



**O\*NET OnLine**

[Updated 2016](#)

## Summary Report for: 51-6011.00 - Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers

Operate or tend washing or dry-cleaning machines to wash or dry-clean industrial or household articles, such as cloth garments, suede, leather, furs, blankets, draperies, linens, rugs, and carpets. Includes spotters and dyers of these articles.

**Sample of reported job titles:** Dry Cleaner, Laundry Aide, Laundry Assistant, Laundry Attendant, Laundry Housekeeper, Laundry Technician, Laundry Worker, Machine Operator, Personal Clothing Laundry Aide, Spotter

View report:

**Summary**

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### Tasks

All 31 displayed

- Load articles into washers or dry-cleaning machines, or direct other workers to perform loading.
- Start washers, dry cleaners, driers, or extractors, and turn valves or levers to regulate machine processes and the volume of soap, detergent, water, bleach, starch, and other additives.
- Operate extractors and driers, or direct their operation.
- Remove items from washers or dry-cleaning machines, or direct other workers to do so.
- Sort and count articles removed from dryers, and fold, wrap, or hang them.
- Clean machine filters, and lubricate equipment.
- Examine and sort into lots articles to be cleaned, according to color, fabric, dirt content, and cleaning technique required.
- Receive and mark articles for laundry or dry cleaning with identifying code numbers or names, using hand or machine markers.
- Apply bleaching powders to spots and spray them with steam to remove stains from fabrics that do not respond to other cleaning solvents.
- Determine spotting procedures and proper solvents, based on fabric and stain types.
- Spray steam, water, or air over spots to flush out chemicals, dry material, raise naps, or brighten colors.

- ⊕ Pre-soak, sterilize, scrub, spot-clean, and dry contaminated or stained articles, using neutralizer solutions and portable machines.
- ⊕ Mix bleaching agents with hot water in vats, and soak material until it is bleached.
- ⊕ Apply chemicals to neutralize the effects of solvents.
- ⊕ Mix and add detergents, dyes, bleaches, starches, and other solutions and chemicals to clean, color, dry, or stiffen articles.
- ⊕ Sprinkle chemical solvents over stains, and pat areas with brushes or sponges to remove stains.
- ⊕ Match sample colors, applying knowledge of bleaching agent and dye properties, and types, construction, conditions, and colors of articles.
- ⊕ Inspect soiled articles to determine sources of stains, to locate color imperfections, and to identify items requiring special treatment.
- ⊕ Operate dry-cleaning machines to clean soiled articles.
- ⊕ Operate machines that comb, dry and polish furs, clean, sterilize and fluff feathers and blankets, or roll and package towels.
- ⊕ Iron or press articles, fabrics, and furs, using hand irons or pressing machines.
- ⊕ Hang curtains, drapes, blankets, pants, and other garments on stretch frames to dry.
- ⊕ Clean fabrics, using vacuums or air hoses.
- ⊕ Test fabrics in inconspicuous places to determine whether solvents will damage dyes or fabrics.
- ⊕ Rinse articles in water and acetic acid solutions to remove excess dye and to fix colors.
- ⊕ Identify articles' fabrics and original dyes by sight and touch, or by testing samples with fire or chemical reagents.
- ⊕ Start pumps to operate distilling systems that drain and reclaim dry cleaning solvents.
- ⊕ Immerse articles in bleaching baths to strip colors.
- ⊕ Spread soiled articles on work tables, and position stained portions over vacuum heads or on marble slabs.
- ⊕ Mend and sew articles, using hand stitching, adhesive patches, or sewing machines.
- ⊕ Dye articles to change or restore their colors, using knowledge of textile compositions and the properties and effects of bleaches and dyes.

[Find occupations related to multiple tasks](#)

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## Tools & Technology

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**Tools** used in this occupation:

- ⊕ **Dry cleaning machines** — Dry-cleaning machines; Dry-to-dry closed loop machines; Tunnel finishers

- ⊕ **Folding machines** — Automatic folding machines; Semi-automatic folding machines
- ⊕ **Identification markers** — Hand markers; Machine markers
- ⊕ **Ironing machines or presses** — Clothing presses
- ⊕ **Laundry type washing machines** — Continuous tunnel washers; Industrial washing machines

**Technology** used in this occupation:

- ⊕ **Electronic mail software** — Email software
- ⊕ **Office suite software** — Microsoft Office software
- ⊕ **Operating system software** — Microsoft Windows
- ⊕ **Point of sale POS software** — Sales processing software
- ⊕ **Spreadsheet software** — Microsoft Excel

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## Knowledge

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- ⊕ **Customer and Personal Service** — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- ⊕ **Production and Processing** — Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

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## Skills

+ - All 2 displayed

- ⊕ **Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- ⊕ **Monitoring** — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

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## Abilities

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- ⊕ **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
- ⊕

**Control Precision** — The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.

- ⊕ **Manual Dexterity** — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- ⊕ **Near Vision** — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- ⊕ **Oral Comprehension** — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

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## Work Activities

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- ⊕ **Handling and Moving Objects** — Using hands and arms in handling, installing, positioning, and moving materials, and manipulating things.
- ⊕ **Controlling Machines and Processes** — Using either control mechanisms or direct physical activity to operate machines or processes (not including computers or vehicles).
- ⊕ **Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work** — Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.
- ⊕ **Performing General Physical Activities** — Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.
- ⊕ **Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates** — Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.

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## Detailed Work Activities

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- ⊕ Remove products or workpieces from production equipment.
- ⊕ Sew clothing or other articles.
- ⊕ Mount materials or workpieces onto production equipment.
- ⊕ Direct operational or production activities.
- ⊕ Mix substances to create chemical solutions.

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## Work Context

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- ⊕ **Spend Time Standing** — 80% responded “Continually or almost continually.”

- ⊕ **Responsible for Others' Health and Safety** — 54% responded “Very high responsibility.”
- ⊕ **Pace Determined by Speed of Equipment** — 55% responded “Extremely important.”
- ⊕ **Spend Time Making Repetitive Motions** — 64% responded “Continually or almost continually.”
- ⊕ **Wear Common Protective or Safety Equipment such as Safety Shoes, Glasses, Gloves, Hearing Protection, Hard Hats, or Life Jackets** — 67% responded “Every day.”

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## Job Zone

**Title** Job Zone One: Little or No Preparation Needed

**Education** Some of these occupations may require a high school diploma or GED certificate.

**Related Experience** Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. For example, a person can become a waiter or waitress even if he/she has never worked before.

**Job Training** Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training. Usually, an experienced worker could show you how to do the job.

**Job Zone Examples** These occupations involve following instructions and helping others. Examples include taxi drivers, amusement and recreation attendants, counter and rental clerks, nonfarm animal caretakers, continuous mining machine operators, and waiters/waitresses.

**SVP Range** (Below 4.0)

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## Education

Percentage of Respondents	Education Level Required
65	Less than high school diploma
34	High school diploma or equivalent ?
1	Post-secondary certificate ?

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## Credentials



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## Interests

+ - All 2 displayed

Interest code: **RC**

- ⊕ **Realistic** — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.
- ⊕ **Conventional** — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.

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## Work Styles

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- ⊕ **Independence** — Job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.
- ⊕ **Attention to Detail** — Job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.
- ⊕ **Integrity** — Job requires being honest and ethical.
- ⊕ **Dependability** — Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
- ⊕ **Cooperation** — Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.

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## Work Values

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- ⊕ **Relationships** — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment. Corresponding needs are Co-workers, Moral Values and Social Service.
- ⊕ **Support** — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees. Corresponding needs are Company Policies, Supervision: Human Relations and Supervision: Technical.
- ⊕

**Independence** — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions. Corresponding needs are Creativity, Responsibility and Autonomy.

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## Related Occupations

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- 35-2014.00 [Cooks, Restaurant](#)  **Bright Outlook**
- 43-5053.00 [Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators](#)
- 51-5113.00 [Print Binding and Finishing Workers](#)
- 51-6041.00 [Shoe and Leather Workers and Repairers](#)
- 51-9192.00 [Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders](#)

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## Wages & Employment Trends

**Median wages (2014)** \$9.77 hourly, \$20,320 annual

**State wages**



**Employment (2014)** 208,000 employees

**Projected growth (2014-2024)**  Slower than average (2% to 4%)

**Projected job openings (2014-2024)** 33,600

**State trends**



**Top industries (2014)** [Other Services \(Except Public Administration\)](#)  
[Health Care and Social Assistance](#)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics [2014 wage data](#)  and [2014-2024 employment projections](#) . "Projected growth" represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period (2014-2024). "Projected job openings" represent openings due to growth and replacement.

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## Job Openings on the Web



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