

2025

Top Occupations IN THE FAR NORTH

A LIST



**FAR NORTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH**



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• Top 50 Middle-Skill Occupations

These 50 occupations are identified as “priority occupations” in the 2025 *Priority Jobs and Programs in the Far North* report. Updated labor market data has been provided for the 2024 base year. For details on the selection criteria, refer to the full report.

Priority Middle-Skill Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Registered Nurses	6,980	7%	460	\$51.36
General and Operations Managers	5,430	6%	509	\$34.14
Social and Human Service Assistants	2,251	11%	288	\$18.39
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	1,764	7%	177	\$28.70
Security Guards	1,776	3%	248	\$17.37
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,668	7%	162	\$30.57
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	1,570	5%	148	\$30.89
Electricians	1,347	7%	146	\$25.52
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	1,266	4%	114	\$30.38
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	994	3%	95	\$22.48
Pharmacy Technicians	972	(2%)	90	\$20.99
Computer User Support Specialists	772	3%	55	\$23.96
Administrative Services Managers	694	5%	64	\$33.21
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks	583	6%	67	\$22.58
Emergency Medical Technicians	476	5%	43	\$19.45
Cost Estimators	460	1%	41	\$29.84

Priority Middle-Skill Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Public Safety Telecommunicators	445	6%	54	\$25.07
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	440	4%	62	\$19.30
Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	443	12%	44	\$22.70
Medical Records Specialists	391	6%	32	\$21.18
First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives	469	7%	38	\$50.31
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	383	2%	28	\$31.50
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	372	4%	33	\$34.96
Facilities Managers	386	5%	36	\$32.79
Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	327	18%	39	\$34.02
Construction and Building Inspectors	346	4%	40	\$30.09
First-Line Supervisors of Entertainment and Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services	320	4%	36	\$19.11
Power Plant Operators	371	15%	48	\$35.57
Community Health Workers	308	11%	39	\$21.09
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	301	3%	32	\$25.78
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	278	7%	35	\$27.94
Logisticians	233	10%	25	\$31.34
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	273	6%	30	\$21.42

Priority Middle-Skill Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	220	8%	24	\$31.87
Legal Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	273	(9%)	33	\$19.07
Tour and Travel Guides	216	9%	57	\$17.87
Paramedics	211	6%	13	\$26.81
Surgical Technologists	233	8%	17	\$33.81
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	203	7%	19	\$25.17
Architectural and Civil Drafters	193	5%	19	\$25.88
Web and Digital Interface Designers	238	1%	17	\$32.96
Commercial Pilots	176	16%	27	\$34.82
Millwrights	193	3%	17	\$27.77
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	188	8%	13	\$46.46
Dietetic Technicians	177	4%	23	\$17.61
Web Developers	206	(7%)	12	\$21.67
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	145	10%	14	\$38.75
Legal Support Workers, All Other	140	(2%)	14	\$28.40
Transportation Inspectors	133	1%	13	\$27.52
Calibration Technologists and Technicians	120	(6%)	10	\$33.43

Source: Lightcast 2025.3 - QCEW employees, non-QCEW employees, and self-employed.

● Top 25 Bachelor-Degree Occupations

These are the top 25 bachelor's degree-level occupations in the Far North that met or exceeded the subregional standards for 2023 job volume, 2023-2028 projected growth, 2023-2028 projected annual openings, and living wages. All 25 occupations require five years or less of work experience and offer wages of at least \$22.75 per hour. Updated labor market data has been provided for the 2024 base year.

Occupations marked with an asterisk (*) are also considered middle-skill, while those marked with a caret (^) were featured on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025 "Best Jobs" list.¹ For a full explanation of the selection criteria, please refer to the complete report.

Bachelor Degree Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Registered Nurses*^	6,980	7%	460	\$51.36
Accountants and Auditors^	2,551	3%	215	\$29.36
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	2,412	7%	187	\$30.43
Management Analysts^	1,794	5%	164	\$29.48
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	1,586	8%	157	\$24.18
Medical and Health Services Managers	1,377	18%	156	\$40.75
Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	1,737	7%	236	\$25.30
Human Resources Specialists	1,292	7%	127	\$27.93
Project Management Specialists^	1,167	8%	102	\$33.18
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists^	980	6%	99	\$23.19

¹ U.S. News & World Report, "U.S. News Unveils the 2025 Best Jobs," *U.S. News & World Report*, January 14, 2025, <https://www.usnews.com/info/blogs/press-room/articles/2025-01-14/u-s-news-unveils-the-2025-best-jobs>.

Bachelor Degree Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Social and Community Service Managers^	1,023	11%	108	\$28.46
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	849	1%	80	\$23.67
Administrative Services Managers*	694	5%	64	\$33.21
Software Developers^	655	13%	53	\$42.90
Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health	525	3%	53	\$34.55
Computer Systems Analysts^	483	4%	33	\$35.10
Cost Estimators*	460	1%	41	\$29.84
Health Education Specialists	581	4%	63	\$23.44
Facilities Managers*	386	5%	36	\$32.79
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education*	278	7%	35	\$27.94
Conservation Scientists	296	4%	30	\$27.49
Logisticians*^	233	10%	25	\$31.34
Financial and Investment Analysts^	256	3%	19	\$32.67
Foresters	230	2%	23	\$35.37
Fundraisers	253	16%	28	\$26.64

Source: Lightcast 2025.3 - QCEW employees, non-QCEW employees, and self-employed.

• Top 25 Below Middle-Skill Occupations

The following 25 “below middle-skill” occupations in the Far North typically require a high school diploma, GED, or no formal education for entry. The term “below middle-skill” refers to the education level needed for entry-level roles—not the level of skill involved. These occupations often demand specialized skills that can be gained through experience or informal training, even though they fall outside the scope of most community college programs, which focus on roles requiring some college or an associate degree.

All listed occupations met subregional benchmarks for 2023 job volume, 2023-2028 projected growth, 2023-2028 projected annual openings, and living wages. Updated labor market data has been provided for the 2024 base year. Occupations marked with a caret (^) were also recognized on *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2025 “Best Jobs” list. For more on selection criteria, refer to the full report.

Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General [^]	3,917	5%	400	\$19.53
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	1,414	3%	148	\$19.24
Recreation Workers	1,275	7%	283	\$16.26
Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	868	9%	152	\$18.12
Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment	808	5%	120	\$16.38
Roofers	731	7%	68	\$22.47
Agricultural Equipment Operators	747	3%	123	\$16.26
Cooks, Short Order	736	(5%)	108	\$16.44
Highway Maintenance Workers	650	5%	62	\$22.21
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	571	4%	57	\$21.64

Occupation	2024-2029 Projections			
	2024 Jobs	Job Change (%)	Average Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings
Production Workers, All Other	549	2%	65	\$16.35
Butchers and Meat Cutters	566	(1%)	68	\$17.33
Shuttle Drivers and Chauffeurs	556	11%	89	\$16.98
Bakers	535	1%	88	\$16.89
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	516	4%	44	\$24.01
Machine Feeders and Offbearers	677	(6%)	92	\$16.60
Demonstrators and Product Promoters	696	(1%)	127	\$18.40
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	450	(2%)	47	\$20.10
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	445	(14%)	41	\$19.22
Musicians and Singers	386	10%	55	\$21.36
Tree Trimmers and Pruners	369	3%	50	\$19.74
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	349	8%	56	\$16.68
Pest Control Workers	359	5%	49	\$17.28
Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	293	0%	83	\$16.36
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers	302	8%	95	\$16.39

Source: Lightcast 2025.3 - QCEW employees, non-QCEW employees, and self-employed.

• More About the Centers of Excellence

The Centers of Excellence (COE) for Labor Market Research deliver regional workforce research and technical expertise to California Community Colleges for program decision making and resource development. This information has proven valuable to colleges in beginning, revising, or updating economic development and Career Education (CE) programs, strengthening grant applications, assisting in the accreditation process, and supporting strategic planning efforts.

The Center of Excellence initiative is funded in part by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Economic and Workforce Development Program. The Centers aspire to be the leading source of regional workforce information and insight for California Community Colleges. More information about the Centers of Excellence is available at www.coecc.net.

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