

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS NOTES

Change (Numeric)

The Change column is the difference in the number of jobs between the Base and Projection columns. A positive number means employment is growing due to the creation of new jobs. A negative number indicates employment is declining in the occupation.

Numeric change is important to consider along with percent change, because both types of change are affected by the size of employment in an occupation. Occupations with a large base of numeric employment may be creating large numbers of new jobs yet have small percent changes. Occupations with a small base of numeric employment may be creating a small number of new jobs yet have large percent changes.

Percent Change (Employment)

The Percent Change column indicates how fast employment is expected to increase or decrease during the projection period. The larger the positive percent change, the faster employment is growing. A large positive percent change is generally an indicator of favorable employment prospects. Likewise, the larger the negative percent change, the faster employment is declining, and the more unfavorable the employment prospects.

Average Annual Openings

Average Annual Openings are the sum of average annual new jobs and replacements. Average annual new jobs are the numeric change in employment over the projection period divided by the number of years in the projection period. Replacements are an estimate of the number of jobs that will arise from the need to replace workers who will change occupations, retire, or otherwise permanently leave the occupation. Occupations with declining employment will have average annual openings equal to replacement needs. Average Annual Openings are presented because job openings arise from both newly created jobs and the need to replace workers who permanently leave their jobs.

Disclaimer

The accuracy of projections for individual occupations is subject, of course, to error because of the many unknown factors that will affect the economy over the projection period. While occupational employment projections and related job outlook information can provide valuable inputs to the career decision-making process, they should not be the sole basis for a choice of career.