

## Organizations and Work

In the U.S. economy, most workers—76 percent, in fact—are employed by service-producing organizations.<sup>3</sup> As the following table shows, service organizations include a wide variety of businesses—not just fast-food franchises, which is many people’s first thought when they hear the words “service economy.” The major areas of the service industry are in the following table. The type of service industry is in the first column. The second column shows the percentage of workers employed by each industry group in 2006. The third column shows the projected employment for 2016.

Type of Service Industry	Percentage of 2006 Employment	Projected Percentage of 2016 Employment
Wholesale & retail trade	14.1%	13.4%
Federal, state, and local government	14.6%	14.1%
Educational, health care, and social assistance	10.1%	11.8%
Professional and business services	11.7%	13.0%
Leisure and hospitality	8.7%	9.0%
Information and financial activities	7.6%	7.8%
Transporting and Warehousing	3.0%	3.0%
Other	4.0%	4.3%

The remaining portion of the workforce (the other 22.5 percent) is employed in goods-producing organizations, agriculture, and self-employment. This economic sector’s share of employment has declined for the past several decades, and continued decline is expected. The following table shows current and projected employment for these businesses.

Type of Business	Percentage of 2006 Employment	Projected Percentage of 2016 Employment
Goods production (manufacturing, etc.)	14.9%	13.1%
Agriculture	1.4%	1.2%
Self-employment	6.5%	6.3%

Most workers are employed in service-producing fields, and 56 percent work for smaller organizations—organizations with less than 500 employees.<sup>4</sup> A decline in an industry doesn’t mean you can’t find a good job in that sector. But working in an industry with declining employment means you must continually develop your skills. And, to be safe, you also should develop skills that will help you get a job in another industry if it becomes necessary. Many people learned this lesson as a result of corporate restructuring that has been a significant part of business in the last 30 years.

Smaller organizations are less likely than larger ones to provide their workers with training. This means that most workers must assess their own training needs and take control of their training and education. In other words, you are responsible for your own employability and competitiveness in today's workforce.

### WHAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION DO YOU WORK FOR?

Do you work for a service-producing or a goods-producing organization?

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How big is the organization you work for?

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What skills do people need to work in this organization?

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What skills do people need to advance in this organization?

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What other industries interest you?

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What skills do you have that can be used in other organizations and other industries?

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## Occupational Trends

Jobs that require education beyond high school form the fastest-growing segment of the job market. Jobs requiring an associate degree or higher accounts for 12 of the 20 fastest growing jobs in the U.S. economy.<sup>5</sup>

### Earnings

This occupational trend helps explain why a worker's level of education has such a dramatic effect on the person's earnings. The following table illustrates the relationship between education and earnings.<sup>6</sup> The third column shows how much more workers with additional education can earn, on average, in comparison to high school graduates.