

CRITICAL OCCUPATIONS TOP 100 LIST

Background

The Critical Occupations Top 100 List identifies in-demand occupations throughout Oklahoma. Occupations included on the list employ Oklahomans in Key Industry Sectors, or ecosystems, as determined by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC). Additionally, the occupations included on the list have positive job growth, show an increased number of job openings, pay minimum hourly earnings, and include associated educational and training requirements.

Methodology

The Critical Occupations Top 100 List is generated from Lightcast, formerly known as EMSI, using criteria determined by the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (OOWD). The methodology is applied to the generated list ultimately providing users with the top 100 occupations.

Key Industry Sectors

Also known as ecosystems, Oklahoma's Key Industry Sectors include:

- Aerospace & Defense
- Agribusiness & Biosciences
- Energy
- Information & Financial Services
- Transportation & Logistics

The following ecosystems were also used to develop the list:

- Automotive
- Film & Music
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing

<https://www.okcommerce.gov/doing-business/business-relocation-expansion/industry-sectors/>

Statistical Relevance

Using the most recent year of complete data available, occupations that make up less than 0.05% of the total jobs for all occupations in Oklahoma are removed.

Most Recent Year of Complete Data: 2021

Median Hourly Earnings

Using the Living Wage calculator developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and available online, occupations with Median Hourly Earnings less than the calculated Living Wage for one (1) adult and zero (0) children are removed. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/40>

Current Living Wage for 1 Adult and 0 Children: \$15.75

Future Growth

Occupations projected to decline in the future (negative growth) are removed. For the purpose of the Critical Occupations Top 100 List Future Growth is calculated using the most recent year of complete data available and the last year of data in the generated dataset.

Most Recent Year of Complete Data: 2021
Last Year in the Dataset: 2030

Average Annual Growth Rate

The annual growth rate for the remaining occupations is calculated year-over-year using the first year of data in the generated dataset and the last year of data in the generated dataset. The change for each year in the dataset is averaged and occupations with an average less than one (1) are removed.

First Year in the Dataset: 2010
Last Year in the Dataset: 2030

Historical Growth

Occupations calculated to show negative historical growth are removed. For the purpose of the Critical Occupations Top 100 List Historical Growth is calculated using the most recent year of complete data available and the first year of data in the generated dataset.

Most Recent Year of Complete Data: 2021
First Year in the Dataset: 2010

Average Annual Openings

Finally, to ensure the occupations included on the list provide ample opportunity for employment throughout Oklahoma, the remaining occupations are sorted from high to low using the number of Average Annual Openings and occupations that fall below one (1) through (100) are removed.

Updated: October 2022