Distribution of workers paid low wages by occupation

Table shows the prevalence of workers paid less than $19.69 within each occupation group as well as the distribution of the low-wage workforce across all occupations. In the third column, darker colors indicate that the occupation includes a larger share of the total low-wage workforce. For example, 4 out of 10 (39.8%) workers in Office and Administrative Support occupations are paid low wages and make up 12.8% of the total low-wage workforce.

Share of low-wage workforce across occupation

0   12.8

Occupation	Prevalence of low-wage work within each occupation	Share of low-wage workforce across occupation ▼
Office and Administrative Support	39.8%	12.8%
Sales and Related	46.6%	11.6%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	69.1%	11.2%
Material Moving	64.9%	8.3%
Healthcare Support	63.5%	7.2%
Production	47.4%	6.6%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	63.0%	5.5%
Educational Instruction and Library	29.0%	5.0%
Construction and Extraction	33.5%	4.1%
Management	12.2%	3.8%
Transportation	40.0%	3.8%
Personal Care and Service	64.1%	3.5%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	77.0%	3.3%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	14.2%	2.3%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	28.5%	2.1%
Business and Financial Operations	11.5%	2.0%
Protective Service	30.6%	2.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	19.8%	1.3%
Community and Social Service	24.7%	1.3%
Computer and Mathematical	6.1%	0.8%
Architecture and Engineering	6.2%	0.5%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	12.0%	0.5%
Legal	9.9%	0.3%
Total	34.6%	100.0%

In 2022, the value of the low-wage threshold is $19.69. The sample includes workers who live and work in California, were employed last week but not self-employed, ages 16+, and with non-zero earnings last week. To calculate the share of workers paid low wages in 2021, we inflate 2021 wages to 2022 dollars and apply the 2022 low-wage threshold.