

# Utah's Occupational Star Ratings

***The methodology of applying the star ratings has changed substantially since the last projection cycle. In addition, the definitions of individual star ratings have been adjusted. The current star ratings will not be comparable with older star ratings!***

## Employment Outlook and Wages

The "star" rating is based on employment outlook and wages.

- Employment outlook is based 90 percent on the projected number of total Utah job openings between 2008 and 2018 and 10 percent on how fast the occupation is expected to grow over that time period.
- Median annual wages.
- Rankings are relative within training groups.
- There may be adjustments to the ratings based on economist's knowledge of the labor market.

## General Guidance

*Ratings are meant to provide **general guidance** for those seeking high-demand/high-wage positions and are not the final word on the desirability of a particular occupation. Star ratings should not be used to exclude occupations for training purposes because of many factors—the nature of survey data collection, the length of the projections period, the fact that the future is unknown, the variability of wages within a given occupation, and the relative nature of the ratings process itself.*

## Within Training Levels

For statewide and metro projections, the star ratings are based on rankings **within** the four following training-level groups.

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher
- Associate Degree or After-High School Applied Technology Training
- Experience in the occupation or Long Term On-the-Job Training (more than 12 months combined with classroom on-the-job training)
- Moderate/Short Term On-the-Job Training (less than 12 months combined with potentially some classroom/on-the-job training)

For Cache County, Washington County, and nonmetro projections, the star ratings are based on rankings within the two following training-level groups.

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Associate Degree or After-High School Applied Technology Training
- Experience in the occupation, Long Term On-the-Job Training (more than 12 months combined with classroom on-the-job training), Moderate Term On-the-Job Training (one month to one year) or Short-Term On-the-Job Training (less than one month).

***Because rankings are relative, a "five-star" occupation in an on-the-job training group will pay less than a "five-star" occupation requiring a college education.***

- ***Five-star*** occupations have the strongest employment outlook and high wages.
- ***Four-star*** occupations have a good employment outlook and relatively high wages.
- ***Three-star*** occupations have a moderate to strong employment outlook and low to moderate wages.
- ***Two-star*** occupations have a relatively high wage but a limited employment.
- ***One-Star*** occupations have a low relatively low wage and strong employment outlook.
- ***Zero-Star*** occupations have a limited employment outlook and low wages.
- ***Not Rated*** occupations are excluded because of low employment levels (fewer than 100 employed in the base year) or because they represent "residual" occupations—a grouping of similar/nonspecific occupations.