**Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is projected to add 3,279 new jobs to the state economy, an increase of 3.13 percent. Of the 19,396 annual job openings, 7,840 are for those created from employees leaving the workforce, while 9,916 are from people changing jobs. Growth and expansion accounts for 1,640 annual openings.

**2-Year Projected (2018-2020) Growth Rate: 3.13%  
Biggest and Fastest Gain: Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers,   
 Including Fast Food (35-3021) – 1,553 jobs (4.50%)  
  
Biggest and Fastest Loser: None**

**Short-Term Outlook 2018-2020**

**Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (35-0000)**

The ***Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers*** occupational family is anticipating 334 new jobs, an increase of 2.85 percent. First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers is estimated to add 312 of those jobs. The occupational family is expecting around 1,820 annual job openings, overall.

***Cooks and Food Preparation Workers*** is predicted to increase jobs by 621, an increase of 2.21 percent. Cooks, Restaurant is forecast to increase jobs by 359, or 3.54 percent, and have 1,609 annual job openings. Overall, the occupational family is slated to have 4,359 annual job openings.

The ***Food and Beverage Serving Workers*** occupational family is estimated to increase employment by 2,126, or 3.71 percent, more than 64 percent of the major group’s total job growth. Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food is projected to be the top growing occupation in the state with 1,553 new jobs, have the most annual job openings with 7,162, and be the fastest growing occupation in the major group with a 4.50 percent increase. Waiters and Waitresses could add an additional 460.As a whole, the ***Food and Beverage Serving Workers*** occupational family is anticipating 11,705 job openings annually.

***Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers*** is predicted to increase jobs by 198, an increase of 2.52 percent. Dishwashers is forecast to increase jobs by 78 and have around 569 annual job openings. Overall, the occupational family is slated to have 1,511 annual job openings.

**Workforce Development Area Outlook  
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Workforce Investment Area** | **2018 Estimated Employment** | **2020 Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Openings- Exits** | **Annual Openings- Transfers** | **Annual Openings- Change** | **Annual Openings- Total** |
| Northwest Arkansas | 25,574 | 26,473 | 899 | 3.52% | 1,928 | 2,428 | 450 | 4,806 |
| North Central Arkansas | 6,481 | 6,653 | 172 | 2.65% | 473 | 612 | 86 | 1,171 |
| Northeast Arkansas | 9,336 | 9,656 | 320 | 3.43% | 704 | 883 | 160 | 1,747 |
| Western Arkansas | 9,435 | 9,706 | 271 | 2.87% | 706 | 886 | 136 | 1,728 |
| West Central Arkansas | 11,254 | 11,618 | 364 | 3.23% | 846 | 1,064 | 182 | 2,092 |
| Central Arkansas | 16,717 | 17,259 | 542 | 3.24% | 1,244 | 1,574 | 271 | 3,089 |
| City of Little Rock | 12,914 | 13,287 | 373 | 2.89% | 938 | 1,232 | 186 | 2,356 |
| Eastern Arkansas | 3,232 | 3,308 | 76 | 2.35% | 240 | 301 | 38 | 579 |
| Southwest Arkansas | 5,507 | 5,664 | 157 | 2.85% | 418 | 520 | 78 | 1,016 |
| Southeast Arkansas | 4,739 | 4,853 | 114 | 2.41% | 357 | 433 | 57 | 847 |