

2026 High Priority Occupations for Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Area

SOC Code	SOC Title	Educational Attainment	Wages (2025)			Employment			
			Entry Level	Annual Average	Exper. Level	Estimated 2022	Projected 2032	Percent Change	Annual Demand
11-1021	General & Operations Managers	BD+	\$58,610	\$123,720	\$156,280	6,750	6,830	1.2%	541
11-3031	Financial Managers	BD+	\$95,910	\$159,820	\$191,770	1,170	1,200	2.6%	82
11-9051	Food Service Managers	WK EXP	\$48,800	\$70,230	\$80,950	540	550	1.9%	61
11-9111	Medical & Health Services Managers	BD+	\$78,700	\$121,000	\$142,150	800	840	5.0%	61
13-1020	Buyers & Purchasing Agents	BD+	\$51,620	\$78,580	\$92,060	870	880	1.1%	79
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners & Investigators	LT OJT	\$58,400	\$87,170	\$101,560	300	310	3.3%	22
13-1071	Human Resources Specialists	BD	\$49,880	\$75,090	\$87,690	1,510	1,570	4.0%	132
13-1082	Project Management Specialists	BD	\$67,360	\$106,400	\$125,920	1,220	1,250	2.5%	88
13-1161	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	BD	\$41,430	\$74,030	\$90,340	1,280	1,310	2.3%	120
13-2011	Accountants & Auditors	BD	\$54,490	\$84,550	\$99,580	2,980	3,040	2.0%	235
15-1211	Computer Systems Analysts	BD	\$70,880	\$100,460	\$115,240	730	780	6.8%	48
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	PS+	\$42,780	\$61,230	\$70,450	1,240	1,320	6.5%	90
15-1252	Software Developers	BD	\$81,320	\$125,190	\$147,120	1,130	1,240	9.7%	72
17-2112	Industrial Engineers	BD	\$77,140	\$110,120	\$126,610	850	880	3.5%	50
17-2141	Mechanical Engineers	BD	\$76,880	\$111,360	\$128,610	880	900	2.3%	50
17-3011	Architectural & Civil Drafters	AD	\$49,920	\$70,800	\$81,240	270	270	0.0%	25
21-1018	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder & MH Counselors	BD	\$39,230	\$56,630	\$65,340	980	1,030	5.1%	87
21-1093	Social & Human Service Assistants	ST OJT	\$35,980	\$45,840	\$50,770	860	900	4.7%	93
25-2011	Preschool Teachers	AD	\$30,530	\$37,500	\$40,990	1,060	1,040	-1.9%	108
25-2012	Kindergarten Teachers	BD	\$54,070	\$69,520	\$77,250	120	120	0.0%	13
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers	BD	\$57,750	\$78,600	\$89,020	3,030	3,040	0.3%	203
25-2022	Middle School Teachers	BD	\$57,470	\$80,950	\$92,690	1,200	1,200	0.0%	80
25-2031	Secondary School Teachers	BD	\$59,690	\$80,410	\$90,770	2,580	2,590	0.4%	159
25-2032	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School	BD+	\$65,530	\$82,160	\$90,480	240	240	0.0%	15
25-2052	Special Education Teachers, Kindergarten & Elementary School	BD	\$59,000	\$74,750	\$82,630	310	310	0.0%	20
25-2058	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School	BD	\$59,070	\$78,440	\$88,130	670	670	0.0%	44
29-1126	Respiratory Therapists	AD	\$65,910	\$80,090	\$87,180	430	450	4.7%	24
29-1141	Registered Nurses	BD	\$77,800	\$96,520	\$105,870	9,470	9,770	3.2%	547
29-1292	Dental Hygienists	AD	\$70,840	\$82,010	\$87,600	540	560	3.7%	37
29-2010	Clinical Laboratory Techs	BD	\$40,630	\$60,710	\$70,740	1,080	1,110	2.8%	72
29-2034	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	AD	\$59,830	\$76,450	\$84,770	740	760	2.7%	41
29-2061	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	PS	\$57,410	\$65,150	\$69,030	1,730	1,820	5.2%	143
29-2072	Medical Records Specialists	PS	\$40,330	\$53,170	\$59,590	260	260	0.0%	18
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	PS	\$38,380	\$43,650	\$46,290	4,530	4,670	3.1%	665
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	AD	\$58,730	\$67,100	\$71,280	130	140	7.7%	20
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	AD	\$57,060	\$66,580	\$71,340	250	270	8.0%	37

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31-9091	Dental Assistants	PS	\$39,540	\$50,070	\$55,340	730	750	2.7%	103
31-9092	Medical Assistants	PS	\$37,250	\$43,860	\$47,170	1,660	1,740	4.8%	224
33-3051	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	MT OJT	\$58,660	\$81,440	\$92,830	1,280	1,300	1.6%	101
37-1011	Supervisors - Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers	WK EXP	\$36,350	\$51,230	\$58,660	480	480	0.0%	56
37-1012	Supervisors - Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	WK EXP	\$46,320	\$59,130	\$65,540	390	400	2.6%	41
37-3013	Tree Trimmers & Pruners	ST OJT	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	210	5.0%	27
39-1022	Supervisors - Personal Service Workers	WK EXP	\$39,200	\$51,960	\$58,350	690	710	2.9%	78
41-1011	Supervisors - Retail Sales Workers	WK EXP	\$35,670	\$52,490	\$60,900	2,610	2,560	-1.9%	248
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	MT OJT	\$49,790	\$92,070	\$113,220	920	920	0.0%	72
41-3091	Sales Representatives - Services	MT OJT	\$43,320	\$68,960	\$81,780	1,620	1,650	1.9%	156
41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	MT OJT	\$41,910	\$67,230	\$79,890	670	680	1.5%	57
43-1011	Supervisors - Office & Administrative Support Workers	WK EXP	\$49,810	\$71,160	\$81,840	3,520	3,620	2.8%	350
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	PS+	\$36,920	\$50,900	\$57,880	3,130	3,170	1.3%	369
43-5052	Postal Service Mail Carriers	ST OJT	\$46,360	\$63,250	\$71,700	630	640	1.6%	49
43-5071	Shipping, Receiving & Inventory Clerks	ST OJT	\$38,340	\$48,950	\$54,250	2,850	2,890	1.4%	293
43-6011	Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	WK EXP	\$51,300	\$71,070	\$80,950	620	640	3.2%	66
43-6012	Legal Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	MT OJT	\$41,940	\$55,330	\$62,020	240	240	0.0%	27
47-1011	Supervisors - Construction & Extraction Workers	WK EXP	\$63,910	\$93,510	\$108,310	1,210	1,200	-0.8%	94
47-2031	Carpenters	LT OJT	\$43,810	\$62,540	\$71,910	1,420	1,410	-0.7%	114
47-2061	Construction Laborers	ST OJT	\$41,580	\$54,570	\$61,060	1,990	1,980	-0.5%	168
47-2073	Operating Engineers	MT OJT	\$50,010	\$67,130	\$75,690	980	990	1.0%	84
47-2111	Electricians	LT OJT	\$49,300	\$75,920	\$89,230	1,220	1,240	1.6%	109
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	LT OJT	\$48,080	\$76,000	\$89,960	750	760	1.3%	66
47-2181	Roofers	MT OJT	\$46,390	\$60,540	\$67,610	230	240	4.3%	18
47-4051	Highway Maintenance Workers	MT OJT	\$46,120	\$58,750	\$65,070	450	460	2.2%	41
49-1011	Supervisors - Mechanics, Installers & Repairers	WK EXP	\$57,970	\$86,410	\$100,620	1,210	1,230	1.7%	102
49-2098	Security & Fire Alarm Systems Installers	MT OJT	\$44,010	\$60,830	\$69,240	280	270	-3.6%	27
49-3011	Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians	PS	\$56,790	\$80,940	\$93,010	100	110	10.0%	7
49-3021	Automotive Body & Related Repairers	LT OJT	\$42,740	\$59,810	\$68,340	350	360	2.9%	31
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	PS	\$40,840	\$59,500	\$68,830	2,070	2,100	1.4%	178
49-3031	Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	LT OJT	\$50,830	\$65,440	\$72,740	850	870	2.4%	73
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	LT OJT	\$52,860	\$66,580	\$73,450	220	220	0.0%	18

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49-9021	Heating, A/C & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	PS+	\$50,370	\$67,570	\$76,160	1,000	1,000	0.0%	83
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	LT OJT	\$54,880	\$71,600	\$79,950	1,080	1,100	1.9%	86
49-9052	Telecommunications Line Installers & Repairers	LT OJT	N/A	N/A	N/A	210	220	4.8%	20
49-9071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	MT OJT	\$39,210	\$56,240	\$64,750	3,710	3,790	2.2%	344
51-1011	Supervisors - Production & Operating Workers	WK EXP	\$54,700	\$78,050	\$89,720	1,700	1,690	-0.6%	156
51-2090	Misc. Assemblers & Fabricators	MT OJT	\$35,780	\$49,110	\$55,770	5,130	5,170	0.8%	546
51-3092	Food Batchmakers	MT OJT	\$35,680	\$44,780	\$49,340	640	660	3.1%	100
51-4031	Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oprs/Tenders	MT OJT	\$42,080	\$53,940	\$59,880	350	350	0.0%	34
51-4033	Grind/Lap/Polish/Buffering Machine Setters/Oprs/Tenders	MT OJT	\$42,660	\$48,420	\$51,300	210	210	0.0%	22
51-4041	Machinists	LT OJT	\$44,340	\$57,960	\$64,760	600	580	-3.3%	57
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	MT OJT	\$45,070	\$57,210	\$63,280	730	740	1.4%	72
51-9041	Extruding, Forming & Pressing Machine Setters/Oprs/Tenders	MT OJT	\$41,310	\$54,790	\$61,540	150	150	0.0%	15
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers	MT OJT	\$37,960	\$51,700	\$58,570	1,690	1,700	0.6%	194
51-9111	Packaging & Filling Machine Oprs/Tenders	MT OJT	\$33,860	\$47,430	\$54,210	2,230	2,270	1.8%	243
51-9124	Coating, Painting & Spraying Machine Setters/Oprs/Tenders	MT OJT	\$41,850	\$50,740	\$55,190	530	530	0.0%	46
51-9161	CNC Tool Operators	MT OJT	\$46,260	\$58,310	\$64,330	630	620	-1.6%	55
51-9195	Molders, Shapers & Casters	LT OJT	\$40,900	\$48,440	\$52,210	190	190	0.0%	24
53-3032	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	PS	\$46,560	\$61,900	\$69,570	6,960	7,080	1.7%	741
53-3052	Bus Drivers, Transit & Intercity	MT OJT	\$47,190	\$59,050	\$64,990	340	350	2.9%	45
53-3053	Shuttle Drivers & Chauffeurs	ST OJT	\$25,710	\$34,290	\$38,580	430	430	0.0%	58
53-7051	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	ST OJT	\$41,680	\$51,590	\$56,540	5,790	5,930	2.4%	576
53-7062	Laborers & Freight/Stock/Material Movers	ST OJT	\$35,380	\$43,930	\$48,200	15,490	15,870	2.5%	2,061
53-7063	Machine Feeders & Offbearers	ST OJT	\$34,500	\$51,250	\$59,620	240	240	0.0%	37
53-7081	Refuse & Recyclable Material Collectors	ST OJT	\$32,470	\$50,700	\$59,820	270	290	7.4%	36

Educational Attainment Abbreviations:

Short-term or Moderate-term training (**ST OJT** or **MT OJT**) – basic tasks and skills are learned through a period of on-the-job training. A high school diploma may be required.

Long-term training (**LT OJT**) – a high school diploma and at least one year of on-the-job training or an apprenticeship.

Related work experience (**WK EXP**) – a high school diploma and training gained through hands-on work in a similar occupation.

Postsecondary training (**PS** or **PS+**) – training is gained through a postsecondary training program. Some period of related work experience may be required.

Associate Degree (**AD** or **AD+**) – degree completed after two years of full-time schooling beyond high school. Some period of related work experience may be required.

Bachelor's Degree (**BD** or **BD+**) – degree completed after four years of full-time schooling beyond high school. Some period of related work experience may be required.

Master's Degree (**MD** or **MD+**) – degree completed after two years of full-time schooling beyond a bachelor's degree. Some period of related work experience may be required.

Doctoral Degree (**DOCT**) – degree programs requiring 3-6 years of education at the college or university level beyond a four-year bachelor's degree.