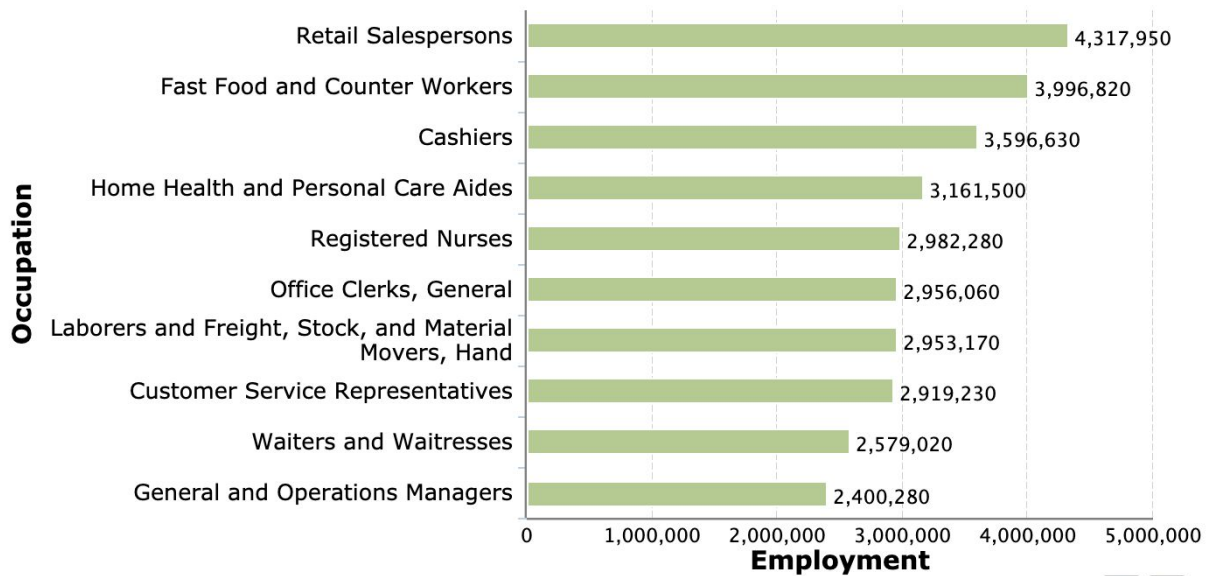


Largest occupations in the United States, May 2019



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Critical Analysis

1. What is the most common job in the United States?
2. Why do you think that is?
3. What is one consequence of that type of job being the most common?
4. Which of these types of jobs do most American children grow up dreaming of?
5. Is this legitimately good news?
6. The median wage of a retail salesperson is \$12.14 an hour, which translates to a full-time annual salary of \$25,250. How does that impact the American economy?
7. I have worked as a retail salesperson. It is an honorable job. How will automated checkouts and robots impact this work?
8. How different do you think this chart would have looked fifty years ago?
9. How does this chart affect you?
10. In an ideal world, what would the most common job in the United States be?
11. Why do we even have a [Labor Day](#) in the first place?

Learning Extension

You can see a [slideshow](#) from NPR's Planet Money of how the most common job in each state has changed, year by year, since 1978.

Action Extension

Today is Labor Day. Thank someone who labored for you today.