

Job Market Research

Search for the profession you want to enter using the Department of Labor's [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#). Use the Handbook to characterize the current job market in your chosen profession with some quick research (focus on your specific field, i.e. "mechanical engineering job market," etc.). If you need a few questions to get started, here are some things you might consider:

- How does this year's market compare to previous years? Is the total number of jobs growing or shrinking?
- Are the sorts of companies you would be interested in working for actively recruiting entry-level (or whatever level you are at) positions?
- Which skills and qualifications are particularly in demand in this field right now?
- Do your prospects improve if you are willing to relocate to another state or country.
- Are there different areas of specialization in your field, and which of those areas gives you the best shot at a job or a higher income?

These questions are simply examples. You may have other questions about your job market that you can use this assignment to answer. The most important thing is to get a sense of how competitive your field is and what you will need to consider when applying to jobs.