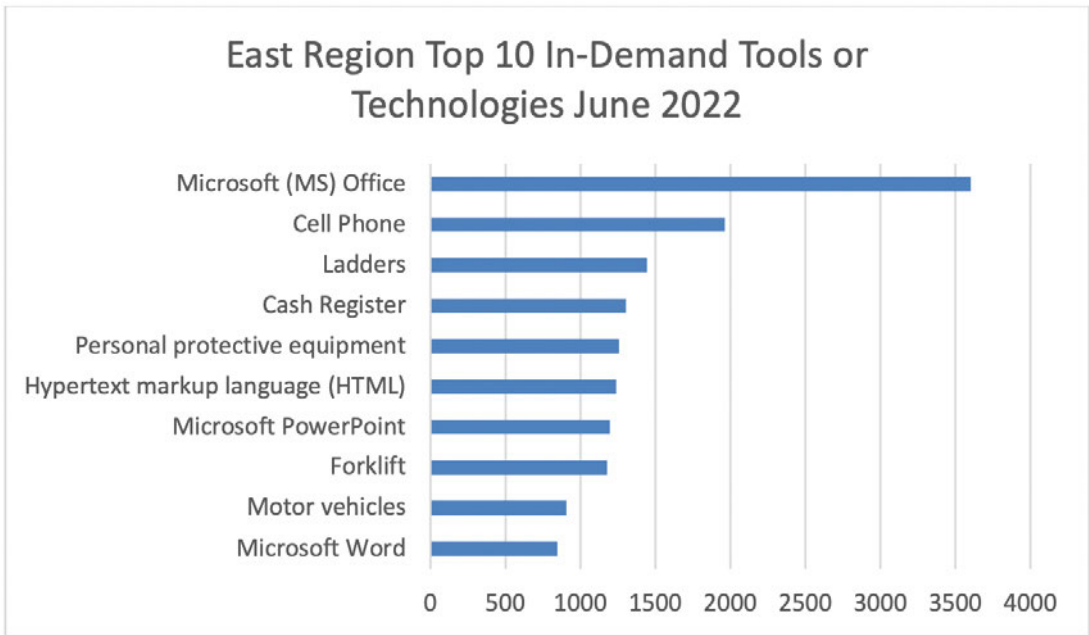
East TN Region - Occupational Group	May 2015 Jobs	May 2021 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2021 Median Hourly Earnings
Total, All Occupations	980,830	991,660	10,830	1%	17.77
Business and Financial Operations	29,970	41,960	11,990	40%	28.94
Healthcare Support	28,020	36,100	8,080	29%	13.83
Life, Physical, and Social Science	6,270	7,760	1,490	24%	29.52
Legal	4,020	4,820	800	20%	29.62
Transportation and Material Moving	84,650	100,280	15,630	18%	14.64
Computer and Mathematical	14,770	16,990	2,220	15%	32.68
Community and Social Service Occupations	10,620	12,020	1,400	13%	20.35
Construction and Extraction	33,010	37,190	4,180	13%	18.48
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8,650	9,490	840	10%	18.40
Management	54,140	58,350	4,210	8%	45.39
Production	92,970	98,940	5,970	6%	17.97
Food Preparation and Serving Related	96,160	95,650	-510	-1%	10.76
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	67,360	66,950	-410	-1%	28.68
Architecture and Engineering	17,920	17,420	-500	-3%	37.40
Protective Service	20,850	20,140	-710	-3%	18.46
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	32,580	31,170	-1,410	-4%	13.04
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	43,290	41,370	-1,920	-4%	22.26
Educational Instruction and Library	52,210	48,270	-3,940	-8%	23.06
Sales and Related	98,510	88,930	-9,580	-10%	13.63
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,020	910	-110	-11%	14.86
Office and Administrative Support	157,990	140,160	-17,830	-11%	17.45
Personal Care and Service	25,870	16,810	-9,060	-35%	11.38

Source: TN Dept of Labor and Workforce, OEWS May 2015 and May 2021



Source: Jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, June 2022

Figure 32



Source: Jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, June 2022

Figure 33

Table 29: Top Employers Posting Jobs- East Tennessee Region

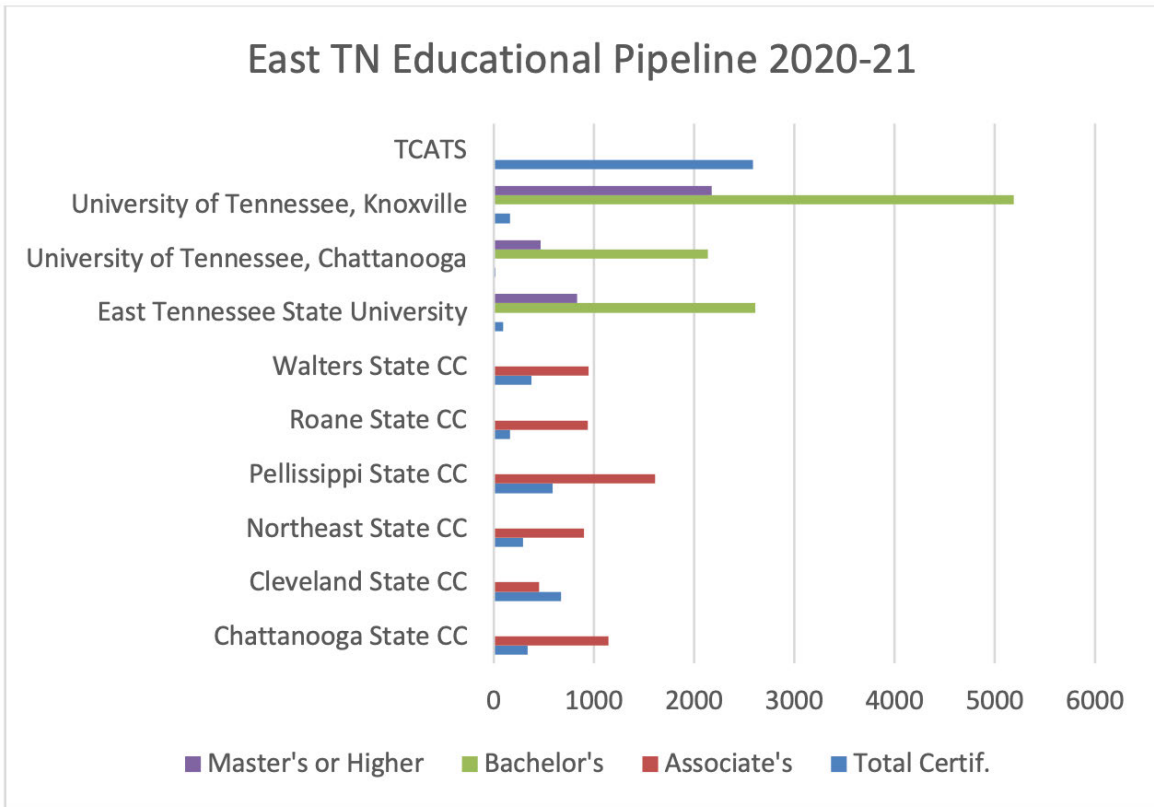
Employer Name	East Region Job Openings 9-1-2022
Covenant Health	1,129
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	1,006
Ballad Health	967
Food City	932
Ingles Markets Inc.	694
Community Health Systems, Inc.	628
The University of Tennessee System	513
HCA Healthcare, Inc.	476
The University of Tennessee Knoxville	452
Helen Ross McNabb Center	387

Source: Jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, September 1, 2022.



Source: Jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, September 1, 2022.

Figure 34



Source: THEC Fact Book, Tables 2.3 and 2.4.

Figure 35

The graph above lists the primary educational institutions in the East Region training students and current workers to fill available jobs. There are eight Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology in the East Region, producing the most diploma and certificate completers. Six community colleges produce associate degree completers, led by Pellissippi State Community College. The University of Tennessee Knoxville granted more than five thousand bachelor's degrees in 2020-21, with another 2,000 granted by UT Chattanooga and more than 2500 by East Tennessee State University. Information on the specific programs at each institution which provide training for occupations in demand in the East Region can be found on the TDLWD dashboard [Tennessee Program Providers for Demand Occupations](#).

## East Region Labor Force Summary

The population in the East Region in 2021 was estimated at 2,465,729, an increase of 2.4 percent over 2020. All LWDAs increased in population. Females were 50.7 percent of the population in the East Region during 2021.

Table 30: East Region Labor Force

	Southeast LWDA	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	East Region	State Total
<b>Total Population 2020</b>	658,949	510,989	1,237,845	2,407,783	6,772,268
<b>Total Population 2021</b>	671,446	520,199	1,274,084	2,465,729	6,975,218
<b>Male Population 2021</b>	329,531	257,089	627,818	1,214,438	3,420,001
<b>Female Population 2021</b>	341,915	263,110	646,266	1,251,291	3,555,217
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate 2020 (5-Year Estimate)</b>	59.85%	54.11%	59.07%	57.7%	58.34%
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate 2021 (5-Year Estimate)</b>	57.88%	53.80%	59.15%	56.9%	57.30%
<b>Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2020 Percent</b>	8.0%	7.3%	7.3%	7.5%	7.4%
<b>Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2021 Percent</b>	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%	4.3%	4.4%
<b>Educational Attainment 25 Years and Over (2020) Some College Or Higher - Percent</b>	56.41%	50.82%	54.73%	54.0%	51.48%
<b>Poverty Estimate, All Ages, Percent (2020)</b>	14.32%	16.78%	14.47%	15.2%	15.82%
<b>Percentage of Unemployed with a Disability (2020)</b>	16.18%	20.50%	16.31%	17.7%	16.03%
<b>Percent of Those Not in the Labor Force with a Disability (2020)</b>	36.13%	39.86%	34.04%	36.7%	35.03%

Sources: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR<sup>2</sup>ED Division, LAUS and U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five year estim

**Table 31: Educational Attainment**

Educational Attainment	East Region White Only	East Region Black Only	West Region Hispanic or Latino Only	Statewide White Only	Statewide Black Only	Statewide Hispanic or Latino Only
Population 25 years and over	1,536,633	96,236	50,511	3,692,829	718,104	186,240
High school graduate only	511,678	35,387	14,763	1,181,472	243,466	53,619
Percent high school graduate only	33.30%	36.77%	29.23%	31.99%	33.90%	28.79%
High school graduate or higher	1,350,236	82,750	33,406	3,285,872	624,634	120,456
Percent high school graduate or higher	87.87%	85.99%	66.14%	88.98%	86.98%	64.68%
Bachelor degree or higher	393,183	16,865	8,504	1,075,103	151,390	30,753
Percent bachelor degree or higher	25.59%	17.52%	16.84%	29.11%	21.08%	16.51%

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the East Region in 2021 was 56.9 percent, a decrease from the rate in 2020 and contributing to the state’s decline to 57.3 percent. The largest decrease was in the Southeast LWDA, where the rate dropped nearly two percentage points; however, this LWDA and East Tennessee both had LFPR higher than the state average. Unemployment rates in all three LWDAs dropped in 2021, as the economy recovered from the pandemic, ending the year with an average rate of 4.3 percent, with two LWDAs having lower rates than the state.

The lowest rate of educational attainment in 2020 of some college or higher for those 25 years of age or more was in the Northeast LWDA with 50.82 percent, although the rate was close to the state average. Both the Southeast and the East LWDAs had rates above that of the state. Viewing this from an equity perspective, 25.59% of the white residents in the East Region age 25 years or more had earned bachelor’s degrees or higher, whereas Black residents had a rate of degree awards 8 percentage points less and Hispanic or Latino residents .7 percent below the Black rate. Both the white and Black rates of degree achievement were also below the state average rates for those population groups. Only the East Region Hispanic/Latino residents had higher rates of achieving a bachelor’s degree or more than the average for their population group in the state. These disparities in educational achievement need to be eliminated.



**Table 32: East Region Disability Status of Those in the Labor Force, 2020**

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	396,828	296,946	281,846	19,614	262,232	15,100	2443	12,657
Northeast LWDA	300,785	212,374	200,011	15,215	184,796	12,363	2,535	9,828
East LWDA	740,313	548,612	519,319	33,551	485,768	29,293	4,777	24,516
East Region	1,437,926	1,057,932	1,001,176	68,380	932,796	56,756	9,755	47,001
Tennessee	4,079,574	3,083,188	2,920,333	185,847	2,734,486	162,855	24,000	138,855

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five year estimates.

**Table 33: East Region Disability Status of Those Not in the Labor Force, 2020**

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	396,828	99,882	36,088	63,794	36.13%	63.87%
Northeast LWDA	300,785	88,411	35,245	53,166	39.86%	60.14%
East LWDA	740,313	191,701	65,250	126,451	34.04%	65.96%
East Region	1,437,926	379,994	136,583	243,411	35.94%	64.06%
Tennessee	4,079,574	996,386	328,485	667,901	32.97%	67.03%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS five year estimates.

In 2020, poverty estimates in the Southeast and East LWDA were lower than the state average; only the Northeast had a rate higher than the state, while also having the highest percent of those not in the labor force with a disability. The 2021 rates should be lower, given the improving economy, but reducing poverty and increasing educational attainment should be key targets of workforce policy in this region.

As could be expected due to economic conditions in 2020, youth unemployment increased over the 2019 rate of 10.6 percent in the East Region to 10.97 percent, with the highest rates in the Northeast and Southeast LWDA.

**Table 34: Youth Unemployment, 2020**

Area	Labor Force	Unemployment	Rate
Southeast LWDA	44,610	5,056	11.33%
Northeast LWDA	33,388	3,998	11.97%
East LWDA	91,763	9,566	10.42%
East Region	169,761	18,621	10.97%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 2020, 5-year estimates.

**Significant Barriers to Employment**

The table below identifies numbers of individuals with significant barriers to employment in the East Region, using the latest data available. The East Region in 2021 had 35 percent of the state’s population, with the following higher percent of the populations below compared to its proportion of the state’s population:

- 41 percent of the American Indian/ Alaska native population.
- 39 percent of the 55 and over population.
- 38 percent of the prison and jail population.
- 38 percent of the veteran population.
- 36 percent of those below poverty.
- 41 percent of those with disabilities.
- 37 percent of the population of those aging out of foster care. In addition, the number of individuals with access to mental health courts is very low. The growing importance of these intervention services is being recognized nationally and needs expansion in Tennessee.



Table 35: East Region - Significant Barriers to Employment

	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	Southeast LWDA	East Region	State Total
<b>Number of American Indians or Alaskan</b>	439	1,054	386	1,879	4,519
<b>Population Ages 15-19</b>	29,911	76,608	40,577	147,096	426,381
<b>Population Ages 20-24</b>	32,378	84,151	39,810	156,339	445,895
<b>Population Ages 55+</b>	79,889	402,327	208,870	791,086	1,993,985
<b>Number of Veterans 2022</b>	38,055	87,019	42,053	167,128	442,405
<b>Number Below Poverty</b>	83,215	174,758	91,554	349,527	965,213
<b>Number With Disability</b>	103,228	203,712	112,571	419,511	1,031,667
<b>Number of Single Parent Families</b>	98,230	211,765	121,030	431,025	1,218,991
<b>Probationers and Parolees</b>	6,067	11,431	4,769	22,267	67,592
<b>Community Correction</b>	400	1,312	533	2,245	7,370
<b>Mental Health Court Statistics (FY 2022)</b>	0	0	4	4	80
<b>Limited English Speaking</b>	914	5,529	3,068	9,511	39,191
<b>*Foster Care Services – Youth Aged Out Aged Out</b>	45	191	64	300	801
<b>Clients In Recovery Courts</b>	89	311	85	485	1,587
<b>In School Youth Exper. Homelessness in 2020</b>	956	1,659	1,823	4,438	11,759
<b>TANF 24 Months From Ending Total 2020</b>	154	227	176	557	1,659
<b>Prison and Jail Population</b>	2,377	3,931	2,623	8,931	23,200

\* Counties of commitment, not residence

Source: Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Probationers and Parolees, Community Corrections: Dr. Mary Karpos, TN Department of Correction, Community Supervision.

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, 2019.

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

In School Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Josh Carlson, Data Management Division, TN Department of Education.

TANF 24 Months for Ending Eligibility: Lakecia Peterson, Division of Family Assistance and Child Support, TN Department of Human Services.