



## DuPage County, Illinois

### **Economic Overview**

January 2024

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# Demographic Profile

The population in DuPage County, Illinois was 934,094 per American Community Survey data for 2017-2021.

The region has a civilian labor force of 516,134 with a participation rate of 69.1%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in DuPage County, Illinois, 53.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.1% in the nation.

The median household income in DuPage County, Illinois is \$100,292 and the median house value is \$324,900.

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	DuPage County, Illinois	Illinois	USA	DuPage County, Illinois	Illinois	USA
<b>Demographics</b>						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	934,094	12,821,813	329,725,481
Male	49.4%	49.4%	49.5%	461,851	6,332,176	163,206,615
Female	50.6%	50.6%	50.5%	472,243	6,489,637	166,518,866
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	39.7	38.5	38.4
Under 18 Years	22.8%	22.5%	22.5%	212,701	2,887,351	74,234,075
18 to 24 Years	8.5%	9.1%	9.2%	79,228	1,169,584	30,339,089
25 to 34 Years	12.4%	13.7%	13.8%	115,887	1,751,542	45,360,942
35 to 44 Years	13.3%	13.1%	12.9%	123,790	1,676,721	42,441,883
45 to 54 Years	13.3%	12.8%	12.6%	124,631	1,640,483	41,631,458
55 to 64 Years	14.0%	13.1%	13.0%	130,971	1,683,397	42,829,413
65 to 74 Years	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	89,001	1,190,287	31,590,619
75 Years and Over	6.2%	6.4%	6.5%	57,885	822,448	21,298,002
Race: White	72.6%	67.8%	68.2%	677,738	8,699,413	224,789,109
Race: Black or African American	4.9%	14.1%	12.6%	45,922	1,804,013	41,393,012
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	2,202	42,714	2,722,661
Race: Asian	12.3%	5.7%	5.7%	114,491	725,482	18,782,924
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	375	5,111	615,557
Race: Some Other Race	4.0%	6.2%	5.6%	37,323	795,980	18,382,796
Race: Two or More Races	6.0%	5.8%	7.0%	56,043	749,100	23,039,422
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	14.5%	17.5%	18.4%	135,909	2,250,076	60,806,969
<b>Population Growth</b>						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	920,901	12,582,032	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.6%	-782	-30,100	1,940,990
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	2,809.4	226.7	94.3
<b>Economic</b>						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	69.1%	65.2%	63.4%	516,134	6,686,514	166,672,597
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	87.3%	84.3%	82.5%	317,752	4,267,105	106,173,534
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	430	18,670	1,196,529
Veterans, Age 18-64	1.9%	3.2%	4.4%	10,951	251,441	8,848,937
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	86.9%	78.9%	77.0%	9,513	198,423	6,809,906
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$100,292	\$72,563	\$69,021
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$50,344	\$39,571	\$37,638
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	29.0	28.7	26.8
Commute via Public Transportation	5.9%	7.9%	4.2%	28,214	484,481	6,472,373
<b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>						
No High School Diploma	5.9%	9.2%	10.3%	29,232	620,325	17,756,046
High School Graduate	16.3%	23.5%	25.3%	80,891	1,586,046	43,535,564
Some College, No Degree	16.5%	20.0%	20.1%	81,938	1,350,693	34,637,141

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	DuPage County, Illinois	Illinois	USA	DuPage County, Illinois	Illinois	USA
Associate's Degree	7.8%	8.8%	9.3%	38,604	597,481	15,944,395
Bachelor's Degree	32.6%	23.7%	22.0%	161,329	1,597,176	37,890,674
Postgraduate Degree	20.9%	14.8%	13.1%	103,285	1,000,422	22,499,876
<b>Housing</b>						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	364,157	5,412,995	139,647,020
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$324,900	\$212,600	\$244,900
Homeowner Vacancy	1.0%	1.5%	1.2%	2,476	49,983	1,021,651
Rental Vacancy	5.8%	6.0%	5.7%	5,760	105,539	2,674,125
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	26.8%	33.5%	35.4%	93,049	1,650,933	43,858,831
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.1%	10.7%	8.3%	14,170	526,288	10,349,174
<b>Social</b>						
Poverty Level (of all people)	6.1%	11.8%	12.6%	56,249	1,483,378	40,661,636
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	6.2%	12.6%	11.4%	21,700	620,895	14,105,231
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	13,053	179,401	4,425,322
Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>	0.9%	2.3%	2.5%	455	15,811	432,389
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	20.3%	33.5%	34.0%	42,046	926,189	23,909,672
Uninsured	5.3%	7.0%	8.8%	48,915	885,820	28,489,142
With a Disability, Age 18-64	5.7%	9.0%	10.3%	32,442	700,483	20,537,729
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	56.6%	46.3%	44.2%	18,368	324,273	9,068,973
Foreign Born	19.6%	14.1%	13.6%	182,700	1,803,334	44,844,808
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	8.9%	8.5%	8.2%	77,913	1,026,708	25,535,259

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2017-2021, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

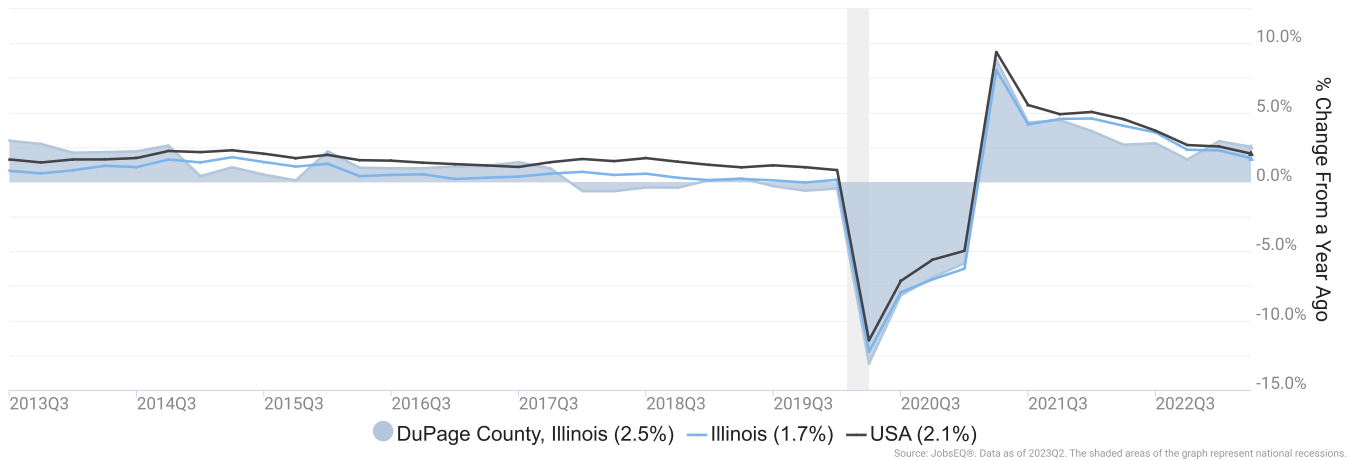
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.

# Employment Trends

As of 2023Q2, total employment for DuPage County, Illinois was 645,775 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q2, employment increased 2.5% in the region.

Employment for DuPage County, Illinois

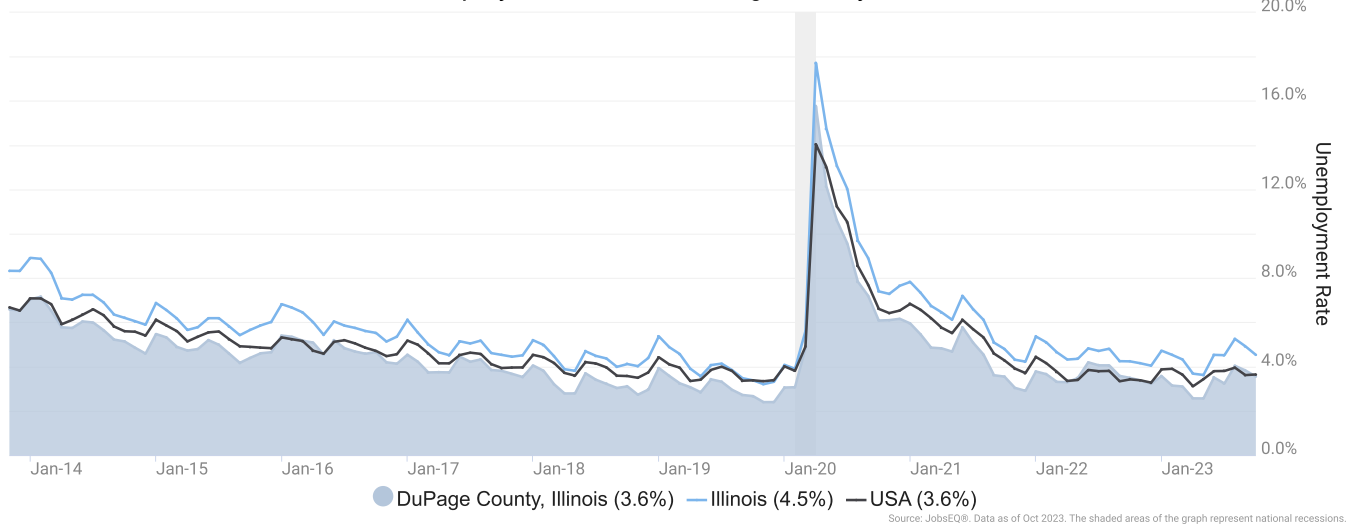


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2.

# Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for DuPage County, Illinois was 3.6% as of October 2023. The regional unemployment rate was the same as the national rate of 3.6%. One year earlier, in October 2022, the unemployment rate in DuPage County, Illinois was 3.5%.

Unemployment Rate for DuPage County, Illinois

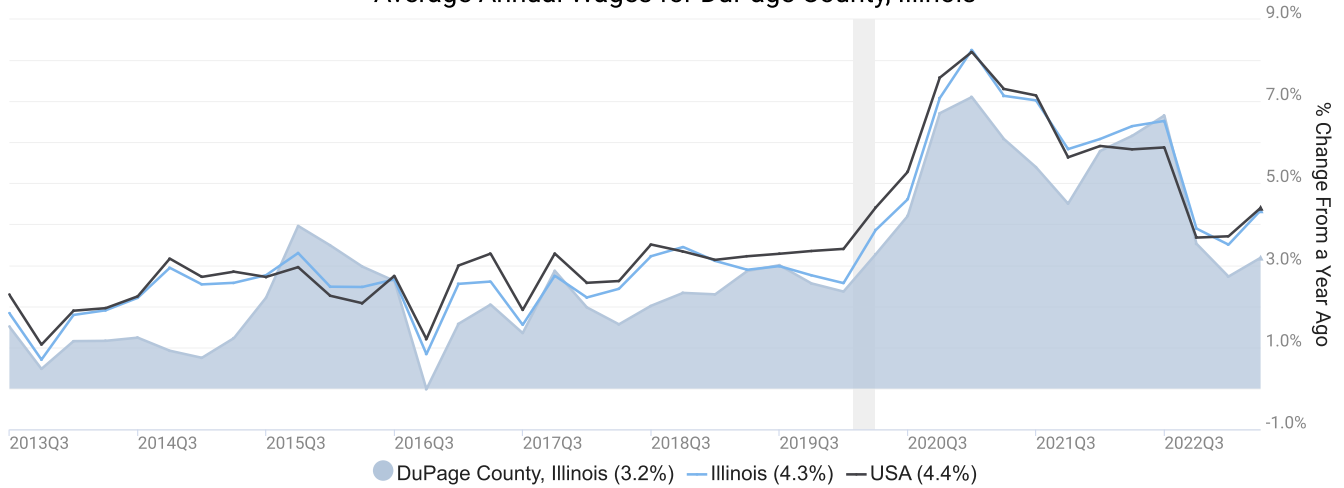


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through October 2023.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in DuPage County, Illinois earned annual wages of \$76,651 as of 2023Q2. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$70,318 in the nation as of 2023Q2.

Average Annual Wages for DuPage County, Illinois



Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of 2023Q2. The shaded areas of the graph represent national recessions.

Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2.

# Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 16.9% higher in DuPage County, Illinois than the U.S. average.

## Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
DuPage County, Illinois	\$76,651	116.9	\$65,545
Illinois	\$73,149	103.1	\$70,921
USA	\$70,318	100.0	\$70,318

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

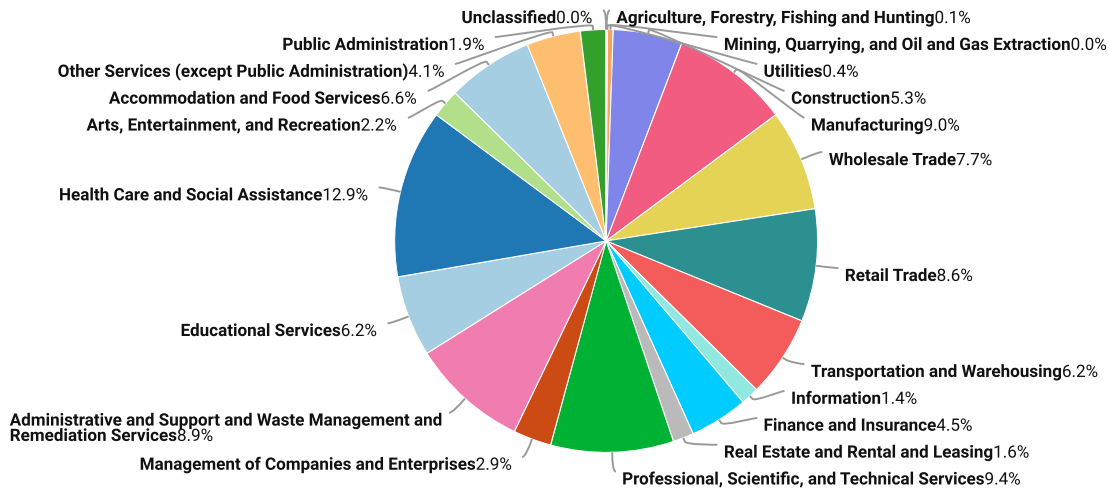
Data as of 2023Q2

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

# Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in DuPage County, Illinois is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 83,283 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (60,667 workers) and Manufacturing (58,180). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Wholesale Trade (LQ = 2.05), Management of Companies and Enterprises (1.87), and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (1.40).

Total Workers for DuPage County, Illinois by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q2

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2.

Sectors in DuPage County, Illinois with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$158,829), Utilities (\$136,374), and Finance and Insurance (\$130,162). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+8,801 jobs), Transportation and Warehousing (+7,359), and Construction (+2,171).

Over the next 1 year, employment in DuPage County, Illinois is projected to contract by 3,609 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +0.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+168 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+64), and Management of Companies and Enterprises (+12).



**DuPage County, Illinois, 2023Q2<sup>1</sup>**

NAICS	Industry	Current		5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	83,283	\$70,867	0.89	8,801	2.3%	8,713	3,933	4,613	168	0.2%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	60,667	\$105,879	1.27	-2,621	-0.8%	5,538	2,020	3,455	64	0.1%
31	Manufacturing	58,180	\$86,447	1.12	1,435	0.5%	5,671	2,331	3,974	-634	-1.1%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	57,786	\$56,298	1.40	-1,218	-0.4%	6,510	2,825	4,126	-441	-0.8%
44	Retail Trade	55,661	\$46,787	0.87	-6,773	-2.3%	7,077	3,356	4,470	-748	-1.3%
42	Wholesale Trade	49,916	\$104,696	2.05	-1,132	-0.4%	4,958	2,030	3,479	-550	-1.1%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	42,515	\$29,314	0.76	-3,302	-1.5%	7,078	3,354	4,060	-336	-0.8%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	40,192	\$67,055	1.25	7,359	4.1%	4,730	1,931	2,857	-59	-0.1%
61	Educational Services	39,943	\$59,407	0.78	-1,596	-0.8%	3,584	1,858	2,057	-331	-0.8%
23	Construction	34,134	\$86,423	0.88	2,171	1.3%	3,049	1,198	2,127	-276	-0.8%
52	Finance and Insurance	28,760	\$130,162	1.11	-3,343	-2.2%	2,559	1,015	1,673	-129	-0.4%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	26,585	\$50,392	0.97	-1,434	-1.0%	3,029	1,338	1,862	-170	-0.6%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	18,768	\$158,829	1.87	-1,953	-2.0%	1,781	654	1,115	12	0.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14,002	\$31,364	1.12	619	0.9%	2,061	882	1,213	-34	-0.2%
92	Public Administration	12,523	\$83,086	0.42	-662	-1.0%	1,130	510	727	-107	-0.9%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,264	\$86,813	0.89	-771	-1.4%	994	473	585	-64	-0.6%
51	Information	9,032	\$110,616	0.69	-2,703	-5.1%	882	319	571	-8	-0.1%
22	Utilities	2,737	\$136,374	0.84	178	1.4%	225	95	167	-37	-1.3%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	535	\$40,845	0.06	-13	-0.5%	64	30	38	-4	-0.7%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	208	\$98,257	0.09	-69	-5.6%	19	7	15	-2	-1.1%
99	Unclassified	87	\$74,564	0.06	-135	-17.1%	10	4	6	0	-0.6%
<b>Total - All Industries</b>		<b>645,775</b>	<b>\$76,651</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>-7,162</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>70,634</b>	<b>30,996</b>	<b>43,247</b>	<b>-3,609</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2023Q2

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in DuPage County, Illinois is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 84,880 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (68,073 workers) and Management Occupations (60,019). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Computer and Mathematical Occupations (LQ = 1.28), Management Occupations (1.23), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.20).

Occupation groups in DuPage County, Illinois with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$140,200), Legal Occupations (\$136,600), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$107,500). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.3% among Legal Occupations to 5.7% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in DuPage County, Illinois is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +0.8% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+187 jobs) and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (+182). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (9,757 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (9,112).

DuPage County, Illinois, 2023Q2<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	84,880	\$51,000	1.09	2,259	3.3%	1,546	-9,978	-2.2%	8,488	4,381	5,376	-1,268	-1.5%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	68,073	\$47,200	1.20	2,988	5.5%	1,209	5,263	1.6%	8,823	3,422	5,690	-289	-0.4%
11-0000	Management	60,019	\$140,200	1.23	949	1.7%	1,997	5,190	1.8%	4,758	1,504	3,392	-138	-0.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	56,728	\$61,900	0.99	2,008	3.9%	2,604	-6,488	-2.1%	6,382	2,944	4,065	-627	-1.1%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	45,921	\$92,300	1.11	1,070	2.4%	1,351	2,174	1.0%	3,902	1,356	2,657	-110	-0.2%
51-0000	Production	42,612	\$49,300	1.18	1,105	3.9%	750	-927	-0.4%	4,157	1,755	2,936	-534	-1.3%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	41,999	\$35,400	0.81	1,923	5.7%	1,740	-2,434	-1.1%	7,212	3,440	4,080	-308	-0.7%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	38,146	\$101,500	1.01	516	1.5%	1,704	4,859	2.8%	2,180	1,112	1,065	3	0.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	27,404	\$65,200	0.80	796	2.6%	874	-1,241	-0.9%	2,271	1,234	1,228	-191	-0.7%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	26,672	\$107,500	1.28	494	2.0%	1,185	-1,575	-1.1%	2,078	588	1,308	182	0.7%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	24,536	\$39,900	0.86	680	3.7%	1,005	3,838	3.5%	3,673	1,571	1,915	187	0.8%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	23,935	\$64,000	0.95	331	2.2%	611	-1,090	-0.9%	2,148	855	1,418	-124	-0.5%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	23,585	\$82,100	0.80	693	4.7%	147	-100	-0.1%	2,082	788	1,450	-156	-0.7%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	19,873	\$40,800	0.94	751	5.1%	475	-2,172	-2.1%	2,461	1,199	1,403	-140	-0.7%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	13,737	\$42,700	0.86	480	4.2%	475	-628	-0.9%	2,321	955	1,387	-20	-0.1%
33-0000	Protective Service	10,795	\$58,500	0.78	381	4.0%	190	267	0.5%	1,224	616	697	-90	-0.8%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	10,256	\$98,700	0.98	142	1.6%	626	-414	-0.8%	703	278	457	-32	-0.3%

### DuPage County, Illinois, 2023Q2<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	9,914	\$69,800	0.83	484	4.3%	341	-424	-0.8%	961	413	597	-49	-0.5%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	7,743	\$57,800	0.67	169	1.9%	458	-21	-0.1%	761	306	442	13	0.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	4,403	\$95,000	0.78	93	2.1%	242	56	0.3%	382	100	286	-5	-0.1%
23-0000	Legal	3,734	\$136,600	0.70	53	1.3%	65	-188	-1.0%	231	112	128	-8	-0.2%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	809	\$46,800	0.21	27	5.5%	5	12	0.3%	116	40	84	-8	-1.0%
<b>Total - All Occupations</b>		<b>645,775</b>	<b>\$70,300</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>18,392</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>19,598</b>	<b>-6,019</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>67,420</b>	<b>28,970</b>	<b>42,060</b>	<b>-3,609</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2023Q2 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

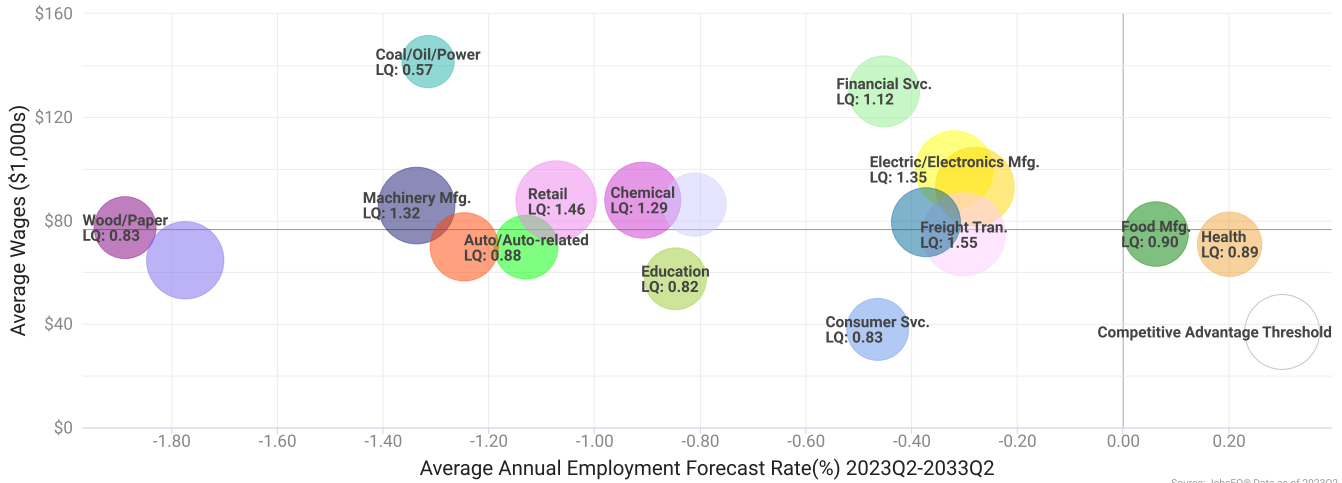
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2023Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in DuPage County, Illinois with the highest relative concentration is Freight Tran. with a location quotient of 1.55. This cluster employs 28,833 workers in the region with an average wage of \$74,617. Employment in the Freight Tran. cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.3% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for DuPage County, Illinois as of 2023Q2



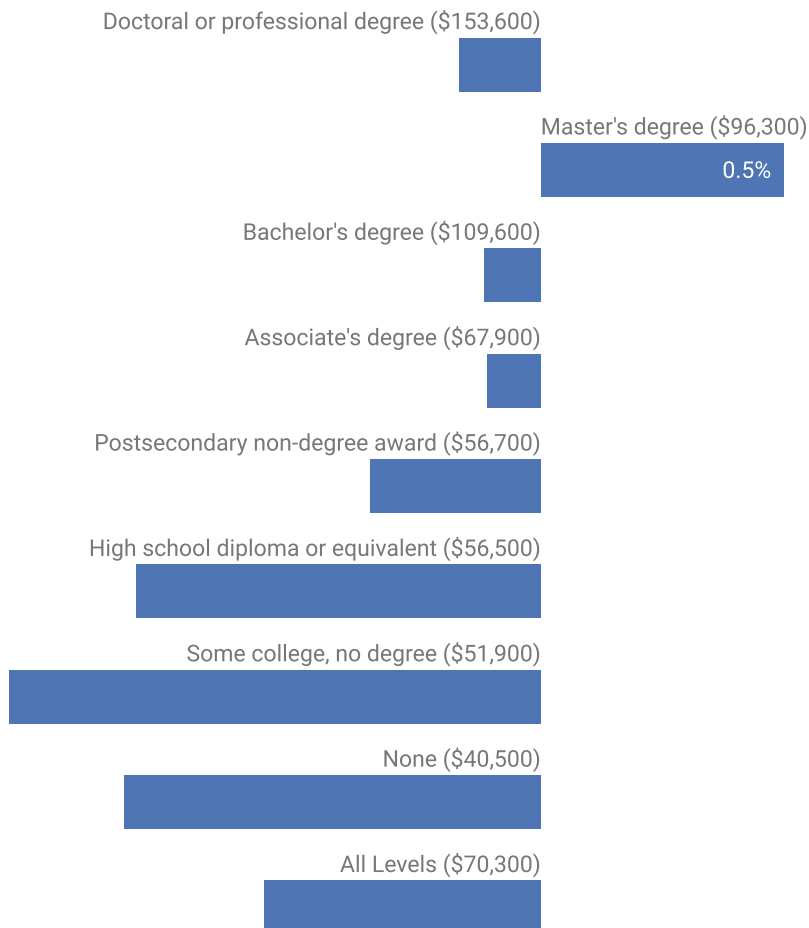
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q2

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in DuPage County, Illinois is projected to contract 0.6% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to contract 0.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to contract 0.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.1% per year.

## Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

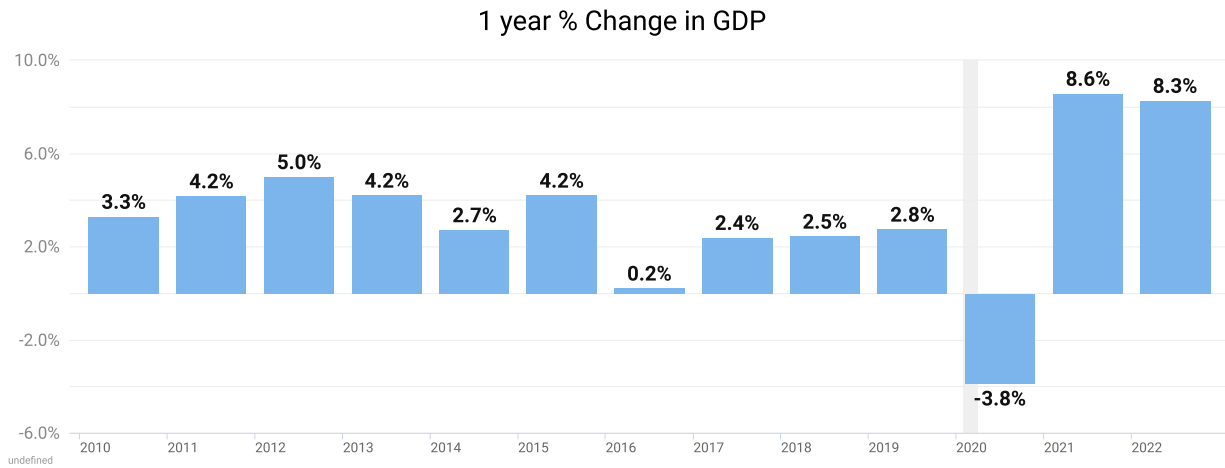


Source: JobsEQ®  
Data as of 2023Q2

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q2. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in DuPage County, Illinois expanded 8.3%. This follows growth of 8.6% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in DuPage County, Illinois was \$106,269,932,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in DuPage County, Illinois, Wholesale Trade contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$14,465,177,000. The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$12,218,280,000); Manufacturing (\$11,822,315,000); and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$9,687,330,000).

## GDP (in \$ millions)

Wholesale Trade (42)

\$14,465

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$12,218

Manufacturing (31)

\$11,822

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)

\$9,687

Finance and Insurance (52)

\$8,594

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$7,958

Retail Trade (44)

\$6,145

Transportation and Warehousing (48)

\$4,883

Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (56)

\$4,785

Construction (23)

\$4,440

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

# DuPage County, Illinois Regional Map





# FAQ

## What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

## What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

## What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

## What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

## What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

## What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

### About This Report

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