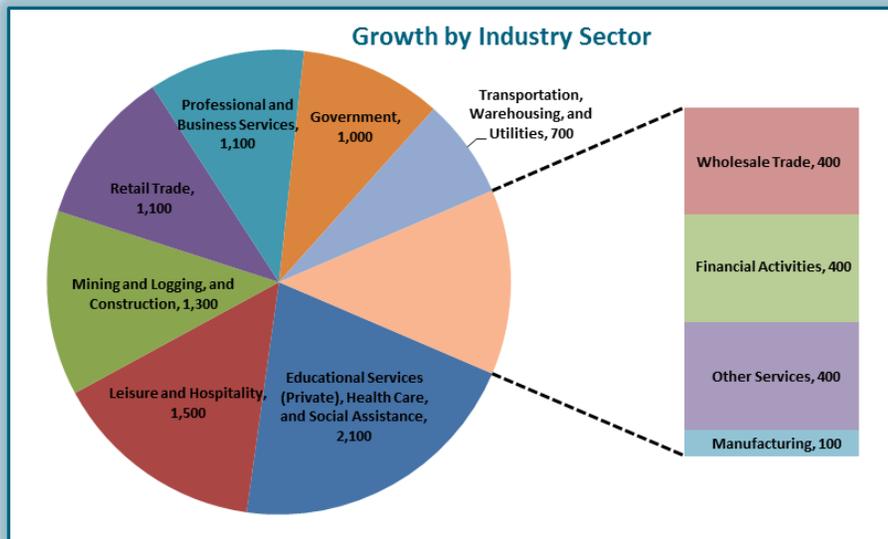


**Industry Employment**, which includes self-employment, private household workers, farm, and nonfarm employment in Merced County, is expected to reach 93,200 by 2024, an increase of 14.4 percent over the 10-year projection period. Eleven of the 12 nonfarm industry sectors are projected to grow between 2014 and 2024.

**Occupational Employment** forecasts 12,100 new jobs from industry growth and approximately 19,200 job openings from replacement needs for a combined total of more than 31,300 job openings.

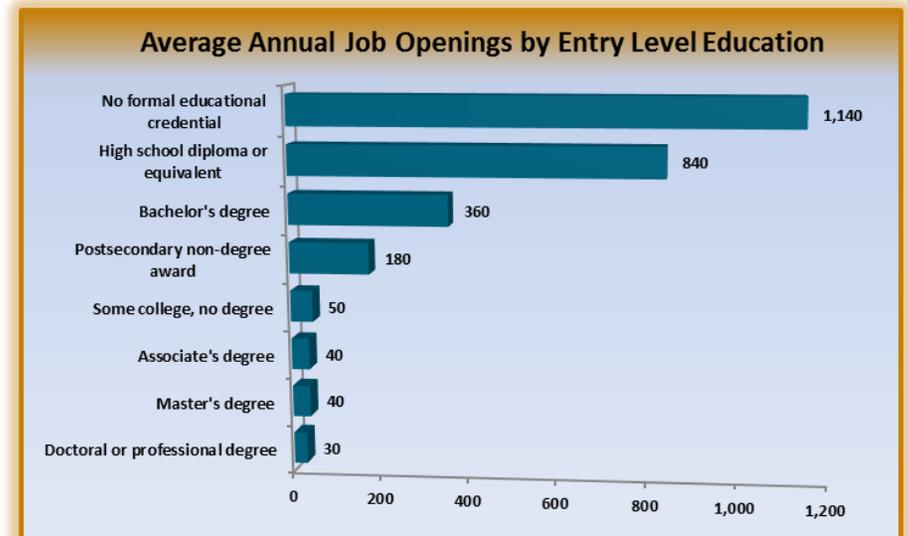
The 50 occupations with the most job openings are forecasted to generate nearly 18,500 total job openings over the projection period, which is about 59 percent of all job openings. The top three occupations with the most job openings are farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse; cashiers; and combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food. These occupations earn median wages ranging from approximately \$9.50 to \$9.60 per hour and require no formal educational credential. Higher skilled occupations, requiring a bachelor's degree, include registered nurses; and general and operations managers.

The 50 fastest growing occupations anticipate a growth rate of 1.6 percent or higher. Occupations range from combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food which require no formal educational credential and earn median hourly wages of more than \$9 to lawyers which require a doctoral or professional degree and earn median hourly wages of more than \$52.



Total nonfarm employment is projected to gain nearly 10,100 jobs by 2024. Fifty-nine percent of all projected nonfarm job growth is concentrated in four industry sectors.

- Educational services (private), health care, and social assistance is projected to gain the most employment, adding 2,100 jobs while growing 23.1 percent over the projection period.
- Leisure and hospitality is expected to grow by 27.8 percent during the projection period, adding 1,500 jobs.
- Mining and logging, and construction anticipates job gains of 1,300, a growth of 76.5 percent over the projection period.
- Retail trade is expected to add 1,100 jobs.



The following table, categorized by entry-level education, provides a summary of the fastest- and largest-growing occupations.

## 2014-2024 Comparison of Growing Occupations by Entry Level Education Merced County

Fastest Growing (New Jobs from Industry Growth)	Entry Level Education	Largest Growing (New Jobs and Replacement Needs)
<b>Lawyers (16.7% or 20 jobs)</b> Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists (15.4% or 20 jobs)	<b>Doctoral or Professional Degree</b>	<b>Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists (50 jobs)</b> <b>Lawyers (40 jobs)</b>
<b>Educational, Guidance, School, and Vocational Counselors (10.3% or 40 jobs)</b> <b>Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School (5.6% or 10 jobs)</b>	<b>Master's Degree</b>	<b>Educational, Guidance, School, and Vocational Counselors (110 jobs)</b> <b>Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School (60 jobs)</b>
<b>Construction Managers (33.3% or 60 jobs)</b> <b>Registered Nurses (31.4% or 270 jobs)</b> <b>Financial Managers (26.7% or 40 jobs)</b> <b>Loan Officers (23.1% or 30 jobs)</b> <b>Medical and Health Services Managers (21.4% or 30 jobs)</b>	<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>Registered Nurses (470 jobs)</b> <b>General and Operations Managers (390 jobs)</b> <b>Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education (360 jobs)</b> <b>Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education (180 jobs)</b> <b>Substitute Teachers (170 jobs)</b>
<b>Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education (12.1% or 40 jobs)</b>	<b>Associate's Degree</b>	<b>Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education (140 jobs)</b>
<b>Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (27.0% or 100 jobs)</b> <b>Nursing Assistants (25.5% or 140 jobs)</b> <b>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (24.8% or 370 jobs)</b> <b>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (20.0% or 50 jobs)</b> <b>Firefighters (20.0% or 50 jobs)</b>	<b>Postsecondary Non-degree Award</b>	<b>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (620 jobs)</b> <b>Nursing Assistants (260 jobs)</b> <b>Medical Assistants (210 jobs)</b> <b>Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (190 jobs)</b> <b>Firefighters (120 jobs)</b>
<b>Teacher Assistants (4.8% or 60 jobs)</b> <b>Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (4.7% or 40 jobs)</b>	<b>Some College, No Degree</b>	<b>Teacher Assistants (360 jobs)</b> <b>Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (120 jobs)</b>
<b>Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (73.7% or 140 jobs)</b> <b>Electricians (62.5% or 100 jobs)</b> <b>First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers (50.0% or 70 jobs)</b> <b>Carpenters (42.3% or 110 jobs)</b> <b>Food Service Managers (32.0% or 80 jobs)</b>	<b>High School Diploma or Equivalent</b>	<b>Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers (970 jobs)</b> <b>Office Clerks, General (420 jobs)</b> <b>Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders (330 jobs)</b> <b>Customer Service Representatives (330 jobs)</b> <b>First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers (280 jobs)</b>
<b>Construction Laborers (46.9% or 150 jobs)</b> <b>Cooks, Restaurant (46.7% or 140 jobs)</b> <b>Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food (36.9% or 650 jobs)</b> <b>Personal Care Aides (31.3% or 770 jobs)</b> <b>Counter and Rental Clerks (30.0% or 90 jobs)</b>	<b>No Formal Educational Credential</b>	<b>Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse (1,820 jobs)</b> <b>Cashiers (1,380 jobs)</b> <b>Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food (1,220 jobs)</b> <b>Personal Care Aides (970 jobs)</b> <b>Retail Salespersons (880 jobs)</b>

Excludes "All-Other" occupations and those with employment less than 120 in 2014.

Source: California Employment Development Department