



FOCUS ON THE WORKPLACE

TEMPORARY WORK

One of the fastest growing industries in America is the temporary services industry. Temporary services like Kelly Services and Manpower provide lists of available workers to employers who need short-term help.

Temporary workers (temps) are hired to fill in when a permanent employee quits, gets sick, or goes on vacation. Some are hired to help out when a special project requires extra people for a short time. The most common temporary jobs are for secretaries, receptionists, and bookkeepers.

Who are these temporary workers? There are five general categories.

- **Rusty Skills.** Some people have not worked for a while and are uncertain of their abilities. “Temping” gives them a chance to brush up on their skills before looking for a permanent job.
- **Uncertain Goals.** Some people are not sure what type of work they want to do. Temping allows them to sample different jobs before deciding.
- **Between Jobs.** It can take time for new high school or college graduates to find the right position. Temping is a way to finance a job hunt so they don’t have to accept the first offer.
- **Supporting Another Occupation.** Some people who work as writers, artists, or performers do not have permanent jobs. They do temp work to pay the bills while they pursue their preferred line of work.
- **Extra Money.** Students working their way through college are a major source of temps. So are retirees looking for additional income.

A temporary job may be as short as a day or as long as a year. The average length is one to two weeks. At some point in your life, a temporary job may meet your needs.

THINK CRITICALLY

1. What are some temporary agencies in your area?
2. Explain why you would most likely try temping.



Conventions and trade shows are opportunities for many temporary jobs.