

- The hospitality industry consists of lodging, tourism, and eating and drinking places.
- The Gross Domestic Product for hotels and other lodging places in 2001 was \$88.4 billion, a 0.9 percent share of the national total.¹
- Employment in food services and drinking places is predicted to grow by 1,337,000 jobs between 2002 and 2012, which amounts to an average annual rate of change of 1.5%.²
- Employment in accommodation is projected to grow from 1,780,000 in 2002 to 2,080,000 in 2012, an average annual rate of change of 1.6%.³
- The primary hospitality occupations projected to experience substantial growth between 2002 and 2012 are combined food preparation and serving workers (including fast food), food preparation workers, and waiters and waitresses.⁴
- Of the 8,740,000 total workers employed in the accommodation and food services industry in 2003, 5,343,000 work full-time (61%), while 3,397,000 work part-time (39%).⁵
- Entry-level jobs in the hospitality industry are attractive since they can offer flexible hours (2 out of 5 workers in food services and drinking places are employed part time, more than twice the average across all industries) and often do not require prior experience. Training is generally brief in duration and no specific educational background is necessary.⁶
- Training for food service managers is available through industry-sponsored seminars, short-term, subject-specific certificate programs, or associate or bachelor's degree programs in management.⁷

¹ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov/bea/dn2/home/gdpbyindy.htm.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Jay Berman, "Industry output and employment projections to 2012," *Monthly Labor Review*, February 2004, p. 72, 75.

³ Ibid. (p. 68).

⁴ BLS, Daniel Hecker, "Occupational employment projections to 2012," *Monthly Labor Review*, February 2004, p. 101.

⁵ Annual average for 2003, according to the Current Population Survey, a joint project of the BLS and Census Bureau.

⁶ BLS, Career Guide to Industries 2004-05.

⁷ Ibid.