

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

[Management >](#)

Top Executives

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

Summary

Quick Facts: Top Executives

2015 Median Pay	\$102,690 per year \$49.37 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	5 years or more
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	2,467,500
Job Outlook, 2014-24	6% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2014-24	147,000



Top executives are the highest level of management at an organization and often work closely with other executives and managers.

[What Top Executives Do](#)

Top executives devise strategies and policies to ensure that an organization meets its goals. They plan, direct, and coordinate operational activities of companies and organizations.

[Work Environment](#)

Top executives work in nearly every industry. They work for large and small businesses, ranging from companies in which they are the only employee to firms with thousands of employees. Top executives often work many hours, including evenings and weekends. In 2014, about half worked more than 40 hours per week. Travel is common, particularly for chief executives.

[How to Become a Top Executive](#)

Although education and training requirements vary widely by position and industry, many top executives have at least a bachelor's degree and a considerable amount of work experience.

[Pay](#)

The median annual wage for top executives was \$102,690 in May 2015.

[Job Outlook](#)

Employment of top executives is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth will vary by industry and is largely dependent on the rate of industry growth. Top executives are expected to face very strong competition for jobs.

[State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for top executives.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of top executives with similar occupations.

[More Information, Including Links to O*NET](#)

Learn more about top executives by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[What They Do ->](#)

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Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Top Executives, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/top-executives.htm> (visited June 21, 2016).

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