

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Geoscientists

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Summary

Quick Facts: Geoscientists

2010 Median Pay	\$82,500 per year \$39.66 per hour
Entry-Level Education	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2010	33,800
Job Outlook, 2010-20	21% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2010-20	7,100



Geoscientists study the Earth by examining rocks, soils, and other materials.

[What Geoscientists Do](#)

Geoscientists study the physical aspects of the Earth, such as its composition, structure, and processes, to learn about its past, present, and future.

[Work Environment](#)

Most geoscientists split their time between working in offices and laboratories, and working outdoors (known as fieldwork). Fieldwork can require extensive travel to remote locations and irregular working hours.

[How to Become a Geoscientist](#)

Most geoscientist jobs require at least a bachelor's degree. In several states, geoscientists may need a license to offer their services to the public.

[Pay](#)

The median annual wage of geoscientists was \$82,500 in May 2010.

[Job Outlook](#)

Employment of geoscientists is projected to grow by 21 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Most new jobs will be in management, scientific, and technical consulting services.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of geoscientists with similar occupations.

[O*NET](#)

O*NET provides comprehensive information on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[Contacts for More Information](#)

Learn more about geoscientists by contacting these additional resources.

[What They Do ->](#)

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Geoscientists, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geoscientists.htm> (visited June 19, 2012).