



Overview of O*NET: Ownership, Updates, and Access

Below is a concise summary of the key information about the Occupational Information Network (O*NET):

1. Who Owns O*NET?

The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is owned and overseen by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), specifically under the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

RTI International, a private nonprofit research organization, serves as the DOL's primary contractor responsible for data collection, research, and system updates.

2. How Is O*NET Updated?

O*NET is continuously updated through the National O*NET Data Collection Program. Updates are based on:

- National surveys of job incumbents and occupational experts
- Employer and workforce sampling to reflect current labor market realities
- Subject matter expert (SME) panels for hard-to-survey occupations
- Regular database releases (typically 1–2 times per year)

3. Is O*NET Free to Use?

Yes. O*NET is completely free and publicly accessible. Anyone may:

- Search occupations at onetonline.org
- Download O*NET database files
- Use O*NET information for research, coaching, workforce development, or commercial tools

Use requires only adherence to the Department of Labor's standard terms and proper attribution when needed.

4. How Job Seekers Can Use O*NET to Strengthen Their Job Search

O*NET is one of the most comprehensive and data-driven career research tools available. It helps job seekers understand what employers look for, which skills matter most, and how various roles compare across industries and career paths.

On its own, O*NET supports broad exploration. When combined with the guidance of a career strategist, it becomes a highly focused and actionable job search tool. Together, O*NET insights and strategic coaching can help job seekers:

- Identify and articulate transferable skills
- Develop focused résumé and LinkedIn keywords
- Target roles that align with strengths, values, and interests
- Understand labor market demand for specific occupations
- Create a clear, strategic job search plan

In short: O*NET reveals what is possible. Working with a career strategist helps translate those insights into confident action and a targeted job search path.

Summary

O*NET is a U.S. Department of Labor–owned system, updated continuously through national surveys and expert validation. It is fully free and accessible to the public. When used with strategic coaching, it becomes a powerful tool for job seekers to clarify their direction and accelerate their job search results.