

Guide to the table

The table that follows is divided into sections that correspond to the 10 groups in the Standard Occupational Classification System. Use the index beginning on page 46 to find a specific occupation.

Employment data

The table provides a snapshot of how employment is expected to change in 270 occupations. For each occupation, it shows estimated employment in 2006, the projected numeric change in employment (how many jobs are expected to be gained or lost) over the 2006–16 decade, and the projected percent change in employment (the rate of job growth or loss). Then, a key phrase describes the rate of job growth as compared with other occupations (see box) and is followed by a summary of job prospects and factors affecting employment.

The employment data in the table come from the BLS National Employment Matrix, except where noted. The symbol ★ marks the occupations that are projected to grow much faster than average or to gain at least 200,000 new jobs.

Occupational groups

Occupations are grouped according to the similarity of the tasks that workers perform. The table lists employment and outlook summaries for occupations in the following 10 groups:

Management, business, and financial.

Workers in these occupations establish plans and policies, manage money, and direct business activities.

Professional and related. Workers in this group perform a variety of skilled functions, such as diagnosing and treating illness, teaching, or designing.

Service. This group includes workers who assist the public in a number of ways, from providing grounds maintenance to providing community safety.

Sales and related. Workers in this group sell goods and services.

Office and administrative support. In these occupations, workers prepare and

organize documents, provide information to the public, gather and deliver goods, and operate office software and equipment.

Farming, fishing, and forestry. Workers in this group tend and harvest renewable resources and manage forests and public parks.

Construction trades and related. Workers in these occupations build and repair homes, roads, and office buildings and other structures.

Installation, maintenance, and repair. These workers install and repair all types of goods and equipment.

Production. By operating machines and other equipment, workers in this group assemble goods or distribute energy.

Transportation and material moving. Workers in these occupations move people and materials.

The table also includes a statement about opportunities in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Key phrases in the “Brief”

For descriptions about changing employment between 2006 and 2016:

<i>If the description reads...</i>	<i>Employment is projected to...</i>
Much faster than average	Increase 21 percent or more
Faster than average	Increase 14 to 20 percent
About average	Increase 7 to 13 percent
Slower than average	Increase 3 to 6 percent
Little or no change	Increase or decrease 2 percent
Moderate decline	Decrease 3 to 9 percent
Rapid decline	Decrease 10 percent or more

For descriptions about opportunities:

If an occupation is projected to have “very good” or “excellent” opportunities, then many openings are expected relative to the number of jobseekers. The reference does not address the quality of job openings or of the occupation’s earnings.