

Bartenders

SOC: 35-3011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$33,530

Median Salary

756,700

Employment

+6.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: No formal educational credential

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 25.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.6/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	7.0/10	Investigative	3.8/10
Artistic	4.6/10	Social	7.6/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Customer-service skills, Decision-making skills, Multitasking skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Bartenders are hospitality professionals who prepare and serve **alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages** while creating a welcoming, enjoyable experience for customers. They combine drink-making skill, customer service, and multitasking to manage fast-paced bar environments in restaurants, hotels, clubs, and entertainment venues. Beyond mixing drinks, bartenders help set the tone of a venue and play a key role in customer satisfaction and repeat business.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy social interaction, working on their feet, and thriving in lively, customer-focused settings.

What Do Bartenders Do?

Bartenders prepare beverages, interact with customers, and maintain bar operations. Their responsibilities balance speed, accuracy, and responsible service.

Common responsibilities include:

- Mixing and serving cocktails, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks
- Taking customer orders and providing menu or drink recommendations
- Checking identification and following alcohol service laws
- Handling cash, credit cards, and point-of-sale systems
- Keeping the bar area clean, stocked, and organized
- Monitoring customer consumption and promoting responsible drinking
- Cleaning glassware, tools, and workstations

Types of Bartenders

Bartenders work in a variety of venues and may specialize by setting:

- Restaurant Bartenders: Serve diners alongside full food service.
- Cocktail or Craft Bartenders: Specialize in custom and signature drinks.
- Nightclub Bartenders: Work in high-energy, fast-paced nightlife settings.
- Hotel and Resort Bartenders: Serve guests in lounges, pools, or event spaces.
- Event and Catering Bartenders: Provide service at private events and functions.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Bartenders combine technical drink-making ability with strong customer service skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Most bartenders enter the field through hands-on experience and short-term training:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- On-the-Job Training: Learning drink preparation and bar procedures
- Bartending Courses (optional): Training in mixology and service techniques
- Alcohol Server Certification: Required in many states or venues
- Experience in Food Service: Often helpful for entry-level roles

Where Do Bartenders Work?

Bartenders are employed across hospitality and entertainment settings:

- Bars and Pubs
- Restaurants and Dining Venues

- Hotels and Resorts
- Nightclubs and Music Venues
- Event Spaces and Catering Companies
- Cruise Ships and Travel Hospitality

Work schedules often include evenings, weekends, and holidays.

How Much Do Bartenders Earn?

Earnings vary by location, venue, and experience:

- Base Wages: Typically hourly pay
- Tips: Often make up a significant portion of income
- Experienced or High-Volume Bartenders: May earn more through tips and premium service

Income can fluctuate by season and shift.

Is This Career Difficult?

Bartending is physically demanding and socially intense. Bartenders must manage high customer volumes, multitask quickly, and handle challenging situations responsibly. The challenge lies in maintaining speed, accuracy, and professionalism while creating a positive atmosphere.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Bartender?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy social, customer-facing work
- Thrive in fast-paced environments
- Have strong multitasking and communication skills
- Are comfortable working nontraditional hours
- Like combining creativity with service

How to Prepare Early

- Gain experience in food service or hospitality roles
- Learn basic drink recipes and bar terminology
- Develop customer service and conflict-management skills
- Practice speed, organization, and cleanliness
- Research local alcohol service laws and certifications

Bartenders blend hospitality, skill, and personality to create memorable experiences, turning simple drinks into moments of connection, enjoyment, and atmosphere in social spaces everywhere.