

Fast Facts from EBRI

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What Occupations Are Most Likely to Have Health Care Coverage?

WASHINGTON—Where you work can be an important factor in whether your employer will offer you health insurance coverage. How do various occupations and industries compare in health care coverage of their workers?

The October 2006 EBRI *Issue Brief*, published by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute, provides some answers. Generally in 2005, workers in private-sector managerial and professional jobs had the greatest likelihood (66 percent) of having health coverage from their own employer, while workers in farming, fishing, and forestry jobs were the least likely to have coverage (24 percent). Among various industry groups, those in public-sector jobs had the highest coverage rates (74 percent), followed by private-sector manufacturing workers (68 percent).

Overall, 62 percent of the U.S. population had employment-based health coverage in 2005, down from 64.4 percent in 2004.

Here is a breakdown of coverage percentages by both occupation and industry for private-sector workers ages 18–64, comparing 2004 with 2005:

	2004	2005
By Occupation		
Managerial and professional specialty	66.8%	66.5%
Service	35.5	35.4
Sales and office	51.8	51.8
Farming, fishing, forestry	23.9	24.2
Construction, extraction, maintenance	48.3	47.0
Production, transportation, material moving	57.6	56.2
By Industry		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining		
construction	38.1	38.0
Manufacturing	68.7	68.0
Wholesale and retail trade	51.0	51.2
Personal services	42.9	42.2
Public sector	74.6	74.5

Source: *EBRI Issue Brief*, October 2006.

The full October 2006 *EBRI Issue Brief* is available at www.ebri.org.

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