



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

[A to Z Index](#) | [FAQs](#) | [About BLS](#) | [Contact Us](#)[Subscribe to E-mail Updates](#)

GO



BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

[Follow Us](#) | [What's New](#) | [Release Calendar](#) | [Site Map](#)[Home](#) ▾[Subject Areas](#) ▾[Databases & Tools](#) ▾[Publications](#) ▾[Economic Releases](#) ▾[Beta](#) ▾[OOH HOME](#) | [OCCUPATION FINDER](#) | [OOH FAQ](#) | [OOH GLOSSARY](#) | [A-Z INDEX](#) | [OOH SITE MAP](#) | [EN ESPAÑOL](#)

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Go

[Management](#) >

## Top Executives

FONT SIZE: PRINTER-FRIENDLY

[Summary](#)[What They Do](#)[Work Environment](#)[How to Become One](#)[Pay](#)[Job Outlook](#)[Similar Occupations](#)[Contacts for More Info](#)

## Summary

## Quick Facts: Top Executives

<b>2010 Median Pay</b> ?	\$101,250 per year \$48.68 per hour
<b>Entry-Level Education</b> ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b> ?	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
<b>On-the-job Training</b> ?	None
<b>Number of Jobs, 2010</b> ?	2,136,900
<b>Job Outlook, 2010-20</b> ?	5% (Slower than average)
<b>Employment Change, 2010-20</b> ?	97,000

[What Top Executives Do](#)

Top executives devise strategies and policies to ensure that an organization meets its goals. They plan, direct, and coordinate operational activities of companies and public or private-sector organizations.

[Work Environment](#)

Top executives work in nearly every industry. They work for both large and small organizations, ranging from one-person businesses to firms with thousands of employees. The job can be very stressful, and top executives often work long hours.

[How to Become a Top Executive](#)

Although education and training vary widely by position and industry, many top executives have at least a bachelor's degree and a considerable amount of work experience.

[Pay](#)

In May 2010, the median annual wage of chief executives was \$165,080, and the median annual wage of general and operations managers was \$94,400.

[Job Outlook](#)

Employment of top executives is expected to grow 5 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Applicants should face very strong competition for jobs.

[Similar Occupations](#)

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

[O\\*NET](#)

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

[Contacts for More Information](#)

Learn more about top executives by contacting these additional resources.



Top executives are the highest-level management in a firm.