



## Trades in Otsego County, 1855

Below is a record of the tradesman and businessmen in Otsego County, NY in 1855. Use this information to answer the questions that follow.

<u>PROFESSIONS, TRADES, &amp; OCCUPATIONS, OTSEGO COUNTY, 1855</u>	
13,973	Total people with occupations reported
9,985	Farmers (71.46%)
<u>Artisans:</u>	2,496 (17.86%)
322	Blacksmiths
281	Boot & shoe makers
66	Cabinet makers & dealers
580	Carpenters & joiners
154	Coach & wagon makers & wheelrights
88	Coopers
167	Dress makers, sewers, & seamstresses
32	Machinists
94	Masons, plasterers, & bricklayers
68	Millers
100	Milliners
82	Painters, glaziers, & varnishers
26	Printers
78	Saddle, harness, & trunk makers
7	Stone & marble cutters
263	Tailors
38	Tanners & curriers
23	Tinsmiths
17	Weavers
<u>Clerical/Professional:</u>	535 (3.83%)
129	Clerks, copyists, & accountants
93	Clergymen
52	Lawyers
89	Physicians
172	Teachers
<u>Sales &amp; Service:</u>	315 (2.25%)
16	Grocers
78	Hotel & Inn keepers
197	Merchants
23	Teamsters
1	Railroad employee
<u>Unskilled:</u>	(4.59%)
642	Laborers

1. Looking at the list of occupations, what occupation has the highest number of people listed? How many were there?
2. In the artisan category, which trade has the highest number of people? How many people practice that trade?
3. Why do you think there are so many carpenters and joiners?
4. Which artisan has the second highest number?
5. Why do you think there are so many blacksmiths? What do they do for the community?
6. How many more shoemakers than dressmakers are listed?
7. There are only 17 weavers listed, one of the lowest number of artisans. Why do you think there were so few weavers in the county at this time?
8. How many more artisans are there than clerical/professional and sales/service combined?
9. What is the biggest category under clerical/professional? Why do you think that is a big group?

**Expanded question:**

Looking at the list of trades, which ones do you think support the farmers? You may need to look up some of the definitions of the trades for your answer. Explain why you think those trades support farming.