

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS: ANALYZING DATA FROM AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES CLUSTER

This analysis of the *Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources* cluster in the Commonwealth highlights important information for each of its seven career pathways—*Agribusiness Systems*; *Animal Systems*; *Environmental Service Systems*; *Food Products & Processing Systems*; *Natural Resources Systems*; *Plant Systems*; and *Power, Structural, & Technical Systems*.

What trends do we currently see? What trends may we anticipate?

- Although employment is expected to decline slightly across the cluster as a whole, growth is anticipated in four of the seven pathways in this cluster over the next decade—*Animal Systems*; *Environmental Service Systems*; *Natural Resources Systems*; and *Power, Structural, & Technical Systems*.
- Of all pathways in this cluster, *Environmental Service Systems* has the greatest number of occupations projected to experience double-digit growth through 2024—Environmental Engineers (16%), Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators (14%), Environmental Engineering Technicians (13%), and Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors (10%).
- Two occupations in this career cluster—Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers; and Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse—will continue to account for more than 60% of this cluster’s total employment, providing nearly 1,400 job openings each year throughout the state.



EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level¹ of education and training in each pathway. Education data was determined by Trailblazers based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data.

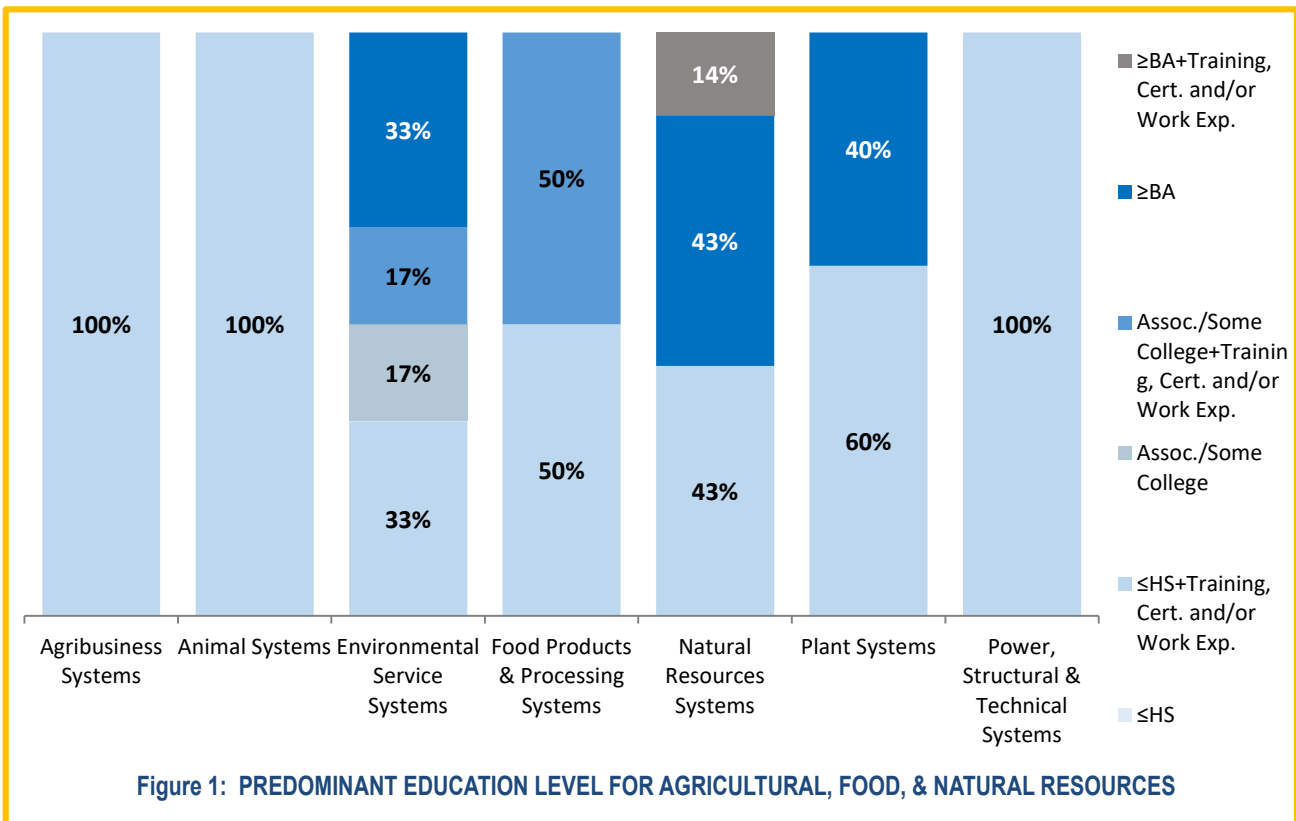


Figure 1: PREDOMINANT EDUCATION LEVEL FOR AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES

Footnote 1: Reflects predominant education by the number of occupations in each pathway, not the number of workers

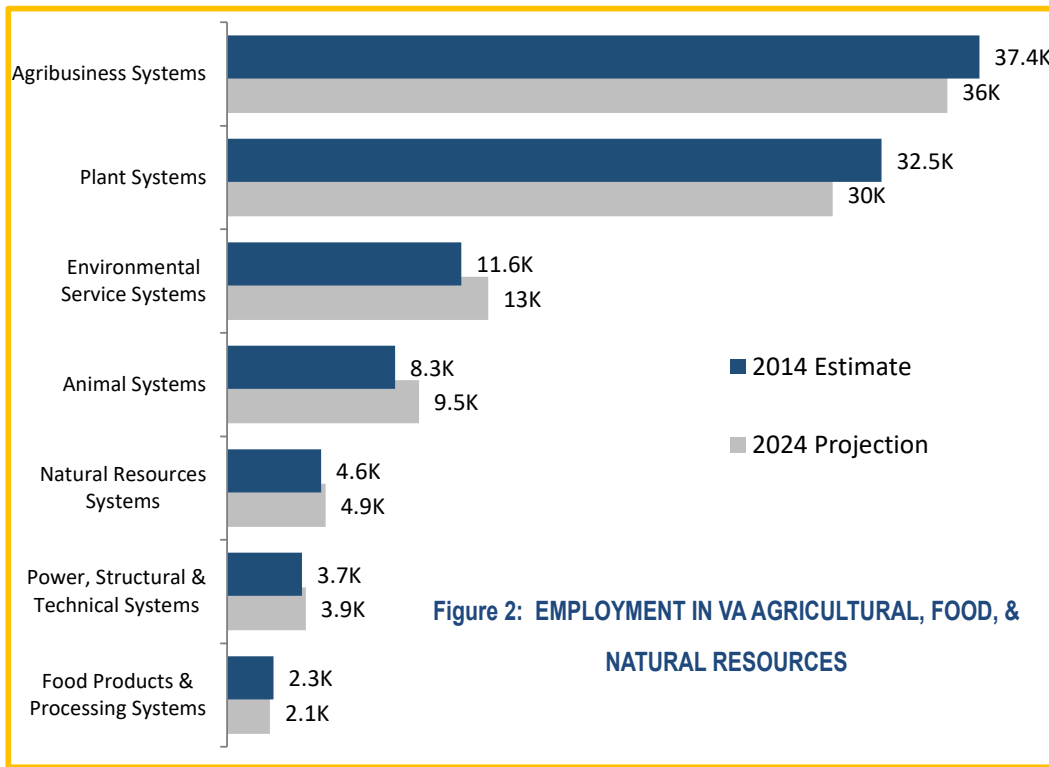


Figure 2: EMPLOYMENT IN VA AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES

EMPLOYMENT

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2014 employment for each pathway to projected 2024 employment levels.

Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission.

EARNINGS AND GROWTH

Figure 3 presents the size and median wages of the occupations in each pathway with the highest projected percentage of growth. Wage data are provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics program.

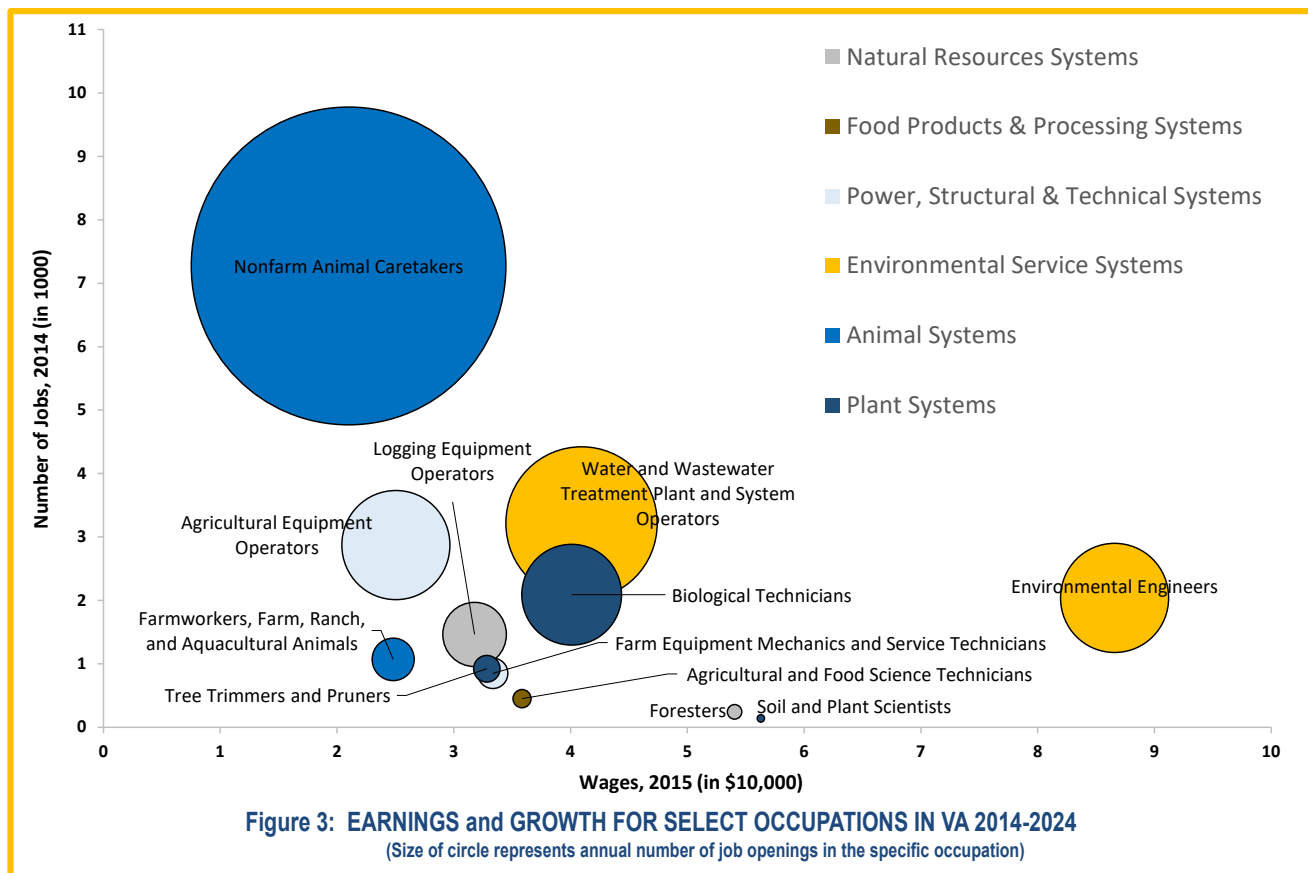


Figure 3: EARNINGS and GROWTH FOR SELECT OCCUPATIONS IN VA 2014-2024
(Size of circle represents annual number of job openings in the specific occupation)