



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Police and Detectives

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Summary



[Pay](#)

The median annual wage for police and detectives was \$77,270 in May 2024.

[Job Outlook](#)

Overall employment of police and detectives is projected to grow 4 percent from 2023 to 2033, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

About 63,000 openings for police and detectives are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

[State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for police and detectives.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of police and detectives with similar occupations.

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

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

[What They Do ->](#)

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Police and Detectives, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/police-and-detectives.htm> (visited May 24, 2025).

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