

# Private Detectives and Investigators

SOC: 33-9021 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

<b>\$52,370</b> Median Salary	<b>43,600</b> Employment	<b>+6.0%</b> Growth Rate
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## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Low Risk** - 20.0% 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

**7.8/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

<b>Realistic</b>	8.0/10	<b>Investigative</b>	6.4/10
<b>Artistic</b>	4.0/10	<b>Social</b>	7.8/10
<b>Enterprising</b>	6.6/10	<b>Conventional</b>	6.2/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Attention to detail, Communication skills, Decision-making skills, Inquisitiveness, Patience, Problem-solving skills

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Private Detectives and Investigators gather information and conduct investigations **to uncover facts, resolve legal or personal matters, and support clients in decision-making**. They perform surveillance, interview witnesses, and analyze records. Their work is critical in law, insurance, corporate security, and private matters.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy problem-solving, investigation, and analytical work.

## What Do Private Detectives and Investigators Do?

These professionals collect evidence, conduct interviews, and perform surveillance to solve cases.

Common responsibilities include:

- Conducting interviews and background checks
- Performing surveillance and gathering photographic or video evidence
- Researching public and private records
- Analyzing information to draw conclusions or support legal cases
- Preparing reports and presenting findings to clients or legal authorities
- Collaborating with attorneys, law enforcement, or corporate clients
- Maintaining confidentiality and following legal and ethical guidelines

## Key Areas of Private Investigation

Investigators may specialize in certain types of cases or methods:

- Corporate Investigations: Identifying fraud, theft, or internal policy violations
- Legal and Civil Cases: Gathering evidence for lawsuits, custody cases, or criminal defense
- Surveillance and Monitoring: Observing subjects to obtain factual information
- Background and Records Research: Checking criminal, financial, and personal histories
- Cyber and Digital Investigations: Analyzing electronic data and online activity

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Private investigators combine analytical, observational, and interpersonal skills.

### ***Core Professional Skills***

### ***Personal Qualities That Matter***

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal training and practical experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic skills in research, communication, and observation
- On-the-Job Training or Apprenticeship: Learning investigative techniques under supervision
- Licensing: Required in most states to practice legally
- Continuous Learning: Staying informed on investigative methods, laws, and technology

## Where Do Private Detectives and Investigators Work?

They are employed in organizations that provide investigative services:

- Private Investigation Firms
- Corporate Security Departments
- Legal and Insurance Firms
- Self-Employment or Freelance Investigation
- Government or Contract Investigations

Work environments may include offices, fieldwork, surveillance locations, and client sites.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires analytical ability, attention to detail, and discretion. Investigators must handle complex cases, maintain confidentiality, and sometimes work in high-pressure or unpredictable situations.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy problem-solving and investigative work
- Have strong analytical and observational skills
- Can handle sensitive or confidential information responsibly
- Are persistent, patient, and detail-oriented
- Want a career in law, corporate security, or private investigation

## How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in criminal justice, law, or investigative techniques
- Gain experience through internships, law enforcement, or security work
- Develop research, communication, and observation skills
- Learn about relevant laws, regulations, and ethics
- Practice report writing and documentation skills

**Private detectives and investigators uncover facts, gather evidence, and provide clients with actionable information, supporting legal, corporate, and personal decision-making.**