

# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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## Drafters

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## Summary

### Quick Facts: Drafters

<b>2017 Median Pay</b>	\$54,170 per year \$26.04 per hour
<b>Typical Entry-Level Education</b>	Associate's degree
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b>	None
<b>On-the-job Training</b>	None
<b>Number of Jobs, 2016</b>	207,700
<b>Job Outlook, 2016-26</b>	7% (As fast as average)
<b>Employment Change, 2016-26</b>	14,600

### [What Drafters Do](#)

Drafters use software to convert the designs of engineers and architects into technical drawings. Most workers specialize in architectural, civil, electrical, or mechanical drafting and use technical drawings to help design everything from microchips to skyscrapers.

### [Work Environment](#)

Although drafters spend much of their time working on computers in an office, some may visit jobsites in order to collaborate with architects and engineers. Most



Drafters take designs from engineers and architects and convert them into plans needed for construction.

Although drafters spend much of their time working on computers in an office, some may visit job sites in order to collaborate with architects and engineers. Most drafters work full time.

### [How to Become a Drafter](#)

Drafters typically need specialized training, which can be accomplished through a technical program that leads to a certificate or an associate's degree in drafting.

### [Pay](#)

The median annual wage for drafters was \$54,170 in May 2017.

### [Job Outlook](#)

Employment of drafters is projected to grow 7 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Increased construction activity is projected to drive demand for drafters, but this is expected to be tempered as engineers and architects increasingly perform some tasks previously done by drafters.

### [State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for drafters.

### [Similar Occupations](#)

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

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

Learn more about drafters 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*, Drafters, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/drafters.htm> (visited June 16, 2018).

**Last Modified Date:** Friday, April 13, 2018

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