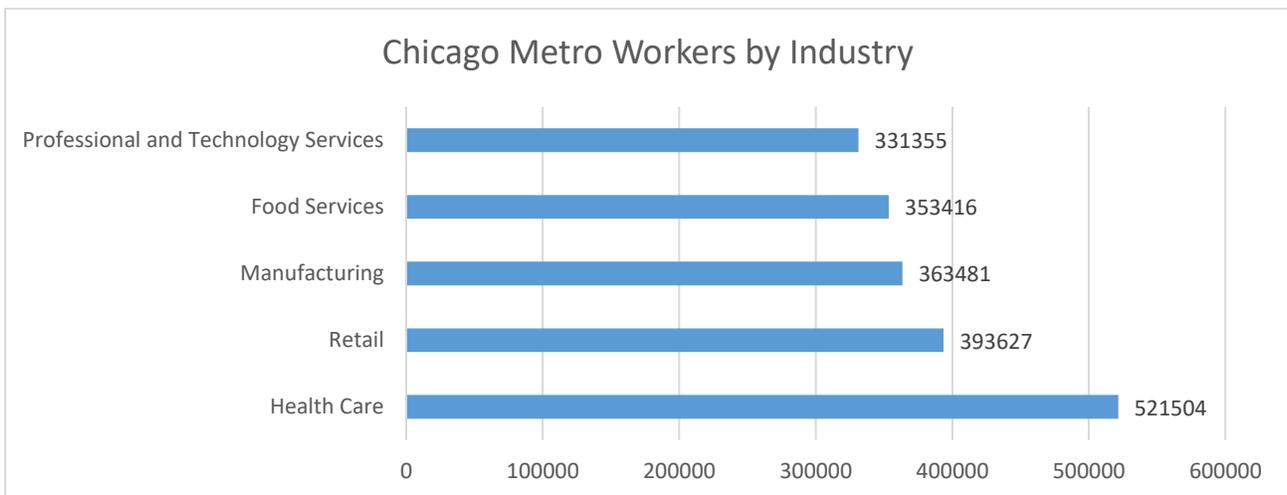


# Job Market in Illinois



Illinois workers perform a great variety of jobs in communities throughout the state. If you look around your community, you will see schools, businesses, and offices where people go to work every day. For example, when your family goes to the grocery store to buy the food you want and need, there are workers at that store who stock the shelves with your favorite cereal. There are butchers who cut the meat that people buy. There are truck drivers who deliver the food to your local store. There are managers that lead the store's workers so that they know what to do. There are cashiers that ring up your purchase and baggers who place your items into the bags you carry out. Illinois is filled with a large variety of workers. More than six million workers throughout the state perform work each month.

There are many different types of industries in Illinois in which people work. An industry is work in where all the people work toward the production of a similar product or service. More than half of Illinois' workers work in the Chicago Metro Area. The Chicago Metro Area includes Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Will and McHenry counties. Within these six counties, there are 5 primary industries where workers work.



**Health Care** - The health care industry is the largest industry in the Chicago Metro Area with more than 520,000 workers. People who work in the health care industry work in careers such as: doctors, nurses, dentists, assistants, aides, therapists, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians, veterinarians, and dieticians. Due to the aging population in our country, health care jobs are in high demand throughout Illinois and the United States. Health care workers range in education from 10+ years of college to less than one year. If you have a passion for helping people, a job in the medical field might be for you.

**Retail** – The second largest industry in the Chicago Metro Area, with nearly 400,000 workers, is the retail industry. Retail stores sell goods to people for their own use. All of the stores at your local mall or shopping center are considered retail. People who work in the retail industry work in careers such as: sales associate, cashier, customer service representative, manager, buyer, and merchandiser. People who work in retail must be flexible with their work schedule since stores are often open in the evenings and on weekends. People who work retail jobs have a variety of education levels from a

high school diploma to college degrees. Some retail jobs are in danger as stores, like JC Penny and Toys R Us are closed, but overall, retail offers many jobs for Illinois workers.

**Manufacturing** – Another large industry in the Chicago Metro Area, with more than 360,000 workers is the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing is the production of goods using labor, machines, and materials. There are many different types of goods manufactured in Illinois and throughout the United States. Some examples of the types of goods manufactured in Illinois include: metal, plastic and rubber products, chemicals, electronics, appliances, paper and printed products like books, posters and other materials. People who work in the manufacturing industry work in careers such as: assembly or production, managers, machine technicians, quality control, material handlers, shipping and receiving, engineers and designers. Manufacturing workers vary in the amount of education they have from high school diplomas to advanced college degrees. As many companies look to move their manufacturing to other countries where labor is less costly, manufacturing jobs have declined in the U.S.

**Food Services** - With more than 350,000 workers, the food services industry provides many jobs for workers in the Chicago Metro Area. People who work in the food services industry work in careers such as: baker, chef, server, restaurant manager, food scientist, flavorist, cookbook author, research and development, banquet manager, food photographer, sales, and customer service representative. The food services are a growing industry, especially the restaurant business which is expected to add 1.6 million jobs in the United States by 2027. Food services workers must have a passion for food. Workers in this industry have high school diplomas, for entry level positions to advanced college degrees for more specialized roles.

**Professional and Technology Services** - Another large industry in the Chicago Metro Area, with more than 330,000 workers is the professional and technology services industry. People who work in the professional and technology services industry work in careers such as: lawyers, accountants, auditors, tax preparers, computer programmers, web and software developers, network system administrators, and system analysts. Most professional and technology service workers hold advanced degrees although there may be a few entry level positions which do not require a college degree. Because business and technology is rapidly changing our world, the professional and technology industries will continue to grow and offer lots of job and advancement opportunities for workers in this field.



Think about it...

Of the primary industries in the Chicago Metro Area, are there any you are interested in? Why or why not?