

LIFT: Lightweight Workforce Quarterly Summary

KENTUCKY, Q2 2018



Online job postings for lightweighting-related occupations in Kentucky grew by 7.3 percent between Q1 and Q2 2018, from 13,767 to 14,775 ads. This demand for lightweighting-related workers, generally consistent around this high level, is matched by steady growth in employment.

2018 marked the ninth consecutive year of employment growth in lightweighting-related occupations. Nearly 300,000 Kentucky workers were employed in LIFT occupations during 2017, surpassing pre-recession peaks by around 15,000 workers.

288,757

workers in lightweighting-related occupations in Kentucky (2018)

★ TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND STATEWIDE

Occupation	Job Postings
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	2,466
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	1,701
Industrial Engineers	1,416
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1,152
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	791
Helpers--Production Workers	681
Production Workers, All Other	545
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	511
Mechanical Engineers	434
Industrial Production Managers	384



increase in
lightweighting job
postings since Q1



nine consecutive years of
employment growth

Most Skilled Trades jobs are open to entry-level workers willing to undertake some post-secondary training. A CDL or certificate in HVAC or welding, for example, can lead to a successful Skilled Trades career. Workplace skills like operations, packaging and maintenance are also valued. Posted educational criteria for this group are shown below. There are a variety of career tracks available for lightweighting Administration workers. While there are entry-level opportunities for those with a high school diploma and experience with warehousing, purchasing, and forklift operation, a bachelor's degree accompanied by logistics or procurement experience may open higher paying positions with Kentucky manufacturers.

A little over half (59 percent in Q2 2018) of lightweighting Engineering & Design job postings in Kentucky require a bachelor's degree, and over half of postings require five years' experience or less. Candidates with a degree in industrial or mechanical engineering can earn competitive wages in lightweighting positions in Kentucky.

⚙️ SKILLED TRADES SUBGROUP EDUCATION & TRAINING IN-DEMAND



☑️ IN-DEMAND CERTIFICATIONS BY GROUP

SKILLED TRADES

- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Certified Quality Engineer (e.g., ASQ)
- Certified Apartment Service Technician
- Certified Quality Manager
- Certified Safety Professional

ADMINISTRATION

- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Certified Safety Professional
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Production/Inventory Management
- Certified Quality Auditor

ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS

- ASQ Certified
- Professional Engineer
- Licensed Professional Engineer
- ASNT Non-Destructive Tester
- Associate Ergonomics Professional

STATEWIDE POSTINGS BY CITY

Lightweighting-related postings were widespread across Kentucky Cities, with Louisville reporting the most (3,679 postings), followed by Lexington (1,457 postings) and Florence (680 postings).



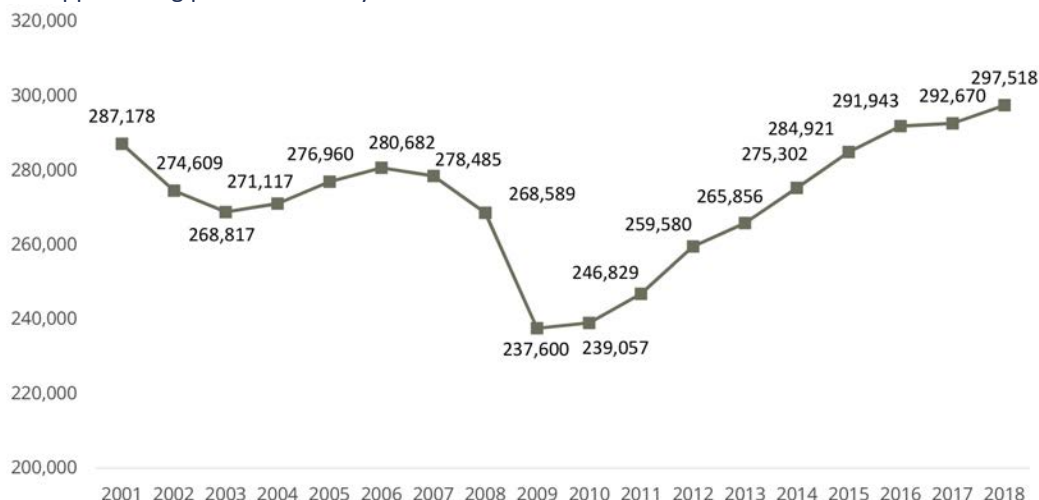
LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Median Hourly Earnings are already high for many lightweighting occupations in Kentucky, but affordable cities may provide further incentive: wages in the state on average go 11.1 percent further than in the nation as a whole. Median wages for high demand Industrial Engineers, for example, grow from \$36.67 hourly to \$40.74 once adjusted for cost of living.

LIGHTWEIGHTING-RELATED EMPLOYMENT OVER TIME

KENTUCKY, 2001 - 2018

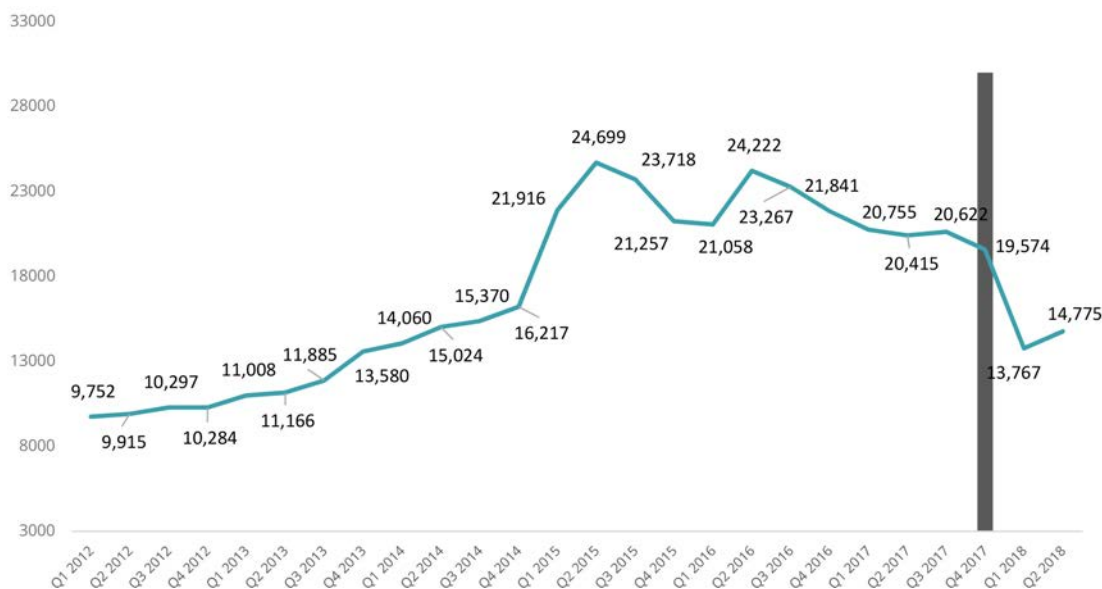
Employment in lightweighting-related occupations grew by about 4,800 employees between 2017 and 2018. Since the lowest point of the Great Recession in 2009, employment has grown steadily (recovering over 100,000 workers), and is approaching pre-recessionary levels.



LIGHTWEIGHTING-RELATED JOB POSTINGS OVER TIME

KENTUCKY, Q1 2012 - Q2 2018

Lightweighting-related job postings grew by 1,000 ads between Q1 2018 and Q2 2018, following a drop reported after Q4 2017. Since tracking began in Q1 2012, postings have grown by just over 5,000 ads, or 52 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/>.