

# Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS)

*Information about the physical demands, environmental conditions, education and training, and mental requirements of jobs in the U.S. economy.*



## Overview

The Occupational Requirements Survey, or "ORS", is a new survey designed to provide information about specific work-related requirements found in jobs in the United States. The BLS conducts this survey under an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The goal of ORS is to collect and publish occupational information that will be used by SSA to help make decisions for their disability programs. SSA will use this information to help determine if applicants for disability can do their past related work, and potentially identify other occupations that they can still perform. In addition, ORS information will be publicly available for all interested users or groups.

It is important to note that the ORS is designed to capture requirements based on the typical tasks related to critical job functions, and is not focused on the specific skills or experience of the worker.

*The BLS collects and publishes data on four main categories as described in the following sections.*

## Physical Demands



A physical demand refers to the effort generally required to perform occupational tasks. Such work-related tasks may include:

- Standing and walking
- Lifting and carrying
- Pushing and pulling
- Hearing and vision
- Foot and leg controls
- Communicating verbally
- Sitting
- Reaching
- Climbing
- Keyboarding

## Environmental Exposure



An occupation's environmental exposure is measured by the types of conditions encountered at work during the course of a typical day. Environmental elements include:

- Extreme cold
- Extreme heat
- Hazardous contaminants
- Heavy vibration
- High, exposed places
- Humidity
- Working outdoors
- Proximity to moving mechanical parts
- Wetness
- Noise intensity level

Tasks such as crawling, kneeling, crouching and stooping are considered physical demands.

The BLS will collect information on the general use of personal protective equipment to lessen environmental exposure.



## Education and Training



The ORS gathers information about the typical educational background, training, and work experience required by an occupation. It specifically includes:

- Minimum formal education or literacy requirements
- Pre-employment training
- Prior work experience
- Post-employment training

## Mental Requirements



Intellectual and mental requirements for an occupation involve:

- Decision-making
- Work review
- Pace of work performed
- Type and frequency of contacts
- Adaptability

## Survey Participation

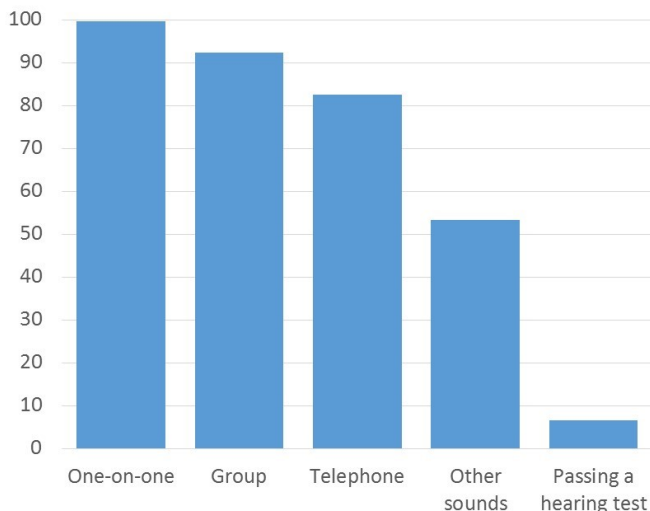
The information employers provide will help to better define jobs that exist in our national economy and the types of work someone may be able to do. Respondent participation will help the BLS deliver accurate survey results.



## Finding the Data

The first ORS data were made available December 2016 on the BLS website and will continue to be updated on an annual basis. Current ORS information can be accessed via the public database and through occupational profiles for major occupational groups. For the latest information on ORS, please visit [www.bls.gov/ors](http://www.bls.gov/ors).

**Figure 1.** Hearing requirements, all workers, 2016  
Percent of workers



## Contact Information

WEB: [www.bls.gov/ors](http://www.bls.gov/ors)  
Phone: 202-691-6199  
Email: [ORSInfo@bls.gov](mailto:ORSInfo@bls.gov)

