Interpreters and Translators

Summary

Quick Facts: Interpreters and Translators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Median Pay</th>
<th>$47,190 per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$22.69 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical Entry-Level Education</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-the-job Training</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Jobs, 2016</td>
<td>68,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Outlook, 2016-26</td>
<td>18% (Much faster than average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Change, 2016-26</td>
<td>12,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Interpreters and Translators Do

Interpreters and translators convert information from one language into another language. Interpreters work in spoken or sign language; translators work in written language.

Work Environment

Interpreters work in settings such as schools, hospitals, courtrooms, meeting rooms, and conference centers. Some work for translation and interpretation companies, individual organizations, or private clients. Many translators also work remotely. Self-employed interpreters and translators frequently have variable work schedules. Most interpreters and translators work full time during regular business hours.

How to Become an Interpreter or Translator

Although interpreters and translators typically need at least a bachelor’s degree, the most important requirement is to have native-level proficiency in English and at least one other language.

Pay

The median annual wage for interpreters and translators was $47,190 in May 2017.

Job Outlook

Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow 18 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Globalization and large increases in the number of non-English-speaking people in the United States will drive employment growth. Job prospects should be best for those who have professional certification.

State & Area Data

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for interpreters and translators.

Similar Occupations

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

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

Learn more about interpreters and translators by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

SUGGESTED CITATION:


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