



O*NET Resource Center

About O*NET

The O*NET program is the nation's primary source of occupational information. Central to the project is the O*NET database, containing information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. Information from this database forms the heart of O*NET OnLine, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations. The database also provides the basis for our Career Exploration Tools, a set of valuable assessment instruments for workers and students looking to find or change careers.

The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is being developed under the sponsorship of the **US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA)** through a grant to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. [Learn more about the O*NET project partners.](#)

[About O*NET Data](#)[O*NET Applications](#)[Starting Points](#)

Content Model

Anatomy of an occupation

Every occupation requires a different mix of knowledge, skills, and abilities, and is performed using a variety of activities and tasks. These distinguishing characteristics of an occupation are described by the [O*NET Content Model](#), which defines the key features of an occupation as a standardized, measurable set of variables called "descriptors". This hierarchical model starts with six domains, describing the day-to-day aspects of the job and the qualifications and interests of the typical worker. The model expands to 277 descriptors collected by the O*NET program, with more collected by other federal agencies such as the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Explore the [interactive Content Model](#) to see the range of occupational descriptors in the O*NET database.

O*NET-SOC Taxonomy

A spectrum of occupations

While the Content Model defines the information structure for a single occupation, the [O*NET-SOC taxonomy](#) defines the set of occupations across the world of work. Based on the [Standard Occupational Classification](#), the O*NET-SOC taxonomy currently includes [974 occupations](#) which currently have, or are scheduled to have, data collected from job

incumbents or occupation experts. To keep up with the changing occupational landscape, the taxonomy is periodically revised; the last revision was in 2010.

Data Collection

Real-world information

The O*NET-SOC taxonomy defines the occupations, and the Content Model outlines which information is collected; the [Data Collection program](#) brings these frameworks to life with

For more about the data collection, view [sample questionnaires](#) based on the O*NET surveys, or visit [RTI's O*NET site](#)  for information from the survey conductors.

results from the working public. The O*NET database was initially populated by data collected from occupation analysts; this information is updated by ongoing surveys of each occupation's worker population and occupation experts. This

data is incorporated into new versions of the database on an [annual schedule](#), to provide up-to-date information on occupations as they evolve over time. The latest database releases are available from the [Developer's Corner](#).