



West Chicago, Illinois

Economic Overview

January 2024

Demographic Profile	3
Employment Trends.....	5
Wage Trends.....	6
Cost of Living Index.....	7
Industry Snapshot.....	8
Occupation Snapshot.....	10
Industry Clusters.....	12
Education Levels	13
West Chicago city, IL Regional Map.....	14
FAQ	15

Demographic Profile

The population in the West Chicago city, IL was 25,881 per American Community Survey data for 2017-2021.

The region has a civilian labor force of 14,788 with a participation rate of 72.9%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the West Chicago city, IL, 31.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.1% in the nation.

The median household income in the West Chicago city, IL is \$83,379 and the median house value is \$254,700.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	West Chicago city, IL	Illinois	USA	West Chicago city, IL	Illinois	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	25,881	12,821,813	329,725,481
Male	50.7%	49.4%	49.5%	13,109	6,332,176	163,206,615
Female	49.3%	50.6%	50.5%	12,772	6,489,637	166,518,866
Median Age ²	—	—	—	35.2	38.5	38.4
Under 18 Years	25.9%	22.5%	22.5%	6,691	2,887,351	74,234,075
18 to 24 Years	12.2%	9.1%	9.2%	3,157	1,169,584	30,339,089
25 to 34 Years	11.8%	13.7%	13.8%	3,053	1,751,542	45,360,942
35 to 44 Years	12.4%	13.1%	12.9%	3,210	1,676,721	42,441,883
45 to 54 Years	16.4%	12.8%	12.6%	4,243	1,640,483	41,631,458
55 to 64 Years	12.1%	13.1%	13.0%	3,142	1,683,397	42,829,413
65 to 74 Years	5.5%	9.3%	9.6%	1,426	1,190,287	31,590,619
75 Years and Over	3.7%	6.4%	6.5%	959	822,448	21,298,002
Race: White	54.0%	67.8%	68.2%	13,986	8,699,413	224,789,109
Race: Black or African American	4.6%	14.1%	12.6%	1,189	1,804,013	41,393,012
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%	33	42,714	2,722,661
Race: Asian	8.5%	5.7%	5.7%	2,195	725,482	18,782,924
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0	5,111	615,557
Race: Some Other Race	23.0%	6.2%	5.6%	5,951	795,980	18,382,796
Race: Two or More Races	9.8%	5.8%	7.0%	2,527	749,100	23,039,422
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	48.9%	17.5%	18.4%	12,664	2,250,076	60,806,969
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	72.9%	65.2%	63.4%	14,788	6,686,514	166,672,597
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	84.4%	84.3%	82.5%	8,871	4,267,105	106,173,534
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0	18,670	1,196,529
Veterans, Age 18-64	2.1%	3.2%	4.4%	356	251,441	8,848,937
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	89.0%	78.9%	77.0%	317	198,423	6,809,906
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$83,379	\$72,563	\$69,021
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$33,049	\$39,571	\$37,638
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	27.1	28.7	26.8
Commute via Public Transportation	2.4%	7.9%	4.2%	310	484,481	6,472,373
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	19.9%	9.2%	10.3%	2,710	620,325	17,756,046
High School Graduate	26.4%	23.5%	25.3%	3,604	1,586,046	43,535,564
Some College, No Degree	15.6%	20.0%	20.1%	2,132	1,350,693	34,637,141
Associate's Degree	7.1%	8.8%	9.3%	966	597,481	15,944,395
Bachelor's Degree	19.6%	23.7%	22.0%	2,676	1,597,176	37,890,674
Postgraduate Degree	11.4%	14.8%	13.1%	1,560	1,000,422	22,499,876
Housing						

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	West Chicago city, IL	Illinois	USA	West Chicago city, IL	Illinois	USA
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	7,918	5,412,995	139,647,020
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$254,700	\$212,600	\$244,900
Homeowner Vacancy	0.8%	1.5%	1.2%	43	49,983	1,021,651
Rental Vacancy	8.3%	6.0%	5.7%	200	105,539	2,674,125
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	29.2%	33.5%	35.4%	2,199	1,650,933	43,858,831
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	6.5%	10.7%	8.3%	488	526,288	10,349,174
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.3%	11.8%	12.6%	2,884	1,483,378	40,661,636
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	10.4%	12.6%	11.4%	782	620,895	14,105,231
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	2.9%	1.4%	1.3%	740	179,401	4,425,322
Disconnected Youth ³	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	53	15,811	432,389
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	28.3%	33.5%	34.0%	1,805	926,189	23,909,672
Uninsured	11.5%	7.0%	8.8%	2,930	885,820	28,489,142
With a Disability, Age 18-64	6.6%	9.0%	10.3%	1,090	700,483	20,537,729
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	55.1%	46.3%	44.2%	601	324,273	9,068,973
Foreign Born	32.1%	14.1%	13.6%	8,303	1,803,334	44,844,808
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	20.9%	8.5%	8.2%	5,120	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.

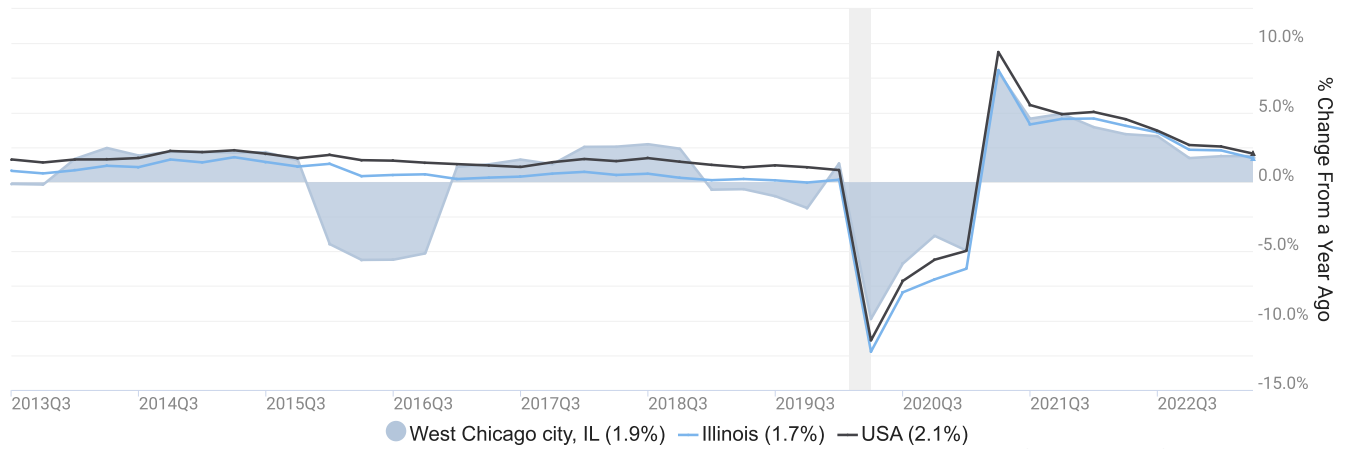
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

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 the West Chicago city, IL was 18,186 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q2, employment increased 1.9% in the region.

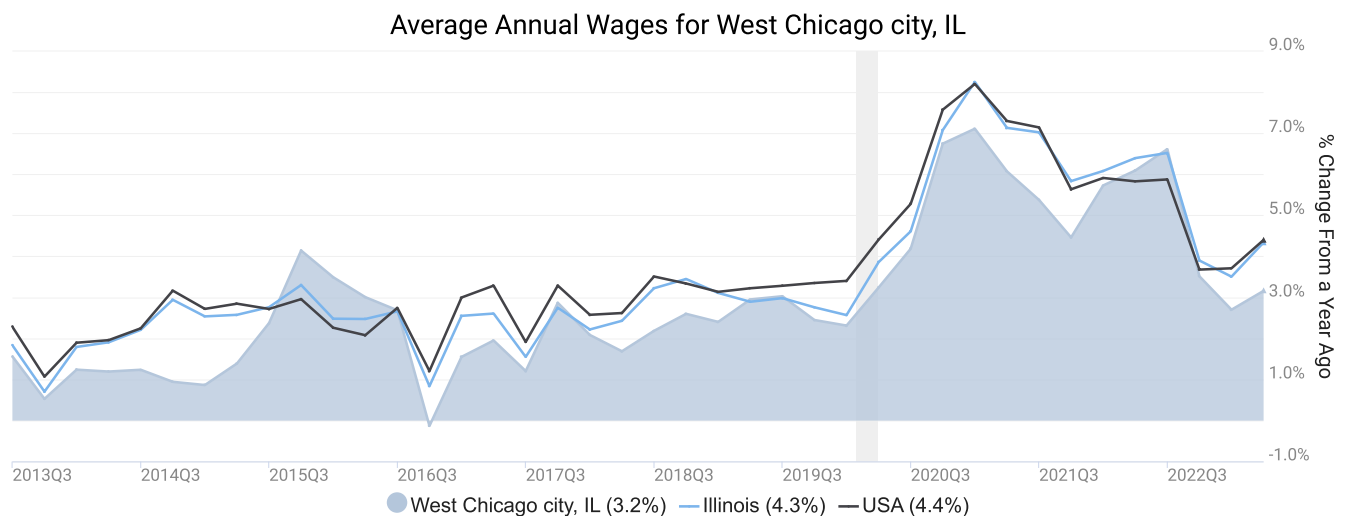
Employment for West Chicago city, IL



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.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the West Chicago city, IL earned annual wages of \$76,406 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.



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 West Chicago city, IL than the U.S. average.

	Cost of Living Information		
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
West Chicago city, IL	\$76,406	116.9	\$65,335
Illinois	\$73,149	103.1	\$70,921
USA	\$70,318	100.0	\$70,318

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

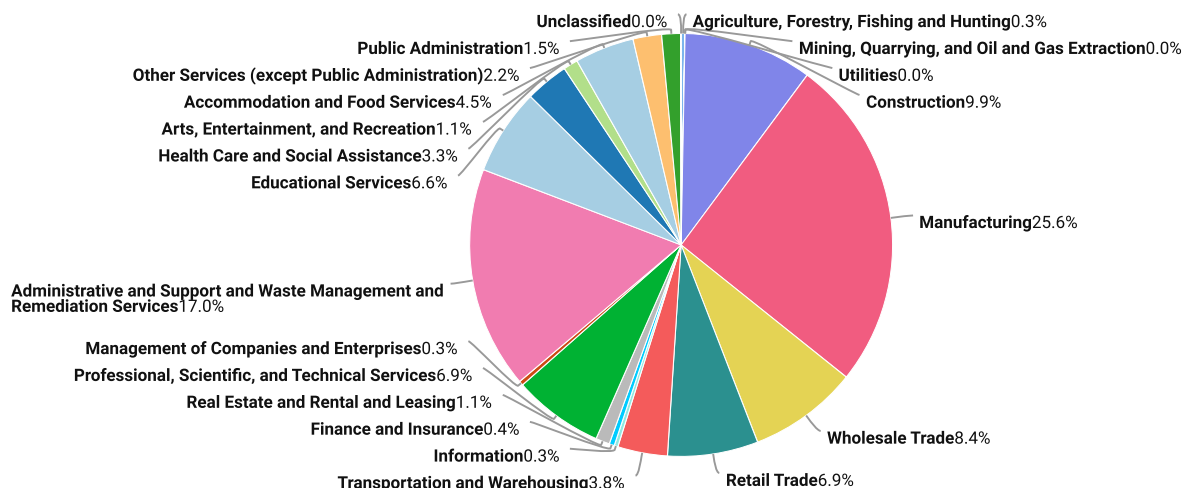
Data as of 2023Q2

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

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the West Chicago city, IL is Manufacturing, employing 4,653 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (3,086 workers) and Construction (1,794). 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 Manufacturing (LQ = 3.17), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (2.66), and Wholesale Trade (2.22).

Total Workers for West Chicago city, IL 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 the West Chicago city, IL with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$158,845), Finance and Insurance (\$129,888), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$105,939). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Manufacturing (+601 jobs), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+171), and Transportation and Warehousing (+104).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the West Chicago city, IL is projected to contract by 122 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Information 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 (0 jobs), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (0), and Finance and Insurance (0).

West Chicago city, IL, 2023Q2¹

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
31	Manufacturing	4,653	\$86,515	3.17	601	2.8%	488	187	319	-18	-0.4%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	3,086	\$56,348	2.66	171	1.2%	345	151	220	-26	-0.9%
23	Construction	1,794	\$87,316	1.65	-50	-0.5%	160	63	112	-14	-0.8%
42	Wholesale Trade	1,521	\$104,689	2.22	-51	-0.7%	149	62	106	-19	-1.2%
44	Retail Trade	1,261	\$46,570	0.70	-203	-2.9%	160	76	101	-17	-1.4%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,256	\$105,939	0.94	-288	-4.0%	112	42	71	-1	-0.1%
61	Educational Services	1,199	\$62,177	0.83	34	0.6%	107	56	62	-10	-0.9%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	825	\$29,327	0.53	37	0.9%	137	65	79	-7	-0.8%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	692	\$66,435	0.77	104	3.3%	79	33	49	-3	-0.4%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	602	\$70,242	0.23	45	1.6%	62	28	33	0	0.0%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	397	\$47,402	0.51	34	1.8%	45	20	28	-3	-0.7%
92	Public Administration	265	\$88,486	0.32	18	1.4%	24	11	15	-2	-0.9%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	202	\$27,779	0.58	13	1.3%	30	13	18	0	-0.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	195	\$87,770	0.60	13	1.4%	19	9	11	-1	-0.7%
52	Finance and Insurance	70	\$129,888	0.10	-31	-7.0%	6	2	4	0	-0.4%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	61	\$158,845	0.22	8	2.9%	6	2	4	0	0.1%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	55	\$41,718	0.24	12	5.2%	7	3	4	0	-0.7%
51	Information	52	\$67,339	0.14	-21	-6.5%	5	2	3	0	0.2%
99	Unclassified	1	\$74,533	0.04	-2	-17.8%	0	0	0	0	-0.6%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	n/a	0.00	-3	n/a	0	0	0	0	-1.3%
22	Utilities	0	n/a	0.00	-1	n/a	0	0	0	0	-1.1%
Total - All Industries		18,186	\$76,406	1.00	442	0.5%	1,968	873	1,217	-122	-0.7%

Source: [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 the West Chicago city, IL is Production Occupations, employing 2,823 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (2,596 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,906). 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 Production Occupations (LQ = 2.76), Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.62), and Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations (1.53).

Occupation groups in the West Chicago city, IL 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 2.0% among Legal Occupations to 9.1% among Transportation and Material Moving Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the West Chicago city, IL is expected to be Computer and Mathematical Occupations with a +0.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Computer and Mathematical Occupations (+1 jobs) and Healthcare Support Occupations (+1). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (351 jobs) and Production Occupations (319).

West Chicago city, IL, 2023Q2¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	2,823	\$49,300	2.76	137	6.7%	n/a	210	1.6%	301	118	201	-19	-0.7%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,596	\$47,200	1.62	234	9.1%	n/a	212	1.7%	339	130	221	-11	-0.4%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	1,906	\$51,000	0.87	92	5.3%	n/a	-131	-1.3%	184	98	118	-32	-1.7%
11-0000	Management	1,461	\$140,200	1.07	25	2.7%	n/a	150	2.2%	113	36	83	-6	-0.4%
41-0000	Sales and Related	1,371	\$61,900	0.85	80	6.9%	n/a	-115	-1.6%	152	70	99	-16	-1.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,198	\$82,100	1.45	84	7.8%	n/a	-93	-1.5%	105	40	74	-8	-0.7%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	945	\$92,300	0.81	19	3.5%	n/a	65	1.4%	80	28	56	-4	-0.4%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	916	\$35,400	0.63	140	9.1%	n/a	61	1.4%	160	77	89	-6	-0.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	907	\$40,800	1.53	69	8.3%	n/a	53	1.2%	109	47	68	-7	-0.7%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	878	\$65,200	0.91	19	4.5%	n/a	30	0.7%	70	38	39	-7	-0.8%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	833	\$64,000	1.17	28	3.6%	n/a	26	0.6%	75	29	49	-3	-0.4%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	418	\$107,500	0.71	8	3.1%	n/a	-72	-3.1%	31	9	20	1	0.3%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	330	\$101,500	0.31	11	2.6%	n/a	-2	-0.1%	20	10	10	0	-0.1%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	326	\$98,700	1.11	2	2.4%	n/a	-16	-0.9%	22	9	14	-1	-0.2%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	280	\$69,800	0.83	4	6.2%	n/a	19	1.4%	27	11	17	-1	-0.3%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	241	\$39,900	0.30	38	6.2%	n/a	40	3.7%	35	15	19	1	0.3%

West Chicago city, IL, 2023Q2¹

SOC	Occupation	Current				5-Year History				1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	206	\$42,700	0.46	18	6.6%	n/a	30	3.2%	35	15	21	-1	-0.3%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	152	\$95,000	0.96	1	2.7%	n/a	-20	-2.5%	14	3	11	0	-0.2%
33-0000	Protective Service	143	\$58,500	0.37	15	6.9%	n/a	8	1.2%	16	9	8	-1	-0.8%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	124	\$57,800	0.38	2	2.8%	n/a	-2	-0.3%	11	5	7	-1	-0.4%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	70	\$46,800	0.64	5	8.9%	n/a	11	3.5%	10	3	7	-1	-0.9%
23-0000	Legal	63	\$136,600	0.42	1	2.0%	n/a	6	2.1%	4	2	2	0	-0.3%
Total - All Occupations		18,186	\$70,300	1.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	472	0.5%	1,915	802	1,235	-122	-0.7%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q2 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

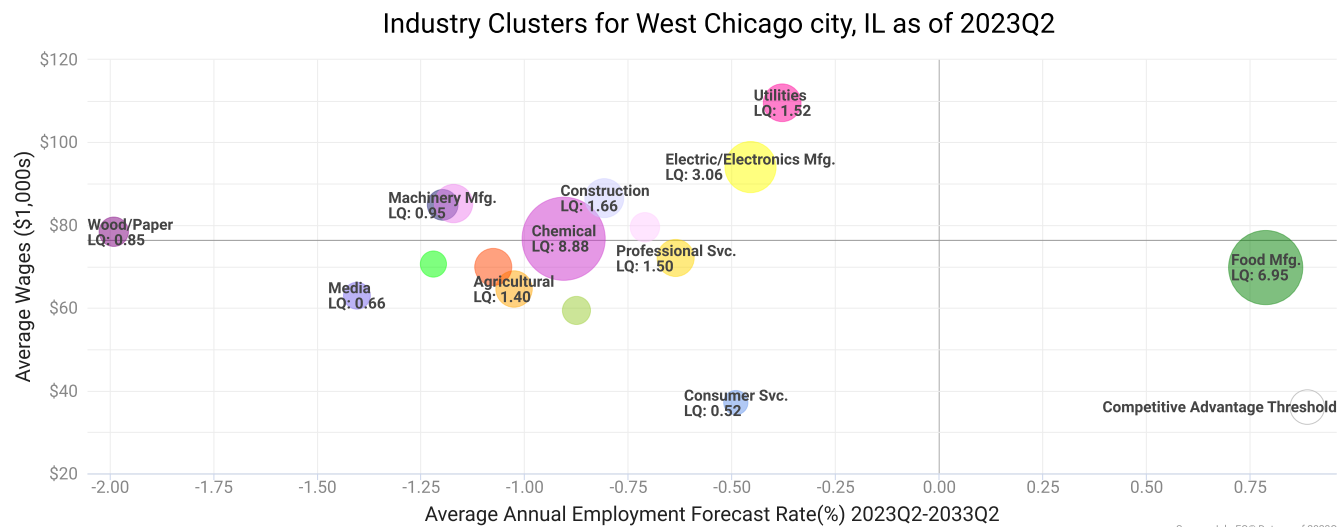
1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

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 the West Chicago city, IL with the highest relative concentration is Chemical with a location quotient of 8.88. This cluster employs 1,474 workers in the region with an average wage of \$76,792. Employment in the Chemical cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.9% per year over the next ten years.

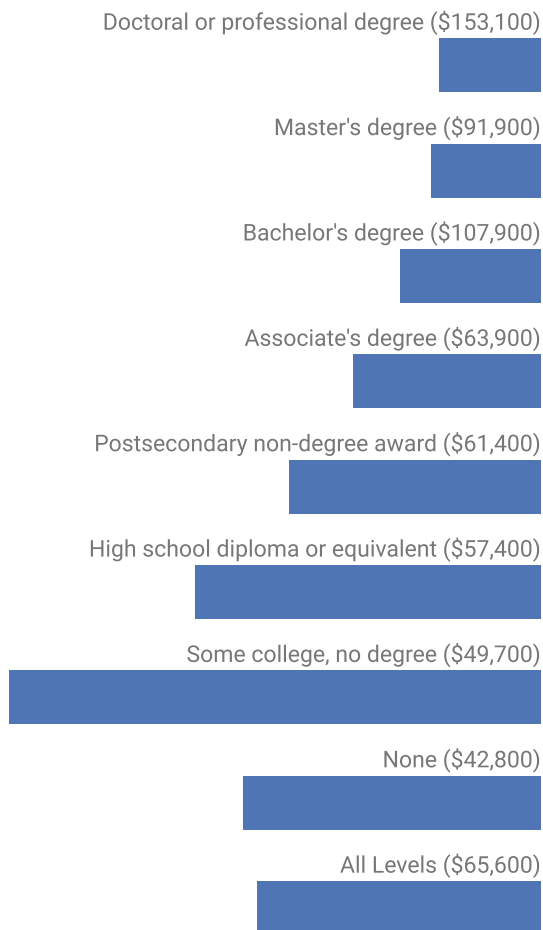


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from 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 the West Chicago city, IL is projected to contract 0.7% 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 0.3% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.4% 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.

West Chicago city, IL 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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