

PoE researcher Kristen Paynter compiled the information found in the following tables in the spring of 2002. Data was taken from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For further information, checkout the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov) online. Keep in mind that projections listed here were made in the year 2000 and are subject to change. This information is not intended to be a comprehensive, formal assessment of environmental career trends, but rather to serve as a “snapshot” of data and projections for the region.

Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (Major Group) ¹

(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Click on specific occupation title for link to more detailed information

This major group comprises the following occupations: [Agricultural and Food Scientists](#); [Biochemists and Biophysicists](#); [Microbiologists](#); [Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists](#); [Conservation Scientists](#); [Foresters](#); [Epidemiologists](#); [Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists](#); [Astronomers](#); [Physicists](#); [Atmospheric and Space Scientists](#); [Chemists](#); [Materials Scientists](#); [Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health](#); [Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers](#); [Hydrologists](#); [Economists](#); [Market Research Analysts](#); [Survey Researchers](#); [Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists](#); [Industrial-Organizational Psychologists](#); [Sociologists](#); [Urban and Regional Planners](#); [Anthropologists and Archeologists](#); [Geographers](#); [Historians](#); [Political Scientists](#); [Agricultural and Food Science Technicians](#); [Biological Technicians](#); [Chemical Technicians](#); [Geological and Petroleum Technicians](#); [Nuclear Technicians](#); [Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health](#); [Forensic Science Technicians](#); [Forest and Conservation Technicians](#); and residual, "All Other", occupations in this major group

2000 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for this Major Group

Employment estimate and mean wage estimates for this major group:

Employment	1,038,670
Mean hourly wage	\$22.97
Mean annual wage	\$47,790

Table II.5 Percentile Wage Estimates for this Major Group

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly wage	\$11.13	\$14.96	\$20.72	\$28.51	\$39.12
Annual wage	\$23,150	\$31,130	\$43,090	\$59,310	\$81,360

Table II.6 Employment and Wage Estimates (2002) for Selected Occupation Titles Within the Major Group

Occupation Title	Mean Annual Wage Estimate
Geoscientists	\$62,420
Atmospheric & Space Scientists	\$58,270
Geographers	\$48,840
Urban & Regional Planners	\$48,590
Environmental Scientists	\$48,090
Conservation Scientists	\$47,820
Zoologists & Wildlife Biologists	\$45,630
Foresters	\$44,970
Environmental Science Technicians	\$35,830
Biological Technicians	\$32,970
Forest & Conservation Technicians	\$31,210

Table II.7 Employment Projections 2004

Occupation	Number of New Jobs Projected by 2004	Median Salary
Tech - Engineering	126,000	\$37,310
Engineer – Civil & Envir.	41,000	\$53,450
Biological Scientists	28,000	\$46,140
Tech – Environmental	16,000	\$15/hr.
Conservation Scientist & Foresters	7,000	\$42,750
Earth & Ocean Scientists	7,000	\$53,890
Tech – HazMat	7,000	\$14/hr.
Social Scientists (includes Environmental Studies)	6,000	\$38,990
Engineer - Chemical	5,000	\$64,760

Table II.8 Change in Total Employment 1996-2006

Occupation	Total Employment		Change in Total Employment 1996-2006	
	1996	2006	Number	%
Foresters & conservation scientists	37,000	43,000	6,000	+17.4%
Geologists, geophysicists	47,000	54,000	7,000	+14.6%
All other physical scientists	43,000	55,000	12,000	+27.5%

State of Washington Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates – 2000

Table III.2 Washington Employment and Wages

Occupation Title	Employment	Mean Annual Wage Estimate
Forestry & Conservation Science Teachers, Postsecondary	70	\$85,650
Natural Science Managers	1,290	\$74,930
Atmospheric & Space Scientists	90	\$69,260
Atmospheric, Earth, Marine & Space Science Teachers, Postsecondary	310	\$67,210
Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	810	\$67,110
Environmental Engineers	1,590	\$65,230
Geoscientists	800	\$63,650
Hydrologists	310	\$59,140
Urban and Regional Planners	2,460	\$56,100
Environmental Science Teachers, Postsecondary	110	\$51,670
Conservation Scientists	600	\$50,290
Environmental Scientists	2,920	\$49,720
Landscape Architects	320	\$49,530
Zoologists & Wildlife Biologists	950	\$49,410
Fish and Game Wardens	120	\$49,390
Agricultural and Food Scientists	520	\$47,710
Foresters	640	\$46,470
Water and Waste Treatment Plant Operators	1,340	\$44,040
Environmental Science Technicians	1,110	\$40,510
Environmental Engineering Technicians	280	\$38,680
Managers, Farming, Fishing & Forestry Workers	790	\$38,640
Forest & Conservation Technicians	650	\$34,390
Biological Technicians	2,440	\$34,330
Agricultural Inspectors	620	\$30,980
Forest and Conservation Workers	150	\$23,010