

## SNAPSHOT OF 2017 OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

About thirty percent of 2017 workers had jobs that required between 4 hours to 1 month of preparation time to successfully perform a job, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Occupations with this short preparation time requirement include 89.0 percent of fast food cooks and 77.0 percent of amusement and recreation attendants. Preparation time refers to the minimum formal education, training, and work experience required for a typical worker to successfully perform a job.



This release provides data from the 2017 Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS). ORS provides job-related information about the physical demands, environmental conditions, education and training, and mental requirements for jobs within the U.S. economy.

### Preparation time

Occupations with a high percentage of jobs that required preparation time of over 10 years include architectural and engineering managers (57.1 percent) and chief executives (56.9 percent).

Occupations with a high percentage of jobs that required 4 to 10 years of preparation time are nurse practitioners (85.8 percent), lawyers (76.2 percent), and electricians (49.6 percent), while those occupations that typically required 2 to 4 years are elementary school teachers (59.9 percent), industrial machinery mechanics (48.0 percent), and food service managers (39.3 percent).

Some occupations required minimum education levels that include more advanced formal degrees. For example, 87.8 percent of lawyers typically required a professional degree, 76.0 percent of nurse practitioners required a master's degree, and 96.2 percent of elementary school teachers required a bachelor's degree. This contributes to longer preparation time for these occupations.

Prior work experience, and not necessarily high levels of formal education, may also result in greater preparation time for an occupation. For example, 81.9 per-

cent of industrial machinery mechanics required prior work experience, and 59.0 percent required a high school diploma. The average time of prior work experience for industrial machinery mechanics, when required, is about 2.5 years (998 days). Similarly, 65.8 percent of electricians require an average prior work experience of about 3.5 years (1,247 days). For architectural and engineering managers and chief executives, typically both a bachelor's degree (78.9 percent and 61.3 percent, respectively) and about 8.5 years of prior work experience were required (3,112 days and 3,183 days, respectively).

### Strength and selected physical demands

Physical demands refer to the effort generally required to successfully perform work-related tasks.

The strength required for a job is based on how much weight a worker is required to lift or carry, how often they lift this weight, and the amount they stand or walk in some special cases. Strength is measured in five levels, from sedentary to very heavy.

Only 3.4 percent of workers had jobs classified as a very heavy strength level. About half (57.3 percent) of emergency medical technicians and paramedics had jobs considered a very heavy strength level, along with 25.4 percent of lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers, and 22.5 percent of laborers, along with freight, stock, and material movers (hand). These occupations required lifting or carrying an average maximum weight of between 60 to 120 pounds.

Occupations with a high percentage of workers in jobs considered sedentary include telemarketers (91.6 percent) and computer programmers (86.7 percent). These two occupations required workers to spend about 90 percent of the workday sitting. Although most advertising sales agents are sedentary, they only spend about 80 percent of their workday sitting.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Press Release  
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