

Urban and Regional Planners

SOC: 19-3051 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$83,720

Median Salary

44,700

Employment

+3.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Master's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% 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

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Decision-making skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Urban and Regional Planners develop and implement **plans for land use, community development, and urban growth**. They analyze demographic, economic, and environmental data to create sustainable, functional, and attractive communities. Their work is critical in city planning, zoning, transportation, and public policy.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy research, problem-solving, and designing spaces that improve community life.

What Do Urban and Regional Planners Do?

These professionals assess community needs, propose land use plans, and coordinate with stakeholders to implement development projects.

Common responsibilities include:

- Conducting research on demographics, land use, and environmental factors
- Developing plans for residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational areas
- Reviewing proposals for construction, zoning changes, or development projects
- Advising government officials, developers, and the public on planning issues
- Preparing reports, maps, and visualizations to communicate plans
- Ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations
- Collaborating with architects, engineers, and community organizations

Key Areas of Urban and Regional Planning

Planners may focus on specific aspects of community design, sustainability, or public policy:

- Land Use and Zoning: Planning and regulating the use of land and development
- Transportation and Infrastructure Planning: Designing efficient transportation networks
- Environmental and Sustainability Planning: Addressing conservation and ecological impact
- Community Development: Enhancing social, recreational, and economic opportunities
- Policy and Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring development meets legal and safety standards

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine analytical, technical, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Urban planning, geography, public policy, or related field
- Master's Degree (common for advanced roles): Urban or regional planning
- Internships or Fieldwork: Practical experience in planning projects or community development
- Certification (optional but recommended): Professional Planner (AICP) credential
- Continuing Education: Staying current with planning techniques, laws, and sustainable development practices

Where Do Urban and Regional Planners Work?

They are employed in organizations involved in city planning, development, and policy:

- Local, State, and Federal Government Agencies
- Urban Planning and Design Firms
- Environmental and Consulting Organizations
- Real Estate and Development Companies

- Research and Policy Institutions

Work environments include offices, field sites, and community or planning meetings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires analytical thinking, communication skills, and attention to regulations. Planners must balance community needs, legal constraints, and sustainability goals.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy research, data analysis, and urban design
- Are interested in community development and sustainability
- Have strong problem-solving and communication skills
- Can collaborate with diverse stakeholders
- Want a career shaping functional and livable communities

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in geography, urban studies, public policy, and environmental science
- Participate in internships, volunteer projects, or planning initiatives
- Develop skills in GIS, data analysis, and design software
- Explore undergraduate and graduate programs in urban or regional planning
- Gain experience in community engagement, research, and project management

Urban and regional planners design and guide the development of communities, creating sustainable, functional, and attractive environments that improve quality of life.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/urban-and-regional-planners.htm>