

Utah's Occupational Star Ratings

The methodology of applying the star ratings has changed substantially since the last projection cycle. The current star ratings will not be comparable with older star ratings!

Employment Outlook and Wages

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

- Only occupations with employment of at least 100 in the base year are ranked. Residual occupational groups, which combine similar small occupations, are also not ranked.
- Employment outlook is based 90 percent on the projected number of total Utah job openings between 2012 and 2022 and 10 percent on how fast the occupation is expected to grow over that time period.
- The most recent surveyed median annual wages or contract wages (public education jobs) are used in the wage computation.
- There may be adjustments to the ratings based on an economist's personal 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.

The Primary Change in Rating Methodology

Previously, the star ratings are based on rankings **within** training-level groups. The current rankings make no educational/training group distinctions.

What the Rankings Represent

Ranked occupations are rated from zero to five stars.

- Five-star—strongest employment outlook and high wages.
- Four-star—good employment outlook and relatively high wages.
- Three-star—moderate to strong employment outlook and low to moderate wages.
- Two-star—relatively high wage but a limited employment outlook.
- One-Star—relatively low wage and strong employment outlook.
- Zero-Stars—limited employment outlook and low wages.