

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook

Occupational Outlook Handbook >

Home

The OOH can help you find career information on duties, education and training, pay, and outlook for hundreds of occupations.

OCCUPATION GROUPS

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

**Occupation
Group
Search**

SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY

2018 Median Pay Entry-Level Education On-the-job Training
 Number of New Jobs (Projected) Growth Rate (Projected)

**Search
Box**

**Occupation
Finder**

FEATURED OCCUPATION



Opticians

Opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. They also help customers decide which eyeglass frames or contact lenses to buy.

[view profile >](#)

**Featured
Occupation**

A-Z INDEX

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

**A-Z Index
Search**

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

Highest
Paying

Fastest
Growing
(Projected)

Most New
Jobs
(Projected)

**Browse
Occupations**

BROWSE RESOURCES

Frequently
Asked
Questions

Glossary

Teacher's
Guide

Career
Outlook

**Browse
Resources**

The *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)* is an online publication that has information on hundreds of occupations in the United States. The *OOH* is a rich resource for those seeking career guidance. Using the *OOH*, students can explore different aspects of occupations by clicking on the following tabs:

- What workers do on the job
- Work environment
- Education, training, and other qualifications needed to enter the occupation
- Pay
- Projected employment change and job prospects
- State and area data
- Similar occupations
- Contacts for more information

What's New in the OOH?

Career Videos

Career videos have been added to some occupational profiles on the Summary tab. The videos, produced by [CareerOneStop](#), provide a brief overview of the occupation, including typical duties and entry-level education needed.

Navigating the OOH Homepage

There are several ways to find career information about a detailed occupation:

1. **Occupation Group Search.** The *OOH* is broken up into clusters of similar occupations. To find an occupation, students may browse the occupational group of interest on the left-hand side of the homepage. Clicking on a group results in a landing page of similar occupations together with their respective job summaries, typical entry-level education, and median pay. Typical entry-level education and median pay can be quickly sorted by clicking the arrows at the top of each column.
2. **Occupation Finder.** The occupation finder (located towards the top of the homepage) makes it easy to search for occupations by typical entry-level education, on-the-job training requirements, projected number of new jobs, projected employment growth rate, median pay, or a combination of any of these five characteristics. For example, a student who wants to learn which occupations typically require a bachelor's degree and pay an annual salary of \$75,000 or more can use the drop-down menus to narrow down the occupations using those two criteria.

3. **Search Box.** Students may also search for occupations by entering a title into the “Search Handbook” box at the top right side of the homepage.
4. **A–Z Index Search.** Students may use the alphabetical index to look for an occupation. For example, someone looking for “Accountants” would click on “A” and then on “Accountants” in the A–Z index search. The student would then be directed to the occupational profile on accountants and auditors.
5. **Browse Occupations.** Clicking on these buttons takes students to three distinct pages: highest paying occupations, occupations projected to be the fastest growing, and occupations projected to have the most new jobs created.
6. **Featured Occupation.** With each visit to the *OOH* homepage, a different occupation will be featured that students can click on and explore.
7. **OOH Glossary.** The *OOH* Glossary includes terms frequently used in the occupational profiles and related pages, including general economic concepts, such as seasonal employment and the labor force; definitions of BLS resources, such as surveys and classification systems; and terms particular to the *OOH*, such as education and training categories.
8. **Question Mark (?).** Certain terms in the profiles have question marks next to them. Users can click on the question mark to read the definition of a term or about the section.

About the Information in Each Online Profile

Each occupational profile in the *OOH* is made up of nine separate “pages” or tabs: a summary page highlighting key characteristics of the occupation, and additional pages:

1. Summary Page

Quick-facts table; this feature summarizes key information about the occupation, including:

- Median pay
- Entry-level education
- Work experience in a related occupation
- On-the-job training

- Number of jobs in the base year
- Job outlook
- Employment change
- Summary information describes each occupation by basic characteristics (See items 2–9)

2. What They Do

- Definition of the occupation
- Typical duties
- Specialties within the occupation

3. Work Environment

- Number of jobs in the base year
- Work setting, including potential hazards and physical, emotional, or mental demands
- Employment by largest industries
- Work schedules, including information on hours worked and seasonality of work
- Injuries and illnesses (if relevant)

4. How to Become One

- Typical entry-level education requirements
- Important qualities that are helpful in performing the work
- Typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation (if relevant)
- Licenses, certifications, and registrations (if relevant)
- Work experience in a related occupation (if relevant)
- Other experience (if relevant)
- Advancement (if relevant)

5. Pay

- Median annual or hourly wages
 - Top 10 percent in wages earned
 - Bottom 10 percent in wages earned

- Wages earned in top-employing industries
- Chart showing median annual or hourly wages in the occupation in comparison with median annual or hourly wage for all occupations
- Work schedules
- Union membership (if relevant)

6. Job Outlook

- Projected change in level and percentage of employment, including a discussion of the following factors affecting occupational employment change:
 - Industry growth or decline
 - Technological change
 - Demand for a product or service
 - Demographic change
 - Change in business patterns
- Chart showing projected rate of employment growth in the occupation in comparison with the projected rate of growth for all occupations
- Job prospects
 - Expected level of competition (if applicable): number of applicants versus number of positions available
 - Factors that may improve job prospects
- Table showing employment projections data for the occupations covered in a profile, with a link to a spreadsheet that details employment by industry for those occupations

7. State and Area Data

- Links to sources for employment, wages, and projections data by state and area, including:
 - [Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\)](#) program annual employment and wage estimates for more than 800 occupations
 - [Projections Central](#) contains state employment projections developed by Labor Market Information (LMI) or by individual state Employment Projections offices
 - [CareerOneStop](#) includes occupational profiles with data by state and metro area

8. Similar Occupations

- List of similar occupations, with summaries of their job duties, typical education level needed to enter the occupation, and median pay

- Similar occupations are selected on the basis of similar work performed and, in some cases, on the basis of the skills, education, and/or training needed to perform the work at a competent level.

9. More Info

- List of outside associations, organizations, and government agencies that provide career information for specific occupations. Sources are listed as a service to readers, but are not endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Links to [O*NET](#), which provides comprehensive information on key characteristics of workers and occupations.