



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook

Go

Occupational Outlook Handbook > Life, Physical, and Social Science >

Economists

[EN ESPAÑOL](#) [PRINTER-FRIENDLY](#) [Summary](#) | [What They Do](#) | [Work Environment](#) | [How to Become One](#) | [Pay](#) | [Job Outlook](#) | [State & Area Data](#) | [Similar Occupations](#) | [More Info](#)

What Economists Do

[About this section](#)

Economists study the production and distribution of resources, goods, and services by collecting and analyzing data, researching trends, and evaluating economic issues.

Duties

Economists typically do the following:

- Research economic issues
- Conduct surveys and collect data
- Analyze data using mathematical models, statistical techniques, and software
- Present research results in reports, tables, and charts
- Interpret and forecast market trends
- Advise businesses, governments, and individuals on economic topics
- Recommend solutions to economic problems
- Write articles for academic journals and other media



Economists prepare reports, tables, and charts.

Economists apply both qualitative and quantitative economic analysis to topics within a variety of fields, such as education, health, development, and the environment. Some economists study the cost of products, healthcare, or energy, while others examine employment levels, business cycles, exchange rates, taxes, inflation, or interest rates.

Economists often study historical trends and use them to make forecasts. They research and analyze data using a variety of software programs. They sometimes present their research to various audiences.

Many economists work in federal, state, and local government. Federal government economists collect and analyze data about the U.S. economy, including employment, prices, productivity, and wages, among other types of data. They also project spending needs and inform policymakers on the economic impact of laws and regulations.

Economists working for corporations help managers and decisionmakers understand how the economy will affect their business. Specifically, economists may analyze issues such as consumer demand and sales to help a company maximize its profits.

Economists also work for international organizations, research firms, and think tanks, where they study and analyze a variety of economic issues. Their analyses and forecasts are frequently published in newspapers and journals.

Many PhD economists become [postsecondary teachers](#).

[<- Summary](#)[Work Environment ->](#)

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Economists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/economists.htm> (visited November 28, 2017).

Last Modified Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017

RECOMMEND THIS PAGE USING: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

TOOLS

Areas at a Glance
Industries at a Glance
Economic Releases
Databases & Tables
Maps

CALCULATORS

Inflation
Injury And Illness

HELP

Help & Tutorials
FAQs
Glossary
About BLS
Contact Us

INFO

What's New
Careers @ BLS
Find It! DOL
Join our Mailing Lists
Linking & Copyright Info

RESOURCES

Inspector General (OIG)
Budget and Performance
No Fear Act
USA.gov
Benefits.gov
Disability.gov

[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Customer Survey](#) | [Important Web Site Notices](#)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics | Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, PSB Suite 2135, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001
www.bls.gov/oooh | Telephone: 1-202-691-5700 | [Contact OOH](#)