



Suggestions welcome:
Do you have an item for the Grab Bag?
Send it to: ooqinfo@bls.gov

Health and safety for teen workers

Health and safety on the job are important to all workers. But because of their youth and inexperience, teenage workers sometimes put themselves more at risk for workplace injuries.

To help keep teen workers healthy and safe, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides information for these workers and their parents, employers, and educators. A free brochure lists employers' and teen workers' responsibilities, tips for ways in which teens can protect themselves on the job, and common workplace hazards and injuries.

The brochure also highlights an OSHA Web site that expands on the topic of teen workers' safety and health. This online resource includes links to an e-tool for restaurant workers' safety and a State-by-State breakdown of child labor laws. "Real Stories," taken from OSHA inspection data, serve as strong warnings by relaying job-related accidents that involved teens.

To receive up to five free copies of Brochure 3244 on teen workers, write to the U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA, OSHA Publications, P.O. Box 37535, Washington, DC 20013-7535; call (202) 693-1888; or fax (202) 693-2498.

For more information, call OSHA toll-free, 1 (800) 321-OSHA (321-6742), or visit its online resource for teen workers, www.osha.gov/teens.

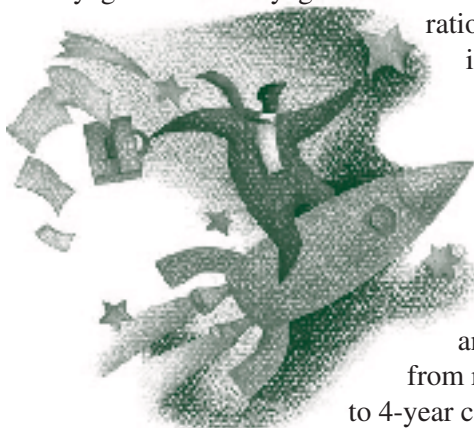
Career voyaging for vocation exploration

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have teamed up to offer free career resources through a Web site, Career Voyages. Career Voyages offers information for career exploration in several industries,

including biotechnology, construction, geospatial technology, healthcare, information technology, and transportation.

Each industry profile provides information about education and training options—from registered apprenticeship to 4-year college—and includes brief career videos about occupations within the industry. The site tailors its content to various audiences: Students, parents, career changers, and career advisors.

Visit Career Voyages online at www.careervoyages.gov. Much of its content is also available offline by calling toll-free, 1 (877) US-2 JOBS (872-5627).



Ways to pay for a college education

For some people, where to go to college is less of a concern than how to pay for it. The College Board can help ease these worries.

The College Board, a nonprofit membership association, is perhaps best known for its college-entrance and advanced-placement examinations. But it also provides guidance related to higher education, including information about college financing. Online, the board offers scholarship searches, college financing calculators, and other financial aid tools. It also has links to dozens of articles on a variety of topics, including where to find scholarships, how the borrowing process works, and myths about financial aid. Much of this information also is available offline.

You can get the information by contacting The College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023-6992; (212) 713-8000. You may also visit the college-financing portion of the board's Web site at www.collegeboard.com/pay.



Locksmithing: The key to your future?



Are you patient and dependable? Do you have good eye-hand coordination, enjoy precision, and have mechanical and mathematical abilities? Are you interested in entering an occupation that is projected to grow faster than the average?

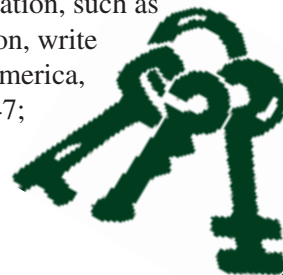
If you answered yes to these questions, you might want to consider a career as a professional locksmith. Locksmiths install and repair locks and other devices to safeguard homes, businesses, and property. They also make duplicate keys, generate new keys to replace lost ones, and respond to emergency calls to open doors that have been locked accidentally.

Recommended classes for interested high schoolers include mathematics, mechanical drawing, physics, and electronics. On-the-job training, which may involve

coursework at a school for locksmiths, is the usual method of entry into the occupation.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job growth for locksmiths and safe repairers is expected to be faster than the average for all occupations between 2002 and 2012. BLS data also show that about 15,500 locksmiths were employed in May 2004, with median earnings of \$30,360. However, those data are for wage-and-salary workers. Self-employed locksmiths are not included, and many locksmiths are self-employed.

To learn more about the occupation, such as training and scholarship information, write to the Associated Locksmiths of America, 3500 Easy Street, Dallas, TX 75247; call 1 (800) 532-2562 (toll-free) or (214) 827-1701; or visit online at www.aloa.org.



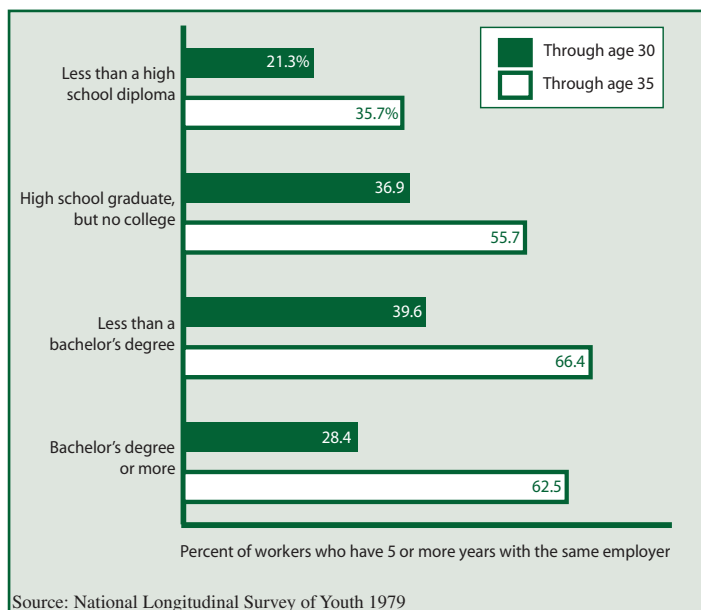
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth: 25 years of data

Not all questions have immediate answers. That's why some BLS surveys ask the same questions of the same people many times. These kinds of studies, called longitudinal surveys, can show how people's careers evolve throughout their lives. And one BLS longitudinal survey has been studying workforce issues for a quarter century.

In 1979, BLS began surveying a group of young people aged 14 to 21 about their employment, education, and other facts. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 has tracked changes in the lives of people in this group as they moved from young adulthood to middle age. BLS researchers have interviewed this same group of people more than 20 times over the years, allowing researchers to study the effects of education and training on income and employment. Questions about labor force and education are the focus of the study. But questions also cover a myriad of other issues, such as health, income, family

size, marital status, and childcare.

Some of the latest results from this survey indicate that workers' education levels affect the length of time they stay with an employer, at least early in their careers. The chart shows, by level of workers' educational attainment, the percent of workers who had been with one employer for 5 years or more from the time they left school until the time they reached ages 30 and 35.



For information about the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979, see the February 2005 special issue of the *Monthly Labor Review* (online at

www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2005/02/contents.htm) or contact BLS NLSY79, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Room 4945, Washington, DC 20212-0001; (202) 691-7410. The program's Web site is www.bls.gov/nls.