

TABLE 7.1 How Americans Rank Occupations

Occupation is probably the most important source of prestige. All kinds of Americans tend to give the same prestige rating to an occupation. The ranking of various occupations has largely remained the same for the last 45 years. How do people evaluate the occupations? The following table suggests that generally they give higher ratings to those jobs that require more education and offer higher incomes.

OCCUPATION	SCORE	OCCUPATION	SCORE	OCCUPATION	SCORE
• Physician	82	Journalist	60	Childcare worker	36
Lawyer	75	Dietician	56	Hairdresser	36
College professor	74	Statistician	56	Baker	35
Architect	73	Radio/TV announcer	55	Upholsterer	35
Chemist	73	• Librarian	54	Bulldozer operator	34
Physicist	73	Police officer	54	Meter reader	34
Aerospace engineer	72	Aircraft mechanic	53	Bus driver	32
Dentist	72	Firefighter	53	Hotel clerk	32
Geologist	70	Dental hygienist	52	Auto body repairman	31
Clergy	69	Social worker	52	• Apparel salesperson	30
Psychologist	69	Draftsman	51	Truck driver	30
Pharmacist	68	Electrician	51	Cashier	29
Optometrist	67	Computer operator	50	Elevator operator	28
Registered nurse	66	Funeral director	49	Garbage collector	28
Secondary-school teacher	66	Real estate agent	49	Taxi driver	28
Accountant	65	Machinist	47	Waiter/waitress	28
Air traffic controller	65	Mail carrier	47	Bellhop	27
Athlete	65	Secretary	46	Freight handler	27
Electrical engineer	64	Insurance agent	45	Bartender	25
Elementary-school teacher	64	Photographer	45	Farm laborer	23
Mechanical engineer	64	• Bank teller	43	Household servant	23
Economist	63	Welder	42	Midwife	23
Industrial engineer	62	Farmer	40	Door-to-door salesperson	22
Veterinarian	62	Telephone operator	40	Janitor	22
Airline pilot	61	Carpenter	39	Car washer	19
Computer specialist	61	TV repairman	38	Newspaper vendor	19
Office manager	60	Security guard	37	• Shoe shiner	9

Source: General Social Survey Cumulative File, 1972-1992, Ann Arbor, Mich.: Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, 1992.