

How is Occupation Data Collected and Classified on the American Community Survey?

e. What was this person's main occupation?
(For example: 4th grade teacher, entry-level plumber)

4th grade teacher

f. Describe this person's most important activities or duties. (For example: instruct and evaluate students and create lesson plans, assemble and install pipe sections and review building plans for work details)

Instruct and evaluate students and create lesson plans.

← Occupation

← Job duties

Occupation data is collected on the ACS through the use of two write-in questions. Respondents are asked to state their main occupation and describe their most important activities or duties. Based on the detail of these responses, each respondent is assigned a 4-digit Census Occupation Code to describe the work they do.

Occupation	Job duties	Census Occupation Code	Employer name	Industry	Class of worker	Education
4th grade teacher	Instruct and evaluate students and create lesson plans		XXXX	Elementary School	Local government	Bachelor's degree

Census Occupation Index	
Occupation Description	Census Occupation Code
Teacher electronics	2200
Teacher elementary school	2310
Teacher engineering	2200
Teacher English	2200
Teacher English literature	2200

Clerical coders at the National Processing Center use the [Census Alphabetical Index of Occupations](#) to classify each respondent's occupation write-in with an occupation code.* The index contains over 30,000 job titles that each correspond to one of the 570 Census Occupation Codes. Coders also use respondents' job duties, employer name, industry, and other characteristics to determine the best code for each case.

Occupation	Job Duties	Census Occupation Code
4th grade teacher	Instruct and evaluate students and create lesson plans	2310

Each occupation code corresponds to an occupation description in the [Census Occupation Code List](#). Each occupation code can be cross-walked to a [Standard Occupational Classification \(SOC\)](#) code. The titles in the code list are what you see in published tables.

Census Occupation Code List	
Occupation Description	Census Occupation Code
Educational Instruction, and Library Occupations:	2205-2555
Postsecondary Teachers	2205
Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers	2300
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	2310
Secondary School Teachers	2320
Special Education Teachers	2330

Once all of the occupation data is coded, estimates are calculated and published on data.census.gov.

DETAILED OCCUPATION FOR THE FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER		
Survey/Program: American Community Survey		Product: 2018: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables
TableID: B24124		Universe: Full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over
	United States	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	346,550	+/-11,199
Elementary and middle school teachers	2,573,621	+/-28,742
Secondary school teachers	523,574	+/-13,448
Special education teachers	165,556	+/-7,837

*In 2012, an industry and occupation autocoder was implemented to decrease clerical coding workload. During processing, approximately 41 percent of cases are assigned an automated occupation code prior to clerical coding.