

## Occupation Search

### Sources of data and information:

The occupation information in UtahFutures comes from several sources. National wage, employment, and job outlook data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a division of the U.S. Department of Labor. The wage information is updated annually. Employment and outlook data are updated biennially; the most current data is for the 2010-2020 period.

The primary source for much of the remaining data is O\*NET. This program is also part of the U.S. Department of Labor. Currently CIS uses O\*NET data version 18.0. CIS simplifies much of the language of the original O\*NET content to make it more accessible for our users. Additional content for the occupation descriptions is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) and from publications created by professional organizations.

### Utah Statewide Median Wage

The “Annual Wage” and “Hourly Wage” are the Utah Statewide median wage for each occupation. This represents the median wage of people in Utah working in this occupation. It is the wage of the absolute middle worker in the occupation. In other words, if there were 100 workers in the occupation and we ranked the wages from low to high, the median would be the wage of the 50th worker. Thus, one-half of the workers earned wages below the median and one-half of the workers earned wages above the median.

### A note about the minimum wage:

The minimum wage in Utah is \$7.25 per hour. For some occupations the reported wages are less than this amount. This is because the wage information was collected before the minimum wage was raised to its current rate.

### Definitions of the 5 Star rating scale:

Rankings of occupations are relative so a "five-star" occupation in an on-the-job training group will pay less than a "five-star" occupation requiring a college education.

- **Five-star** occupations have the strongest employment outlook and high wages.
- **Four-star** occupations have a good employment outlook and relatively high wages.
- **Three-star** occupations have a moderate to strong employment outlook and low to moderate wages.
- **Two-star** occupations have a limited employment outlook and a relatively high wage.
- **One-Star** occupations have a strong employment outlook and a relatively low wage.
- **Zero-Star** occupations have a limited employment outlook and low wages.
- Not Rated occupations are excluded because of low employment levels (fewer than 100 employed in the base year) or because they represent "residual" occupations – a grouping of similar/nonspecific occupations.

The "star" rating is based on employment outlook and wages.

- Employment outlook is based 90 percent on the projected number of total Utah job openings between 2010 and 2020 and 10 percent on how fast the occupation is expected to grow over that time period.
- Median annual wages.
- Rankings are relative within training levels.
- There may be adjustments to the ratings based on economist's knowledge of the labor market.

### **General Guidance for 5 Star Rating Scale**

Ratings are meant to provide general guidance for those seeking high-demand/high-wage positions and are not the final word on the desirability of a particular occupation.

The star ratings are based on rankings within the following four training-levels:

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Associate degree or after-high school applied technology training
- Experience in the occupation or long term on-the-job training (more than 12 months combined with classroom on-the-job training)
- Moderate/short term on-the-job training (less than 12 months combined with potentially some classroom/on-the-job training)