



How Long Til You Earn Your First Million?

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If you know that Hollywood's top stars can earn \$20 million dollars per film and that the average time to shoot a movie is six months, you won't be surprised to see that their paychecks make the average person's income look minuscule in comparison. In fact, if these celebrities worked standard 8-hour workdays, it would take them less than seven days to earn \$1 million.

In all likelihood, you and I – the little people – aren't making that kind of money. In fact, it will take some people their entire careers to cross the million-dollar mark even once.

With that in mind, we looked at a variety of jobs to see just how long it would take to earn \$1 million working in each position. We used the median annual salary of each profession, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and broke down the earnings based on a 40-hour workweek.

Here are 30 jobs with earnings anywhere from below minimum wage to six-figure salaries and how long it would take to earn \$1 million in terms of hours, eight-hour workdays and years.

Architects, except landscape and naval: \$64,150*

32,425 hours**

4,053 days

16 years

Automotive service technicians and mechanics: \$33,780

61,576 hours

7,697 days

30 years

Bartenders: \$16,350

127,226 hours

15,901 days

61 years

Bookkeeping, accounting and auditing clerks: \$30,560

68,074 hours

8,508 days

33 years

Carpenters: \$36,550

56,915 hours

7,113 days
27 years

Child, family and school social workers: \$37,480

55,494 hours
6,937 days
27 years

Choreographers: \$34,660

60,024 hours
7,501 days
29 years

Coaches and scouts at colleges, universities and professional schools: \$37,530

55,432 hours
6,928 days
27 years

Computer and information systems managers: \$101,580

20,475 hours
2,560 days
10 years

Computer applications software engineers: \$79,780

26,069 hours
3,259 days
13 years

Computer support specialists: \$41,470

50,150 hours
6,260 days
24 years

Dental hygienists: \$62,800

33,124 hours
4,140 days
16 years

Desktop publishers: \$34,130

60,938 hours
7,618 days
29 years

Elementary school principals: \$82,414

25,240 hours

3,155 days
12 years

Executive secretaries and administrative assistants: \$37,240

55,866 hours
6,982 days
27 years

Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologists: \$21,320

97,561 hours
12,195 days
47 years

Librarians, local government: \$44,960

46,254 hours
5,783 days
22 years

Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education: \$46,300

44,924 hours
5,615 days
22 years

Network systems and data communications analysts: \$64,600

32,154 hours
4,032 days
15 years

Personal financial advisers: \$66,120

26,896 hours
3,932 days
15 years

Photographers: \$26,170

79,491 hours
9,935 days
38 years

Pharmacists: \$94,520

22,007 hours
2,751 days
11 years

Physical therapists: \$66,200

31,417 hours

3,927 days
15 years

Police and sheriff's patrol officers: \$47,460

43,821 hours
5,479 days
21 years

Post-secondary teachers: \$56,120

37,064 hours
4,633 days
18 years

Retail salespersons, department stores: \$19,610

106,045 hours
13,259 days
51 years

Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten and elementary school: \$46,360

44,863 hours
5,608 days
22 years

Technical writers: \$58,050

35,829 hours
4,479 days
17 years

Travel agent: \$29,210

71,225 hours
8,900 days
34 years

Veterinarians: \$71,990

28,893 hours
3,611 days
14 years

*Salary data based on median annual salary data as reported by the BLS.

**Hours, days and years figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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