



## Protective service workers

This occupational group includes workers engaged in firefighting and fire prevention, law enforcement, and animal control, as well as private detectives and investigators, security guards, lifeguards, transportation security screeners, and crossing guards.

## Cognitive and mental requirements

The qualifications that workers need to use judgement, make decisions, interact with others, and adapt to changes in jobs.

In 2024, more than basic people skills were required for 71.2 percent of protective service workers, and basic people skills

were required for 28.8 percent.

**Table 1. Percentage of protective service workers with cognitive and mental requirements, 2024**

Requirement	Yes	No
<b>Adaptability: Work schedule variability</b>	58.7	41.3
<b>Pace: Pause control</b>	11.8	88.2
<b>Telework</b>	0.7	99.3
<b>Work review: Presence of supervisor</b>	21.5	78.5
<b>Work review: Supervising others</b>	13.5	86.5
<b>Working around crowds</b>	32.9	67.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

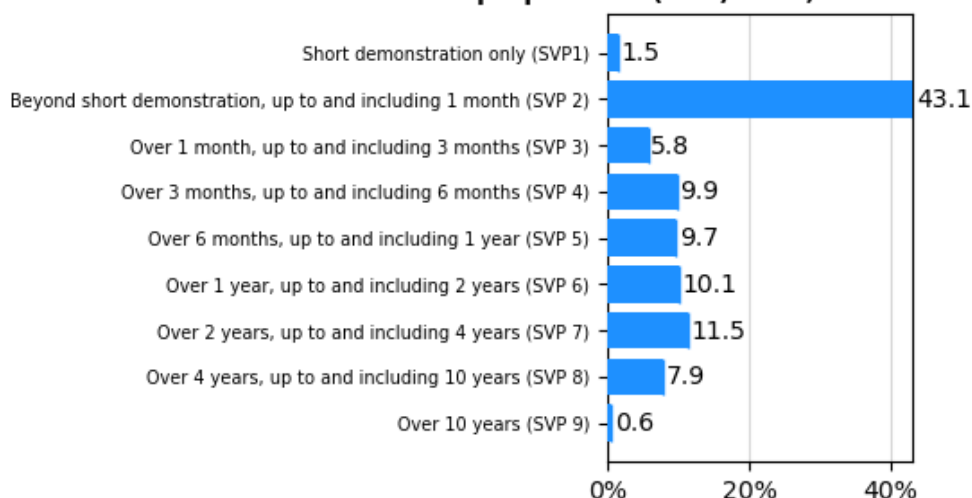
## Education, training, and experience requirements

The minimum level of formal education required, credentials necessary, on-the-job training, and prior work experience necessary for average performance in jobs.

In 2024, credentials were required for 83.3 percent of protective service workers. Prior work experience was required for 27.3 percent and on-the-job training was required for 78.8 percent.

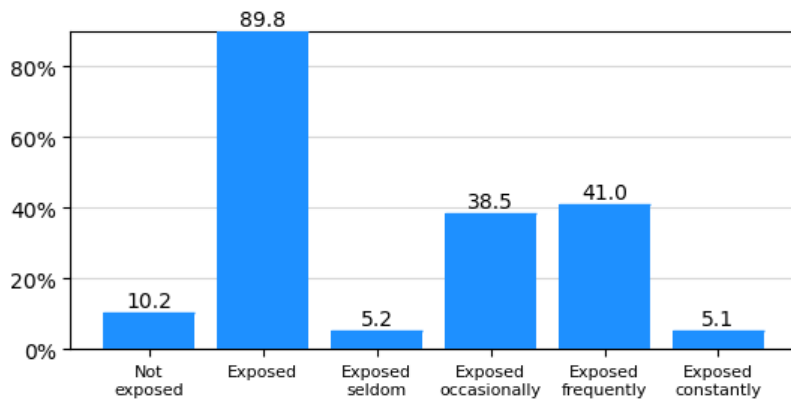
A high school diploma was required for 74.4 percent of protective service workers.

**Chart 1. Percentage of protective service workers by specific vocational preparation (SVP) level, 2024**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

**Chart 2. Percentage of protective service workers with outdoor exposure and duration, 2024**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

## Environmental conditions

The various tangible or concrete hazards or difficulties that are in the vicinity of where jobs' critical tasks are performed.

In 2024, 97.9 percent of protective service workers were not exposed to extreme cold, and 88.0 percent were not exposed to extreme heat. Wetness was not present for 75.7 percent, 97.7 percent were not exposed to heavy vibrations, and 10.2 percent were not exposed to the outdoors.

## Physical demands

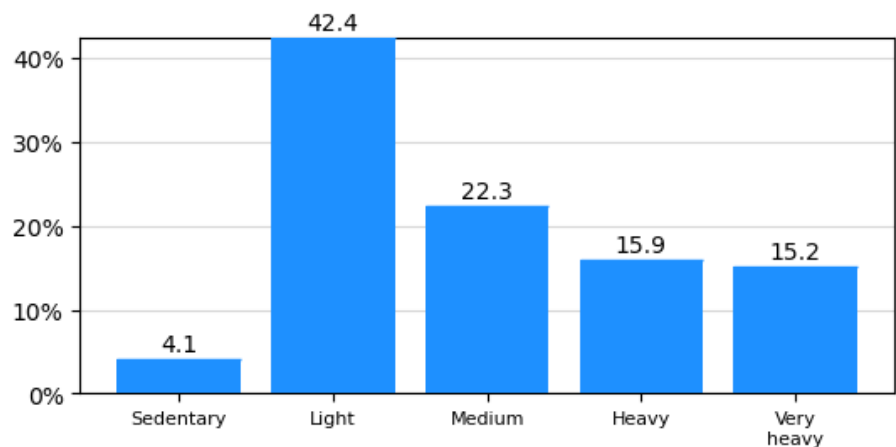
Refer to the physical activities required to perform tasks in jobs. The presence and, in some cases, duration of these activities are published.

In 2024, reaching at or below the shoulder was required for 70.6 percent of protective service workers and was not required for 29.4 percent. For 12.0 percent of workers, reaching at or below the shoulder was seldom performed, for 52.3 percent reaching at or below the shoulder occurred occasionally, 6.3 percent frequently, and for less than 0.5 percent reaching at or below the shoulder occurred constantly.

Performing work in low postures was required for 67.2 percent of protective service workers and was not required for 32.8 percent.

The choice to sit or stand when performing critical tasks was available to 4.0 percent of protective service workers. On average, workers spent 42.2 percent of the workday sitting and 57.8 percent of the workday standing.

**Chart 3. Percentage of protective service workers by strength level requirements, 2024**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

**Table 2. Percentage of protective service workers with physical demands, 2024**

Requirement	Yes	No
Choice of sitting or standing	4.0	96.0
Climbing structure-related ramps or stairs	65.3	34.7
Driving	67.7	32.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey