

Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

Program Review

Networking and Cybersecurity

2025

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Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

Networking and Cybersecurity

Occupational Outlook

Locally, the opportunities look very good for the three job categories that EASTERN's Networking and Cybersecurity (NCS) program graduates are most likely to enter. Data from the state's Pennsylvania Workforce Development reports indicate promising job growth in Montgomery and surrounding counties for *Computer Network Support Specialists*, *Network and Computer Systems Administrators*, and *Information Security Analysts*. Below are the total open job postings as of Dec. 22nd, 2025, for those three position categories.

Computer User Support Specialist		Computer Network Support Specialists		Network and Computer Systems Administrator		Information Security Analyst	
Montgomery	502	Montgomery	122	Montgomery	606	Montgomery	477
Bucks		Bucks		Bucks		Bucks	
Philadelphia		Philadelphia		Philadelphia		Philadelphia	

If we include projections for the other nearby counties, Berks, Lehigh, Chester, and Delaware, we get additional job openings. Just these three job titles have over 1000 openings. There are many other job titles that could be included here as well as students are prepared for many different IT fields. Of course, not all of these jobs are for entry level candidates, but with so much demand employers are forced to consider well-prepared entry level candidates.

Opportunities at the national level are also promising with 29% average growth for Information Security Analysts. Job openings nationally in 2024 are estimated at 182,800. This is according to the Bureau of Labor statistics 2024 Occupational Outlook Handbook for Information Security Analysts.

The EASTERN NCS students continue to perform very well on the annual National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) tests. During the 2024 and 2025

timeframe, 100% of the students scored Advanced. This is up from the 2023 school year where 84.6% of the students placed Advanced.

Enrollment over the past year has increased since we expanded the seating capacity in the classroom. The cohort entering in 2025 has 37 students with a capacity of 40 students. Of the 37 students, 28 are first-year students and 9 are second-year students. Enrollment looks like it dipped over the past 2 years, however, that was due to the expanded classroom. This current year we filled those seats completely in the AM. When most students are asked why they are attending the program, dual enrollment is always in the top two reasons. EASTERN NCS students are able to graduate with 12 graded, transferable credits from Montgomery County Community College. It is not unusual for students in the program to take additional credits at Montgomery County Community College while still in high school. Parents and students are realizing the financial benefits of dual enrollment.

Most of the EASTERN NCS students are continuing on to college for at least an Associate degree. The number of students pursuing a Bachelor degree initially is increasing. In addition, a number of students are perusing work in program related fields throughout high school and in college. Most employers are looking for at least an Associate degree, but some small companies will hire people without a degree if they have professional certifications and hands-on experience for entry-level positions.

A concern today with any technology career is the threat of offshoring - the practice of sending technology jobs to lower cost countries such as India or Russia. With the advent of cloud computing and increased bandwidth this practice has become prevalent in most technology fields. Also we have the increased use of AI in many tech related fields. Are these a threat to U.S. jobs? It's possible that some support jobs could move offshore, however most organizations are understaffed for hardware support positions. Companies also need local staff to support high availability and 24x7 work environments. Cybersecurity has also had a positive impact on keeping jobs in the U.S. With companies concerned about state-sponsored hacks, the need for local security professionals is growing. State sponsored attacks have also moved into the hardware realm. There has been huge concern over state-sponsored hardware attacks with foreign suppliers. AI concerns are also real. While many of the careers

related to this class have been mostly unscathed, programming jobs have diminished over the past few years due to AI. AI in Networking and Cybersecurity will be something to watch over the next 10 years.

Growing businesses need additional technical resources; often this is staff, physical server infrastructure, and expanding infrastructure. Networking and Cybersecurity can be complex and requires personal interaction with the business stakeholders to properly support the company. The growing concern with information security is prevalent in the approximately 30% projected growth in Information Security Analysts.

Outsourcing, where support staff are employed by a third party or managed service provider, may or may not include offshore resources. Many local companies find outsourcing to be a viable solution and hire local outsourcing companies. These companies are potential employers of our students.

Program Viability

Based on recent studies at both the national and regional level that show a very positive outlook for job opportunities for our students, the OAC supports continuing the NCS program. It is clear that this educational program continues to be attractive for a segment of the sending schools' population. The feedback from the graduates shows that our students are getting good jobs in the computer field with impressive advancements and salaries. There is no reason to expect this to diminish. The continuing market demand for networking and cybersecurity skills is the single strongest factor in this recommendation. This demand is supported by the following sources:

- Statistics shown in the PA Workforce and the US Department of Labor reports identify strong growth potential in job areas for which our students will be qualified. This is especially prevalent in Information Security Analysis.
- Input from committee members
- Program performance showing that the students are entering college immediately after completing the NCS program

- Local job listings showing frequent new job postings

Area colleges also support the continuation of the NCS program through our dual enrollment program with Montgomery County Community College and an articulation agreement with Penn State - Abington.

- The MCCC dual enrollment program offers students 12 graded, transferable college credits through the NCS curriculum. Students can take additional courses for credit through MCCC
- PSU-Abington offers successful NCS students guaranteed entry in their highly coveted Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) program, provided they meet PSU other entry requirements
- Students may also qualify for advanced placement credit at Penn College of Technology, part of the Penn State University system

Although it may be possible for students to obtain employment with the skills taught in the NCS program, students are always encouraged to go on to post-secondary education to obtain at least a two-year Associate degree or, preferably, a four-year Bachelor's degree. As a result, most of our graduates go on to some post-secondary education. Students graduating from our NCS program have attended the following institutions:

- Drexel University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Kutztown University
- Montgomery County Community College
- New York Institute of Technology (NYC)
- Pace University (NYC)
- Penn College of Technology
- Penn State University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (NY State)
- Temple University
- West Chester University

Summary of Industry Trends

- Technology - What's trending in the industry?
 - A major server operating system used today-Microsoft Windows Server.
 - Cisco continues to be a major vendor in network infrastructure.
 - Virtualization of formerly single tier servers is being used at all levels of computer networks. VMware is a dominant vendor in this technology area.
 - Cloud computing is an established platform for systems and software as a service business model.
 - Mobile devices continue to play a major role in the day-to-day operations of many organizations.
- Employers continue to seek employees with skills beyond the technical, such as:
 - Logical thinking
 - Problem solving
 - Working independently
 - Being resourceful
 - Being able to see a task or problem through to the end
 - Being customer focused
 - Continuing education and professional certification
 - Good communication, both oral and written
 - Good teamwork
 - Positive attitude
 - Dependability
 - Good work ethics
- What did we learn?
 - Dual enrollment program through Montgomery County Community College continues to be viable. It began with the 2008-2009 school year.
 - Professional certification continues to be important in the industry and therefore for our students.

- Eastern's NCS program must continue to keep up with current trends, teaching the latest operating systems and exposing the students to current technology and practices.
- The industry changes on a continuous basis and therefore the OAC will continue to monitor the trends and adjust the curriculum accordingly.

Program Recommendations

- Curriculum Adjustments
 - The OAC recommends that the curriculum be adjusted to better represent industry trends. Recent recommended changes include introduction of cloud and hybrid server, brand diversity, and AI training.
- Student certifications
 - Since certifications are an important part of the student's portfolio, the OAC will continue to require the TestOut Microsoft Server Pro 2016 certification.
- Instructor Professional Development
 - The OAC has recommended many trainings over the past few years. Current trainings include expanding hybrid cloud computing, maintaining current CCNA and Security + Certifications, and AI Training.
- Equipment and materials needed
 - The OAC recommends that the classroom equipment be maintained at its current high standards. Our classroom currently meets or exceeds Cisco Network Academy's requirements. A plan is in place to upgrade as needed with new technologies as well as maintain the current level of equipment.
- Facilities and materials needed
 - The OAC will continue to monitor any facilities needs that arise:
 - Any classroom/lab equipment that needs to be replaced will be replaced.
 - The new classroom with the removed raised floor will continue to be maintained and wiring added where necessary. Lighting, flooring, desks, tools, etc. will be maintained at a high level.
- Frequency of Program Review

- The OAC recommends the NCS OAC maintain the frequency of program reviews as every 5 years. Due to the nature of the industry, the NCS OAC is constantly watching industry trends and adjusting the curriculum as needed.
- Dual enrollment
 - The OAC recommends continued development of Dual Enrollment programs with post-secondary institutions towards achieving an Associate or Bachelor's Degree
- Honors Status
 - The OAC recommends that EASTERN continue to pursue honors status for the NCS courses in all of the participating high schools.

Implementation

● School Year 2026-27	Cost Estimate
○ Instructor training	\$5000
○ Maintain Cisco router/Layer 3 switches	\$5000
○ Software/License Fees	\$4000
○ Replacement Tools and Equipment	\$6000
○ Student Certification	\$1000
Total:	\$21,000
● School Year 2027-28	
○ Instructor training	\$5000
○ Maintain Cisco Routers/Layer 3 Switches	\$5000
○ Replacement Tools and Equipment	\$6000
○ Software/License Fees	\$4000
○ Student Certification	\$1000
Total:	\$21,000
School Year 2028-29	
○ Instructor training -	\$5000
○ Maintain Cisco Routers/Layer 3 Switches	\$5000

○ Replacement Tools and Equipment	\$6000
○ Software/License Fees	\$4000
○ Student Certification	\$1000
Total:	\$21,000

Information Security Analysts

PRINTER-FRIENDLY

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
[Publications](#)
[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
[Computer and Information Technology](#)
[OOH HOME](#)

[OCCUPATION FINDER](#)

[OOH FAQ](#)

[HOW TO FIND A JOB](#)

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Summary

Quick Facts: Information Security Analysts

2024 Median Pay

\$124,910 per year

\$60.05 per hour

Typical Entry-Level Education

Bachelor's degree

Work Experience in a Related Occupation

Less than 5 years

On-the-job Training

None

Number of Jobs, 2024

182,800

Job Outlook, 2024–34

29% (Much faster than average)

Employment Change, 2024–34

52,100

What Information Security Analysts Do

Information security analysts plan and carry out security measures to protect an organization's computer networks and systems.

Work Environment

Most information security analysts work for computer companies, consulting firms, or business and financial companies.

How to Become an Information Security Analyst

Information security analysts typically need a bachelor's degree in a computer science field, along with related work experience. Employers may prefer to hire analysts who have professional certification.

Pay

The median annual wage for information security analysts was \$124,910 in May 2024.

Job Outlook

Employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 29 percent from 2024 to 2034, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 16,000 openings for information security analysts 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 information security analysts.

Similar Occupations

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of information security analysts with similar occupations.

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

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

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Summary

What They Do

Work Environment

Pay

Job Outlook

State & Area Data

Similar Occupations

More Info

12/22/25, 8:28 AM Information Security Analysts : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm> 1/6

What Information Security Analysts Do

Information security analysts install software, such as firewalls, to protect computer networks.

Information security analysts plan and carry out security measures to protect an organization's computer networks and systems.

Duties

Information security analysts typically do the following:

Monitor their organization's networks for security breaches and investigate when one occurs

Use and maintain software, such as firewalls and data encryption programs, to protect sensitive information

Check for vulnerabilities in computer and network systems

Research the latest information technology (IT) security trends

Prepare reports that document general metrics, attempted attacks, and security breaches

Develop security standards and best practices for their organization

Recommend security enhancements to management or senior IT staff

Help computer users when they need to install or learn about new security products and procedures

Information security analysts are heavily involved with creating their organization's disaster recovery plan, a procedure that IT employees follow in case of emergency. These plans allow for the continued operation of an organization's IT department. The recovery plan includes preventive measures such as regularly copying and transferring data to an offsite location. It also involves plans to restore proper IT functioning after a disaster. Analysts continually test the steps in their recovery plans.

Information security analysts must stay up to date on IT security and on the latest methods attackers are using to infiltrate computer systems. Analysts need to research new security technology to decide what will most effectively protect their organization.

Work Environment

Many analysts work in IT departments and manage the security of their companies computer networks.

Information security analysts held about 182,800 jobs in 2024. The largest employers of information security analysts were as follows:

Computer systems design and related services

22%

Finance and insurance

16

Management of companies and enterprises

10

Information

9

Management, scientific, and technical consulting services

6

Many information security analysts work with other members of an information technology department, such as

[network administrators](#)

or

[computer systems analysts](#)

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Work Schedules

Most information security analysts work full time, and some work more than 40 hours per week. Information security analysts sometimes have to be on call outside of normal business hours in case of an emergency.

How to Become an Information Security Analyst

12/22/25, 8:28 AM Information Security Analysts : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm> 2/6

There are a number of information security certifications available, and many employers prefer candidates to have certification.

Information security analysts typically need a bachelor's degree in a computer science field, along with related work experience. Employers may prefer to hire analysts who have professional certification.

Education

Information security analysts typically need a bachelor's [degree](#) in [computer and information technology](#) or a related field, such as [engineering](#) or [math](#). However, some workers enter the occupation with a high school diploma and relevant industry training and certifications.

Work Experience in a Related Occupation

Information security analysts may need to have work experience in a related occupation. Many analysts have experience in an information technology department, often as a [network and computer systems administrator](#).

Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations

Many employers prefer to hire candidates who have information security certification. Some of these certifications are for workers at the entry level; others, are designed for experienced information security workers. Certification in specialized areas, such as systems auditing, also is available. Information on certifications is available from [CareerOneStop](#) .

Advancement

Information security analysts may advance to become chief security officers or another type of [computer and information systems manager](#). Information security analysts also may advance within the occupation as they gain experience. For example, they may lead a team of other information security analysts or become an

expert in a particular area of information security.

Important Qualities

The following are examples of qualities that are important for these workers to perform their duties. For more information, visit the Employment Projections (EP) [skills data page](#).

Analytical skills. Information security analysts study computer systems and networks and assess risks to determine improvements for security policies and protocols.

Communication skills. Information security analysts must be able to explain information security needs and potential threats to technical and nontechnical audiences within their organizations.

Creative skills. Information security analysts must anticipate information security risks and implement new ways to protect their organizations' computer systems and networks.

Detail oriented. Because cyberattacks may be difficult to detect, information security analysts must pay careful attention to computer systems and watch for minor changes in performance.

Problem-solving skills. Information security analysts must respond to security alerts and uncover and fix flaws in computer systems and networks.

Pay

Information Security Analysts

Median annual wages, May 2024

Information security analysts \$124,910

Computer occupations \$105,990

Total, all occupations \$49,500

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

12/22/25, 8:28 AM Information Security Analysts : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm> 3/6

The median annual wage for information security analysts was \$124,910 in May 2024. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$69,660, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$186,420.

In May 2024, the median annual wages for information security analysts in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

Information \$136,390

Management of companies and enterprises 127,840

Finance and insurance 126,970

Computer systems design and related services 126,690

Management, scientific, and technical consulting services 120,050

Most information security analysts work full time, and some work more than 40 hours per week. Information security analysts sometimes have to be on call outside of normal business hours in case of an emergency.

Job Outlook

Information Security Analysts

Employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 29 percent from 2024 to 2034, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 16,000 openings for information security analysts 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.

Employment

High demand is expected for information security analysts. Cyberattacks have grown in frequency, and these analysts will be needed to create innovative solutions to prevent hackers from stealing critical information or creating problems for computer networks. As businesses focus on enhancing cybersecurity, they will need information security analysts to secure new technologies from outside threats or hacks. Increased use of artificial intelligence (AI) and the rise of e-commerce have increased the need for enhanced security, contributing to the projected employment growth of these workers over the decade.

Employment projections data for information security analysts, 2024–34

Information security analysts

SOC Code:

15-1212

Employment, 2024:

182,800

Projected Employment, 2034:

234,900

Change, 2024–34 (Percent):

29

Change, 2024–34 (Numeric):

52,100

Employment By Industry:

[Get data](#)

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

State & Area Data

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#) (OEWS) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The link below goes to OEWS data maps for employment and wages by state and area. Use the dropdown boxes to select an occupation.

[Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\) Profiles](#)

Percent change in employment, projected 2024–34

Information security analysts 29%

Computer occupations 9%

Total, all occupations 3%

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

12/22/25, 8:28 AM Information Security Analysts : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm> 4/6

Projections Central

Occupational employment projections are developed for all states by Labor Market Information (LMI) or individual state Employment Projections offices. All state projections data are available at

www.projectionscentral.org

. Information on this site allows projected employment growth for an occupation to be compared among states or to be compared within one state. In addition, states may produce projections for areas; there are links to each state's websites where these data may be retrieved.

CareerOneStop

CareerOneStop includes hundreds of

[occupational profiles](#)

with data available by state and metro area. There are links in the left-hand side menu to compare occupational employment by state and occupational wages by local area or metro area. There is also a [salary info tool](#)

to search for wages by zip code.

Similar Occupations

This table shows a list of occupations with job duties that are similar to those of information security analysts.

Computer and Information Research Scientists

Job Duties:

Computer and information research scientists design innovative uses for new and existing computing technology.

Entry-Level Education:

Master's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$140,910

Computer and Information Systems Managers

Job Duties:

Computer and information systems managers plan, coordinate, and direct computer-related activities in an organization.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$171,200

Computer Network Architects

Job Duties:

Computer network architects design and implement data communication networks, including local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), and intranets.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$130,390

Computer Programmers

Job Duties:

Computer programmers write, modify, and test code and scripts that allow computer software and applications to function properly.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$98,670

Computer Support Specialists

Job Duties:

Computer support specialists maintain computer networks and provide technical help to computer users.

Entry-Level Education:

[See How to Become One](#)

2024 Median Pay:

\$61,550

Computer Systems Analysts

Job Duties:

Computer systems analysts study an organization's current computer systems and design ways to improve efficiency.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$103,790

Database Administrators and Architects

Job Duties:

Database administrators and architects create or organize systems to store and secure data.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$123,100

Network and Computer Systems Administrators

Job Duties:

Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' computer networks and systems.

Entry-Level Education:

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<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm> 5/6

Contacts for More Information

For information about certifications, visit

[CareerOneStop](#)

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O*NET

Information Security Analysts

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor,
Occupational Outlook Handbook
, Information Security Analysts,
at

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm>

(visited

December 03, 2025

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Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$96,800

Software Developers, Quality Assurance Analysts, and Testers

Job Duties:

Software developers design computer applications or programs. Software quality assurance analysts and testers identify problems with applications or programs and report defects. **Entry-Level Education:**

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$131,450

Web Developers and Digital Designers

Job Duties:

Web developers create and maintain websites. Digital designers develop, create, and test website or interface layout, functions, and navigation for usability.

Entry-Level Education:

Bachelor's degree

2024 Median Pay:

\$95,380

Last Modified Date:

Thursday, August 28, 2025

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Occupational Outlook Handbook

Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics

Suitland Federal Center

Floor 3

4600 Silver Hill Road

Washington, DC 20212-0002

Telephone:

202-691-5700

www.bls.gov/ooh

Contact OOH

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Occupation keyword search

Go

Local Wages15-1212.00 - Information Security Analysts Bright Outlook

Wages for state: Go

Wages near ZIP Code:

19090 Go Annual WagesHourly Wages

In Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD:

Workers on average earn **\$124,270**.

10% of workers earn **\$74,510 or less**.

10% of workers earn **\$174,610 or more**.

In Pennsylvania:

Workers on average earn **\$110,230**.

10% of workers earn **\$62,270 or less**.

10% of workers earn **\$169,390 or more**.

In the United States:

Workers on average earn **\$124,910**.

10% of workers earn **\$69,660 or less**.

10% of workers earn **\$186,420 or more**.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2024 wage data .

Full Details	Annual	Annual Q	Annual	Annual Q	Annual
Save Table:	Low(10%)	L(25%)	Median(50%	U(75%)	High(90%)
XLSX			)		
CSVLocatio					
n					
United States	\$69,660	\$92,160	\$124,910	\$159,600	\$186,420
Pennsylvania	\$62,270	\$79,670	\$110,230	\$137,900	\$169,390

Philadelphia- Camden- Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE- MD	\$74,510	\$95,060	\$124,270	\$152,350	\$174,610
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O*NET OnLine

Occupation keyword search

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Pennsylvania Employment Trends

15-1212.00 - [Information Security Analysts](#)
🌟
Bright Outlook

View trends for state:

Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania:

Employment (2022)	4,470 employees
Projected employment (2032)	5,720 employees
Projected growth (2022-2032)	28%
Projected annual job openings (2022-2032)	420

In the United States:

Employment (2024)	182,800 employees
Projected employment (2034)	234,900 employees
Projected growth (2024-2034)	29% Much faster than average
Projected annual job openings (2024-2034)	16,000

Pennsylvania source: Projections Central [2022-2032 long-term projections](#)
. United States source: Bureau of Labor Statistics [2024-2034 employment projections](#)
. "Projected growth" represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period. "Projected annual job openings" represent openings due to growth and replacement.