The Wage is Right!
Game 1

Round 1: Guess the median annual earnings

Occupation: Actors	*Solution:* $25,920

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Pharmacists dispense prescribed drugs and talk to patients about how to use them. To practice pharmacy, one must graduate from an accredited college of pharmacy and obtain a license. This usually requires at least 6 years of study after high school.

Travel agents give advice to prospective travelers and make arrangements for transportation, hotel accommodations, car rentals, tours, and recreation. The minimum requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Many vocational schools offer 6- to 12-week full-time travel agent programs.

Civil Engineers design and supervise the construction of roads, buildings, airports, dams, bridges, and other structures. To become a civil engineer, it's usually necessary to have a bachelor's degree in engineering. Engineering students take a lot of science and mathematics courses.

Solution:

1. Pharmacists (Median annual earnings in 2000 = $70,950.)
2. Civil engineers (Median annual earnings in 2000 = $55,740.)
3. Travel agents (Median annual earnings in 2000 = $25,150.)

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

Solution:

1. Pharmacists (Expected to grow faster than the average through 2010.) As baby boomers age, they will want more and more medications. This will shift the demand curve for pharmacists to the right by a large amount.
2. Civil engineers (Expected to increase about as fast as average through 2010.) Population and economic growth will require more structures. This will shift the demand curve for civil engineers modestly to the right.
3. Travel agents (Expected to grow more slowly than average though 2010.) The Internet increasingly allows people to plan their own trips, make their own reservations and travel arrangements, and purchase their own tickets. This may shift the demand curve for travel agents to the left.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2002-03 Edition*, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/.

The Wage is Right!
Game 2

Round 1: Guess the median hourly earnings

Occupation: Truck drivers	*Solution:* $15.25

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Dental assistants prepare patients for treatment, obtain dental records, hand instruments to dentists, sterilize instruments, and instruct patients on oral health care. Dental assistants usually have a high school diploma or equivalent, and a diploma or certificate from a dental assisting training program. These training programs often take one year or less to complete.

Meter readers read electric, gas, water, and other meters and record the volume used. They walk or drive along a route. Most applicants have a high school diploma.

Firefighters put out fires, treat injuries, and perform other important functions. Applicants generally must pass a written and medical exam, as well as tests of strength, stamina, coordination, and agility. Applicants usually face stiff competition for available jobs, since many people are attracted to firefighting. Examinations are generally open to persons who are at least 18 years of age and have a high school education or the equivalent.

Solutions:

1. Firefighters. Median hourly earnings were $16.43 in 2000.
2. Meter readers. Median hourly earnings were $13.32 in 2000.
3. Dental assistants. Median hourly earnings were $12.49 in 2000.

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

1. Dental assistants. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average through the year 2010. Population growth plus the tendency of older people to retain more of their natural teeth is expected to increase demand for dental services. This will shift the demand curve for dental assistants to the right by a large amount.
2. Firefighters. Employment is expected to increase more slowly than average through 2010. Fire departments will likely need to compete with other public service agencies for limited public funding. This will keep the demand curve for firefighters from shifting to the right very much.
3. Meter readers. Employment is expected to decline through 2010. New automated meter reading systems are expected to allow meters to be read from a central location.   This will shift the demand curve for meter readers to the left.

The Wage is Right!
Game 3

Round 1: Guess the median hourly earnings

Occupation: Busdrivers	*Solution:* $12.36

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Flight attendants make sure that airline safety regulations are followed, and try to make flights comfortable for passengers. Airlines prefer to hire pleasant and resourceful people who can work well with others and remain calm under duress. Once hired, candidates are usually trained by their airlines for 4 to 7 weeks. The majority of flight attendants hold union membership.

Correctional officers are responsible for watching over people who are awaiting trial or who have been sentenced to serve time in a jail, prison, or other correctional institution. The work can be stressful and dangerous.   Most institutions require correctional officers to have a high school education or its equivalent. Once hired, officer trainees typically receive several weeks or months of training.

Air traffic controllers monitor air traffic at airports to make sure that planes stay a safe distance apart. Trainees are selected through the competitive Federal Civil Service system. Applicants usually must have 3 years of general work experience or 4 years of college, or a combination of both. Trainees receive 7 months of intensive training at the FAA academy.

Solutions:

1. Air traffic controllers. Median annual earnings were $82,520 in 2000.
2. Flight attendants. Median annual earnings were $38,820 in 2000.
3. Correctional officers. Median annual earnings were $31,170 in 2000.

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

1. Correctional officers. Employment is expected to increase faster than average through 2010, due to a growing inmate population. This will shift the demand curve for correctional officers to the right by a large amount.
2. Flight attendants. Employment is expected to grow about as fast as average through the year 2010. Our population is growing and becoming more affluent, so it's likely to travel more. This will shift the demand curve for flight attendants modestly to the right.
3. **Air traffic controllers. Employment is expected to grow more slowly than average through the year 2010. Though air travel is expected to increase, computers are expected to allow each controller to handle more traffic. This will keep the demand curve for controllers from increasing very much.**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2002-03 Edition*, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/.

The Wage is Right!
Game 4

Round 1: Guess the median hourly earnings

Occupation: Carpenters	*Solution:* $15.69

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Landscape architects design outdoor areas like parks and playgrounds, and plan the arrangement of plants, walkways, and irrigation systems for businesses and residences. A bachelor's or master's degree in landscape architecture is usually necessary. Most states also require landscape architects to be licensed or registered.

Word processors type information into computers. Applicants should have a high school diploma, and have a good command of spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Home appliance repairers keep appliances like microwave ovens, washers, and dryers working. Repairers usually have a high school diploma, and most of them acquire their skills either on the job or in a trade school or community college.

Solutions:

1. Landscape architects. Median annual earnings were $43,540 in 2000.
2. Home appliance repairers. Median annual earnings were $28,860 in 2000.
3. Word processors. Median annual earnings were $24,710 in 2000.

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

1. Landscape architects. Employment is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010.   There will likely be continued growth in construction, which will fuel demand for landscaping. Landscape architects may also be called upon to address environmental problems, like the restoration of wetlands. This will shift the demand curve for landscape architects to the right.
2. Home appliance repairers. Employment is expected to increase more slowly than average through the year 2010 since improved technology will likely require fewer repairs. This will shift the demand curve for home appliance repairers to the left.
3. Word processors. Employment is expected to decline through 2010 since professionals are expected to do more and more of their own typing. This will shift the demand curve for mail processors to the left.

The Wage is Right!
Game 5

Round 1: Guess the median hourly earnings

| *Occupation:* Taxi drivers | *Solution:* $8.19 (including tips) |

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Roofers repair and install roofs. The work is hot and strenuous. Most roofers acquire their skills by working with experienced roofers. Good physical condition and good balance are essential.

Pest control workers locate, identify, and get rid of pests. Applicants should have a high school diploma, good communication skills, and a good driving record. Once hired, they serve as apprentices until they've completed a training program and passed a written exam for a license.

Home health aides help disabled and ill persons live in their own homes or in residential care facilities. They should be responsible, compassionate, and cheerful. Some states require that aides receive formal training, but many do not.

Solutions:

1. Roofers. Median hourly earnings were $13.95 in 2000.
2. Pest control workers. Median hourly earnings were $10.65 in 2000.
3. Home health aides. Median hourly earnings were $7.50 in 2000.

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

4. Home health aides. This is expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2010. The number of elderly people is expected to rise substantially. This will shift the demand curve for home health aides to the right by a large amount.
5. Pest control workers. Employment is expected to grow faster than average through 2010. Improvements in our standard of living will cause more people to hire professionals rather than do pest control work on their own. This will shift the demand curve to the right.
6. Roofers. Employment is expected to grow about as fast as average through the year 2010. Population growth will result in new construction and existing roofs will need to be replaced from time to time. This will shift the demand curve modestly to the right.

The Wage is Right!
Game 6

Round 1: Guess the median hourly earnings

Occupation: Welder	*Solution:* $13.13

Round 2: Rank by earnings

Machinists use machines to produce precision metal parts. Persons interested in becoming machinists should be mechanically inclined. Machinists train on the job, and in high schools, vocational schools, or community colleges.

Grocery store cashiers total bills, receive money, and make change. They're often expected to work on weekends, evenings, and holidays. Many work part time. Employers often prefer applicants with high school diplomas.

Animal caretakers feed, groom, and exercise animals. They work at boarding kennels, animal shelters, and other places where animals are kept. Most animal caretakers are trained on the job.

Solutions:

1. Machinists. Median hourly earnings of machinists were $14.78 in 2000.
2. Animal caretakers. Median hourly earnings of animal caretakers were $7.67 in 2000.
3. Grocery store cashiers. Median hourly earnings were $6.99 in 2000.

Round 3: Which will grow the fastest?

1. Animal caretakers. Employment is expected to grow faster than average through 2010. As Americans become more affluent, they are likely to take increasing advantage of animal care services, shifting the demand curve for animal caretakers to the right.
2. Grocery store cashiers. Employment is expected to grow about as fast as the average through the year 2010. Expanding demand for goods by a growing population will shift the demand curve for cashiers to the right slightly.
3. Machinists. Employment is expected to grow more slowly than average through 2010. Computer-controlled machine tools and better technologies will allow fewer machinists to accomplish the same amount of work. This will prevent the demand curve for machinists from shifting much.