Are you interested in pursuing a job in a security or protection field? The federal government offers a variety of opportunities for individuals with knowledge and skills in investigation, compliance, security, customs and more. For example, economists monitor consumer financial markets to ensure compliance with federal laws at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, criminal investigators ensure our borders are secure at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and safety compliance specialists ensure federal aviation regulations are met at the Department of the Interior.

This guide will give you a glimpse of the type of security and protection jobs available in the government. For more information about searching and applying for positions in the federal government, visit gogovernment.org

Security and Protection Positions by Region

![Map showing the percentage of security and protection positions by region.

Top Security and Protection Fields

1. Investigation: 180,800
2. Criminal Investigation: 44,001
3. Compliance Inspection and Support: 42,549
4. General Inspection, Investigation, Enforcement and Compliance: 33,486
5. Border Patrol Enforcement: 20,563
6. Customs and Border Protection: 20,264
7. Correctional Officer: 17,911
8. Police: 13,739
9. Security Administration: 12,719
10. Fire Protection and Prevention: 9,229
11. Security Guard: 5,498

SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov

Top Agencies with Employees in Security and Protection

1. Justice: 121,230
2. Army: 51,902
3. Agriculture: 15,849
4. Navy: 12,863
5. Air Force: 8,062
6. Interior: 7,464
7. Treasury: 7,188
8. Transportation: 5,183
9. Veterans Affairs: 4,737
10. Labor: 4,133

SOURCE: fedscope.opm.gov
SEARCH FOR SECURITY AND PROTECTION POSITIONS

With so many opportunities to use your security and protection skills, it may be helpful to sort positions by job category. The most common categories are listed below. You can search USAJOBS.gov using these keywords or by using the job series code, a four-digit number corresponding to a government job category.

Job Categories

- **1801** General Inspection, Investigation and Enforcement
- **1802** Compliance Investigation and Support
- **1810** General Investigator
- **1811** Criminal Investigator
- **1822** Mine Safety Inspector
- **1825** Aviation Safety Inspector
- **1831** Securities Compliance Examining
- **1849** Wage and Hour Investigation
- **1863** Food Inspection
- **0007** Correctional Officer
- **0080** Security Administration
- **0083** Police Officer
- **0085** Security Guard

Examples of Job Positions

**Transportation Security Officer (1802)**
Department: Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Transportation Security Administration
Salary Range: $29,000–$43,000/year
Location: Multiple

As a security officer, you will:
- Operate screening equipment to identify dangerous objects
- Perform searches, to include hand-wand and pat-down searches
- Control terminal entry and exit points

**Criminal Investigator (1811)**
Department: Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Salary Range: $84,000-$110,000/year
Location: Ottawa, Canada

As a criminal investigator, you will:
- Represent ICE in negotiations with foreign representatives on high-level issues
- Supervise ICE Criminal Investigators
- Manage operational, financial and administrative facets of the office
- Plan, organize and coordinate ICE activities throughout the foreign area of responsibility

Search Tips

As the nation’s largest employer, the federal government has thousands of positions open at any one time. Here are our top tips for finding the right job announcements for you:

1. **Do Your Research.**
   Explore a variety of positions and agencies, then focus your search to a few that align best with your interests and skills.

2. **Visit Agency Websites.**
   Learn more about an agency’s mission, structure and current hiring on their website.

3. **Create an account on USAJOBS.gov**
   Save your job searches, build your resume and search for positions at USAJOBS.gov

Did You Know?

- At least 34 percent of federal employees in a security and protection field are under the age of 40.
- More than 37 percent of employees in security and protection earn $80,000 or more per year.

Visit us online at gogovernment.org/security
Learn more about finding a government job or internship in transportation and about:

- The Application Process
- Federal Agencies
- Pay and Benefits
- Writing a Federal Resume
- Security Clearances
- Searching for Positions
- USAJOBS.gov
- Internships
- Employee Profiles