Job Outlook

Objectives
Students will:

- Understand the importance of employment projections.
- Practice using career information resources
- Gain awareness of the world of work
- Increase awareness of economic trends

Materials Needed

- Career information resources that show employment projections (i.e. growth, outlook)
  
  o CareerOneStop: www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?next=carout1&level=&optstatus=1\&nodeid=210&soccode=&stfips=&jobfam=
  
  o ISEEK: www.iseek.org/careers/indemand.html
  
  o MCIS: http://mncis.intocareers.org {subscription required}
  
  o O*NET: www.onetonline.org/find/bright
  
  o Positively Minnesota: www.positivelyminnesota.com/apps/lmi/projections/

- Current employment reports (optional)
  
  

Instructions
This activity is good for teens or adults with basic understanding of economics.

1. Discuss the following concepts concerning employment projections:
   a. The labor market is the interaction of people competing for jobs and employers competing for workers.
   b. Employers hire to either to replace a worker, or to fill a newly created job
   c. Most openings occur for the first reason — replacing workers as people leave a job, return to school or retire.
   d. When looking at occupational trend data, it is important to distinguish between occupations with most openings (a number) vs. fastest-growing occupations (a percent or rate).
e. Which occupational trend data produces the most actual job openings? Students will find it depends on the total number of employees in a particular occupation.

f. A small occupation might be growing rapidly but requires only a few new workers each year. A large occupation may be growing slowly or not at all, but might require a large number of workers annually to replace retiring employees.

2. Ask students why employment projection information is important.
   a. How can students or career explorers use projection information to make long-term plans?
   b. How can job seekers use projects to help them find immediate employment?

3. Have students create a multimedia project or write a report about the employment trends in a chosen career pathway.

Evaluation of Learning

- Grade students employment trends reports.
- Assess students’ participation in class discussion.
- Employment trend reports can be added to Individualized Learning Plans or portfolios.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students create a multimedia project or write a report about the changes in employment trends over the past 10 years. Sources of information can include Department of Labor data, news reports about unemployment and the economy, and interviews with career advisers and human resources professionals.
- Have student search fast-growing or high-demand occupations of interest.
- Invite a guest speaker to talk about the economy or workforce development.
- Encourage students to do informational interviews with employers and talk about what they look for when hiring candidates for high-demand occupations.