

LIFT: Lightweight Workforce Quarterly Summary

KENTUCKY, Q1 2018



Online job postings for lightweighting-related occupations in Kentucky rebounded by 23.2 percent between Q4 2017 and Q1 2018. While this is a welcome change, the 6,965 job postings in Q1 are still over 1,000 ads below its 2016 peak.

2018 marked the ninth consecutive year of employment growth in lightweighting-related occupations. Nearly 290,000 Kentucky workers were employed in LIFT occupations during 2017, surpassing pre-recession employment levels by around 15,000 workers.

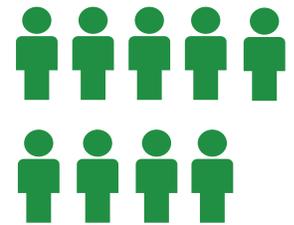
★ TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS IN-DEMAND STATEWIDE

288,757

workers in lightweighting-related occupations in Kentucky (2018)



increase in demand for lightweighting skills



nine consecutive years of employment growth

Occupation	Job Postings
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1,136
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	714
Production Workers, All Other	495
Industrial Engineering Technicians	388
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	328
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	240
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	214
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	211
Team Assemblers	193
Electrical Engineers	169

Most Skilled Trades jobs are open to entry-level workers willing to undertake some post-secondary training programs in high-demand skillsets. Earning a certificate in welding or plumbing, for example, can lead candidates into successful Skilled Trades careers. Many Kentucky employers also seek those with management related skills.

Administration workers with experience in the high-demand Logistics and Procurement & Purchasing occupations are sought after, with two of the state's top ten lightweighting occupations. While there are ample entry-level opportunities for those with a high school diploma and experience with forklift operation, inventory management, or customer service, a bachelor's degree accompanied by logistics or procurement experience may provide candidates with the opportunity for higher paying positions with Kentucky manufacturers.

A little over half (64 percent in Q1 2018) of lightweighting-related Engineering & Design job postings in Kentucky require a bachelor's degree, although most positions require five years of experience or less. Candidates with an undergraduate degree in mechanical or process engineering can earn especially competitive wages in lightweighting-related positions in Kentucky.

☑ SKILLED TRADES EXPERIENCE IN-DEMAND

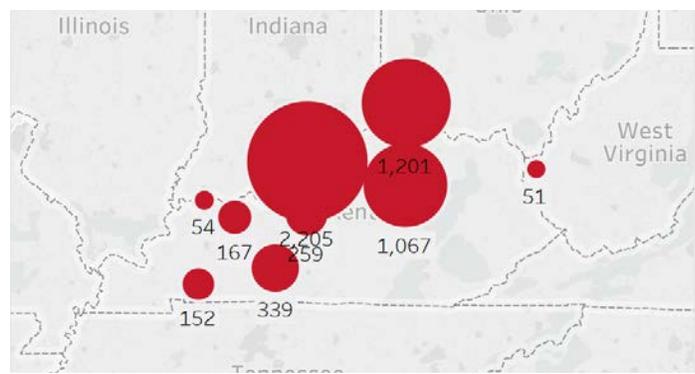


⚙ SKILLED TRADES EDUCATION & TRAINING IN-DEMAND



STATEWIDE POSTINGS BY MSA

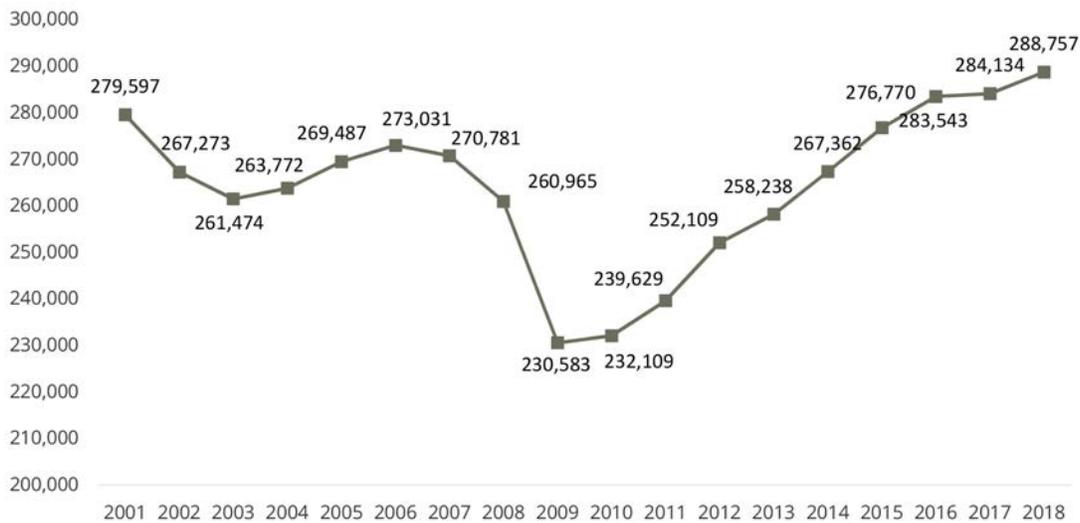
Lightweighting-related postings were widespread across Kentucky Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with the Louisville-Jefferson County MSA experiencing the most (2,205). The cross-state Cincinnati OH-KY-IN MSA had the second most postings, with 1,201, with the Lexington-Fayette MSA coming in third, with 1,067 postings.



LIGHTWEIGHTING-RELATED EMPLOYMENT OVER TIME

KENTUCKY, 2013 - 2018

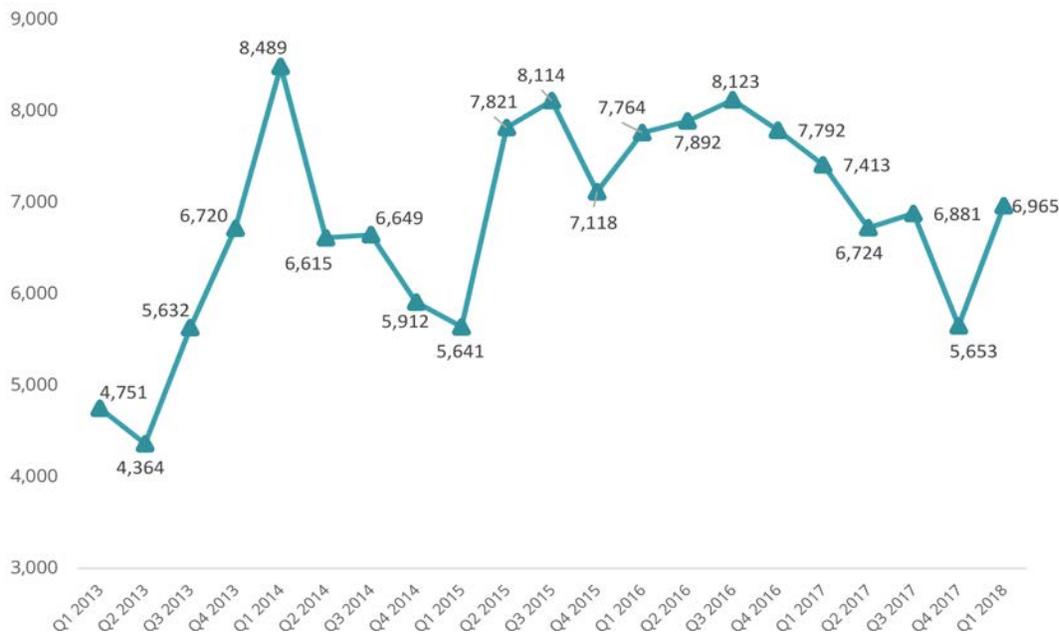
Employment in lightweighting-related occupations grew by over 4,000 employees between 2017 and 2018. Since the end of the Great Recession in 2010, employment has grown steadily and dramatically (nearing 60,000 more individuals since 2010), and has surpassed even 2001 pre-recession levels.



LIGHTWEIGHTING-RELATED JOB POSTING OVER TIME

KENTUCKY, Q1 2013 - Q1 2018

Lightweighting-related job postings rebounded between Q4 2017 and Q1 2018, though only to 2017 levels of demand. Since tracking began in Q1 2013, postings have grown by just over 2,200 ads, or 47 percent.



Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) is a public-private partnership that develops and deploys advanced lightweight materials manufacturing technologies and implements education and training programs to prepare the workforce. Learn more here: <https://lift.technology/>.