



STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION MANUAL

United States, 2018

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Contents

Introduction	1
What’s new in the 2018 SOC	5
Classification principles	9
Coding guidelines	10
SOC coding structure	11
Approved modifications to the structure	15
Frequently asked questions	17
Acknowledgements	25
Occupational Classification Definitions	31
11-0000 Management Occupations	31
11-1000 Top Executives	
11-2000 Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	
11-3000 Operations Specialties Managers	
11-9000 Other Management Occupations	
13-0000 Business and Financial Operations Occupations.....	39
13-1000 Business Operations Specialists	
13-2000 Financial Specialists	
15-0000 Computer and Mathematical Occupations	47
15-1200 Computer Occupations	
15-2000 Mathematical Science Occupations	
17-0000 Architecture and Engineering Occupations.....	53
17-1000 Architects, Surveyors, and Cartographers	
17-2000 Engineers	
17-3000 Drafters, Engineering Technicians, and Mapping Technicians	
19-0000 Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations.....	59
19-1000 Life Scientists	
19-2000 Physical Scientists	
19-3000 Social Scientists and Related Workers	
19-4000 Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians	
19-5000 Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians	
21-0000 Community and Social Service Occupations	72
21-1000 Counselors, Social Workers, and Other Community and Social Service Specialists	
21-2000 Religious Workers	
23-0000 Legal Occupations.....	76
23-1000 Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	

23-2000	Legal Support Workers	
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations.....	78
25-1000	Postsecondary Teachers	
25-2000	Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	
25-3000	Other Teachers and Instructors	
25-4000	Librarians, Curators, and Archivists	
25-9000	Other Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations.....	92
27-1000	Art and Design Workers	
27-2000	Entertainers and Performers, Sports and Related Workers	
27-3000	Media and Communication Workers	
27-4000	Media and Communication Equipment Workers	
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations.....	100
29-1000	Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	
29-2000	Health Technologists and Technicians	
29-9000	Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations.....	114
31-1100	Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	
31-2000	Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides	
31-9000	Other Healthcare Support Occupations	
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations.....	118
33-1000	Supervisors of Protective Service Workers	
33-2000	Firefighting and Prevention Workers	
33-3000	Law Enforcement Workers	
33-9000	Other Protective Service Workers	
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.....	123
35-1000	Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	
35-2000	Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	
35-3000	Food and Beverage Serving Workers	
35-9000	Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations.....	127
37-1000	Supervisors of Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Workers	
37-2000	Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers	
37-3000	Grounds Maintenance Workers	
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations.....	130
39-1000	Supervisors of Personal Care and Service Workers	
39-2000	Animal Care and Service Workers	
39-3000	Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers	
39-4000	Funeral Service Workers	

39-5000	Personal Appearance Workers	
39-6000	Baggage Porters, Bellhops, and Concierges	
39-7000	Tour and Travel Guides	
39-9000	Other Personal Care and Service Workers	
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	137
41-1000	Supervisors of Sales Workers	
41-2000	Retail Sales Workers	
41-3000	Sales Representatives, Services	
41-4000	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	
41-9000	Other Sales and Related Workers	
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	142
43-1000	Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	
43-2000	Communications Equipment Operators	
43-3000	Financial Clerks	
43-4000	Information and Record Clerks	
43-5000	Material Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching, and Distributing Workers	
43-6000	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	
43-9000	Other Office and Administrative Support Workers	
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	155
45-1000	Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	
45-2000	Agricultural Workers	
45-3000	Fishing and Hunting Workers	
45-4000	Forest, Conservation, and Logging Workers	
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	159
47-1000	Supervisors of Construction and Extraction Workers	
47-2000	Construction Trades Workers	
47-3000	Helpers, Construction Trades	
47-4000	Other Construction and Related Workers	
47-5000	Extraction Workers	
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	172
49-1000	Supervisors of Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers	
49-2000	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	
49-3000	Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	
49-9000	Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	
51-0000	Production Occupations	182
51-1000	Supervisors of Production Workers	
51-2000	Assemblers and Fabricators	
51-3000	Food Processing Workers	
51-4000	Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	

51-5100	Printing Workers	
51-6000	Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers	
51-7000	Woodworkers	
51-8000	Plant and System Operators	
51-9000	Other Production Occupations	
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations.....	202
53-1000	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers	
53-2000	Air Transportation Workers	
53-3000	Motor Vehicle Operators	
53-4000	Rail Transportation Workers	
53-5000	Water Transportation Workers	
53-6000	Other Transportation Workers	
53-7000	Material Moving Workers	
55-0000	Military Specific Occupations.....	213
55-1000	Military Officer Special and Tactical Operations Leaders	
55-2000	First-Line Enlisted Military Supervisors	
55-3000	Military Enlisted Tactical Operations and Air/Weapons Specialists and Crew Members	
Appendix A: Crosswalk from the 2010 SOC to the 2018 SOC.....		221
Appendix B: Crosswalk from the 2018 SOC to the 2010 SOC.....		243
Appendix C: Type of Change by Detailed Occupation, 2018 SOC		265

Introduction

The 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

Users of occupational data include government program managers, industrial and labor relations practitioners, students considering career training, jobseekers, career and employment counselors, educational institutions, and employers wishing to set salary scales or to locate to a new facility. Federal agencies use the SOC system to collect occupational data. The implementation of the 2000 SOC meant that for the first time, all major occupational data sources produced by the federal statistical system provided data that are comparable, greatly improving the usefulness of the data. The 2018 SOC continues to serve this purpose and has been revised to improve data collection and reflect the current occupational structure of the United States.

The SOC classifies all occupations in which work is performed for pay or profit. The SOC covers all jobs in the national economy, including occupations in the public, private, and military sectors. All federal agencies that publish occupational data for statistical purposes are required to use the SOC to increase data comparability across federal programs. State and local government agencies are strongly encouraged to use this national system to promote a common language for categorizing and analyzing occupations.

To facilitate classification and presentation of data, the SOC is organized into a tiered system with four levels, ranging from major groups to detailed occupations. As in the 2000 and 2010 SOC, the 2018 SOC contains 23 major groups which are broken into minor groups. In the 2018 SOC there are 98 minor groups. Each minor group is broken into broad occupations, of which there are 459. There are, at the highest level of specification, 867 detailed occupations. Detailed occupations with similar job duties, and in some cases, similar skills, education, and/or training, are grouped together in the SOC. Each worker is classified into only one of the 867 detailed occupations based on the tasks he or she performs.

Overview of SOC Manual 2018

The *SOC Manual 2018* is available in electronic format only. This Introduction describes the history of the SOC, the revision process, and coding structure. It also provides answers to frequently asked questions. The full 2018 SOC system showing the different levels of aggregation, as well as the occupation titles, definitions, and illustrative examples, is available from https://bls.gov/soc/2018/major_groups.htm. Other downloadable materials related to the 2018 SOC can be found on the SOC website at <https://www.bls.gov/soc>.

Historical background

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) manual was first published in 1980, but was rarely used. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) created the SOC Revision Policy Committee (SOCRPC) to revise the SOC for 2000, with the purpose of creating a system of classification that would allow all government agencies and private industry to produce comparable data.

Completed in 1998, the 2000 SOC resulted from 4 years of research by the SOCRPC and workgroups composed of members of more than 15 government agencies. The SOCRPC used the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) occupational classification system as the starting point for the new SOC framework.

Beginning in 2006, OMB published notices in the *Federal Register* to solicit public comment, questions, and suggestions for the 2010 SOC. Based on these comments, the Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee (SOCPC) formulated recommendations to OMB. Working with the SOCPC, OMB made its final decisions on the 2010 SOC, published these decisions in the *Federal Register* in January 2009, and then published final definitions for all detailed 2010 SOC occupations in the *SOC Manual 2010*.

The *SOC Manual 2018* replaces the 2010 edition, and will be adopted by all federal agencies that use the *SOC Manual 2010*.

Revision process for the 2018 edition

OMB first met in 2013 with the SOCPC, which includes representatives from the following agencies:

- Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- Department of Commerce, Census Bureau
- Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center
- Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics
- Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
- National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- Office of Personnel Management
- Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

To initiate the formal 2018 SOC revision process, OMB and the SOCPC requested public comment in a May 22, 2014, *Federal Register* notice (79 FR 29620–29624) on:

- the proposed revision to the 2010 SOC Classification Principles
- the intention to retain the 2010 SOC Coding Guidelines