

Occupational Profile: Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. Perform combination of following duties: patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts.

Source: O*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table to right, 41% of interviewed employers reportedly require a High School diploma or less, 57% require a two-year degree or the equivalent, and an additional 2% require a four-year degree or more.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	40.97%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	57.01%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	2.03%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

WAGES

Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officer is considered a high-wage occupation, with moderate possibility for wage advancement with experience. Employers in Greater Phoenix and the State of Arizona generally pay comparably or higher at entry and medium experience levels as compared with the overall United States, but pay less for experienced employees.

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$13.05	\$16.89	\$22.25	\$27.74	\$33.81
	Yearly	\$27,100	\$35,100	\$46,300	\$57,700	\$70,300
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	\$18.28	\$20.30	\$23.56	\$26.43	\$28.30
	Yearly	\$38,041	\$42,244	\$49,028	\$55,001	\$58,892
Arizona	Hourly	\$17.21	\$19.63	\$23.05	\$25.99	\$27.99
	Yearly	\$35,800	\$40,800	\$47,900	\$54,100	\$58,200

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison of wages for this occupation reveals Arizona ranks 16th in terms of median wages.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	New Jersey	\$32.36	\$67,300
2	California	\$30.98	\$64,400
3	Illinois	\$28.89	\$60,100
4	Washington	\$27.81	\$57,800
5	District of Columbia	\$26.30	\$54,700
16	ARIZONA	\$23.05	\$47,900

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 37% growth rate over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There are an average projected 488 job openings each year, comprised of 287 new jobs and 201 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2004	2014				
United States						
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	638,800	738,000	16%	26,450	n/a	n/a
Arizona						
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	12,300	15,140	23%	600	n/a	n/a
Greater Phoenix						
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	7,750	10,615	37%	488	287	201

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**N/A is displayed in cases where data is not available or cannot be published because of federal data privacy standards.

Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officer

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison reveals the State of Arizona ranks 7th in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation (23%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent Change
		2004	2014	
1	Nevada	3,810	5,390	42%
2	Montana	1,440	2,010	39%
3	Utah	3,980	5,440	37%
4	New Mexico	4,800	6,370	33%
5	Idaho	2,940	3,790	29%
7	ARIZONA	12,300	15,140	23%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officer, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, "Local government, excluding education and hospitals" is the largest employer for this occupation (85.4%).

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
85.4%	Local government, excluding education and hospitals
8.9%	State government, excluding education and hospitals
3.3%	Federal Government, excluding Postal Service

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 5 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 14)

