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| CAREER CRUISER | Analyzing Career Data |

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| **Step 2** | Explore careers. |
| **Driving Question** | How do different career options compare? |
| **Goal** | Compare labor market data from different occupations. |
| **Standard** | Describe occupations and industries in their region. (CR.1.2)  |

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| **FOR TEACHERS** |

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| **Timeframe** | 1 to 2 roughly hour-long lessons. |
| **Materials** | Internet and digital device access. |
| **Xello** | [Xello](https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/), Florida’s official K-12 public school career planning and work-based learning coordination system, has tools you can use on this topic!  Within the system, navigate to the ‘Explore’ tab and then ‘Careers’ to filter and sort by salary and demand. In addition, each career profile has relevant labor market data. Under ‘Home’ and ‘View All Lessons,’ consider having students complete the ‘Career Demand’ lesson. |
| **Overview** | **Beginning*** Let students know that data can be an objective way of comparing occupations objectively and that they will be comparing the data of three occupations they are interested in.

**Middle*** Students will learn about common types of labor market data and review recent data related to their preferred career.

**End*** Have students discuss with a partner how much their preferred career pays a year, how many people are employed in that career, and how much the career is growing.

**Extension*** Have students use an online budget/wage calculator to determine how much salary you might need to maintain your lifestyle and/or have children (example site: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>). Then, have students write a report on whether their preferred career would be able to sustain the type of lifestyle they prefer and/or the number of children they hope to have.
* Have students review and report on data specific to Florida from such sources as those listed below. Have them compare the salaries, openings/employment, and growth of five occupations they are interested in.
	+ Florida’s Regional Demand Occupation List: <https://floridajobs.org/workforce-statistics/publications-and-reports/labor-market-information-reports/regional-demand-occupations-list>
	+ Statewide Overview of Occupations and Employers: <https://www.floridajobs.org/economic-data/hwol/statewide-overview>
	+ Fastest Growing Occupations: <https://floridajobs.org/economic-data/employment-projections/fastest-growing-occupations>
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| **FOR STUDENTS** |

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| **Learn** |

There are government agencies at both the Federal and state level that produce data related to careers. This data can be used to better understand career options and make a more informed decision about which career to pursue.

**Career Data Worth Knowing:**

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| **Type of Data** | **How To Understand the Data** | **Question This Data Can Help Answer** |
| **Salary** | This is how much you could earn in a year working within a career field.Hourly wages can be roughly converted to yearly salary by doubling the hourly wage and multiplying by 1000. Example: $20 an hour roughly equals $40,000 a year.MIT offers a living and poverty wage calculator to help put salary amounts into context: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>  | What kind of lifestyle could I have with this career? |
| **Employment** | This is the number of people that work in the career within a particular area, like the United States or a state. | How hard is it to get a job in this career field? |
| **Growth** | Experts who study career data can look at trends and determine how much the career has grown or is expected to grow. | How hard will it be to get a job in the future? |

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| **Do** |

**Review Labor Market Data**

* Go to the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Occupational Outlook Handbook at: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
* Review the careers listed under “Highest Paying,” “Fastest Growing (Projected),” and “Most New Jobs (Projected).”
* Click on the column headers to sort by the columns.
* Search/browse to find your preferred career.
* Answer the below questions.

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| **Reflect** |
| For your top three career choices, fill in the below data chart based on data from the [Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Occupational Outlook Handbook](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/) or another data source.  |
| **Career** | **Salary** | **Employment** | **Growth** |
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| **Salary:** Circle the highest salary in your data table. How much more is this than your lowest paying career choice? |  |
| **Employment**: Circle the career in your table with the highest employment. How much more is this than the career with the lowest employment? |  |
| **Growth:** Circle the career with the fastest growth. How much more is this than the career with the lowest growth?  |  |
| **Relevance**: How does this data affect how you think about which career is best for you?  |  |