

Opticians, Dispensing (29-2081)

Occupation description: Design, measure, fit, and adapt lenses and frames for client according to written optical prescription or specification. Assist client with inserting, removing, and caring for contact lenses. Assist client with selecting frames. Measure customer for size of eyeglasses and coordinate frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescription. Prepare work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames. Verify exactness of finished lens spectacles. Adjust frame and lens position to fit client. May shape or reshape frames. Includes contact lens opticians.

Employment and Job Openings

	Employment			Average annual openings		
	2016 estimate	2026 projection	Percent change	Labor force exits	Occupation transfers	Total
Alaska	152	177	16.4	5	6	14
United States	77,600	89,300	15.0	2,800	3,100	7,060

Job outlook

Alaska: Alaska's employment growth is strong with low employment opportunities. [Read more.](#)

2019 Wages ?

	Mean Wage	Wage by Percentile				
	Mean	10th	25th	Median	75th	90th
United States	19.58	12.33	14.45	18.19	23.64	29.25
Alaska	26.01	17.50	21.04	26.64	30.48	34.71
Anchorage/Mat-Su Area	27.48	18.75	24.15	27.96	31.17	35.83

Labor Force Indicators

2016 Worker Characteristics

Total workers	Nonresident workers	Percent nonresident	Percent age 45 plus	Percent age 50 plus
182	24	13.2	30.3	25.5

2016 Potential Supply

Qualified but working in another occupation	38
Currently employed in a lower paid occupation	10
UI claimants previously working in occupation	14

2016 ALEXsys Employment Data

Number of registrants	81
Number of job position postings	26
Ratio of registrants to job position postings	3.1

Alaska Licensing Information

Optician – [View licensing requirements and number licensed](#)

Typical Entry-level Education, Experience, and/or On-the-job Training

Education: High school diploma or equivalent

Work experience: None

On-the-job training: Long-term on-the-job training

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