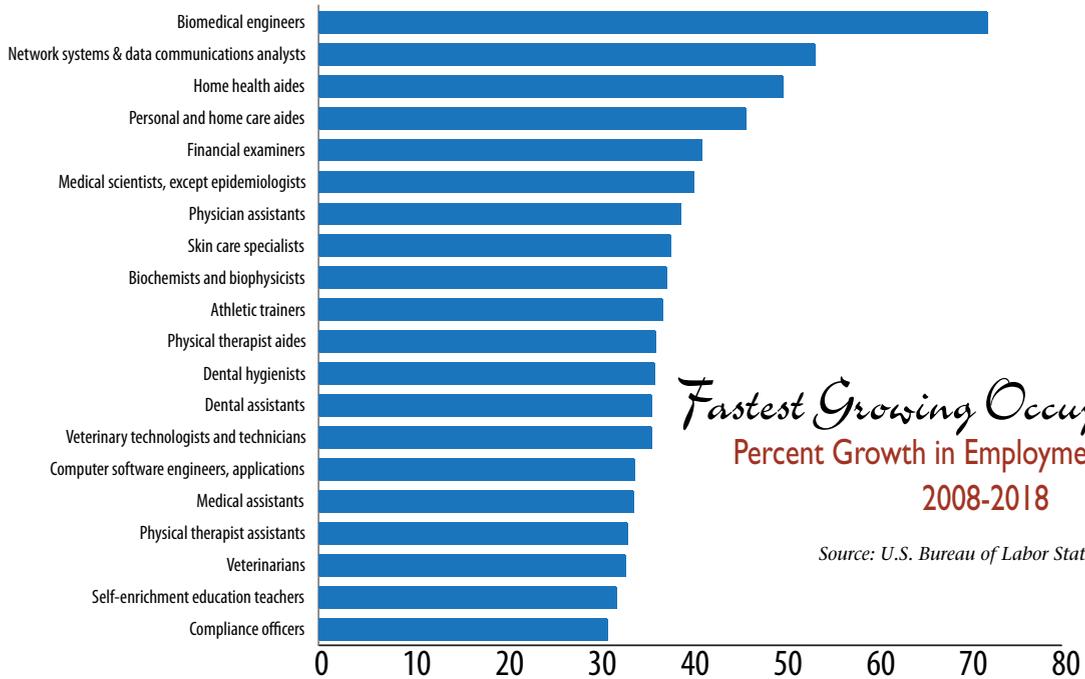


# U.S. Occupational and Employment Projections 2008-2018



Most of us will spend much of our adult life working to make a living. Ideally, as young adults, we apply our aptitudes, interests, and acquired skills to some area of the economy to launch a career. Employment ideally provides us with income that meets our financial needs, a sense of job satisfaction, and opportunities to grow within a profession over our working life. For some a chosen career is part of a carefully laid-out plan and for others it starts with a chance opportunity that puts them on a path that leads to a somewhat surprising vocation.

To help people plan their careers and make occupational choices, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces a ten-year projection of economic trends for the nation with details on the characteristics of the labor force, job growth by industry, and how the expected structure of the economy will affect job seekers' occupational opportunities in the coming years. This glimpse into the future is refreshed every two years. The current BLS projections cover from 2008 to 2018 and were released at the end of 2009.



*Fastest Growing Occupations*  
**Percent Growth in Employment, Projected  
 2008-2018**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Industry Employment

Jobs are grouped into an industry according to the type of good produced or service provided by a firm. Everyone who works in a hospital, for example, is part of the hospital industry. This includes not only healthcare workers, such as doctors and nurses, but also office managers, accountants, receptionists and janitors.

Industry employment projections start with the known job counts in the base year of 2008 for each industry and show the numeric change—growth or decline in the total number of jobs expected over the projection period to 2018.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment is projected to grow by 14.6 million jobs by 2018. As has been the case for several decades, in the next ten years, service-providing industries will account for most of this growth. The goods-producing industries of mining, construction and manufacturing, are expected to increase by only 27,000 jobs overall by 2018, with construction increasing by 1.3 million, manufacturing decreasing by 1.2 million and mining declining

by 104,000. Because the goods-producing industries are characterized by relatively high and increasing productivity, their output will increase a substantial amount when compared to the stagnant number of jobs.

In the service-providing industrial sectors, educational services (both private and public together) is expected to grow the fastest, 2.4 percent per year, adding 805,500 jobs by 2018. Professional and business services is projected to generate the greatest number of jobs, increasing by 4.2 million. Healthcare employment will increase by 4.0 million jobs, or 2.3 percent per year.

## Occupations and Job Openings

Some of the most widely used results for career exploration from the projection results are the number of expected job openings for new workers by occupation. Most job openings for those entering an occupation come from the need to replace workers who have left the occupation (by retiring or for some other reason), rather than from the need to fill newly created jobs. When examining occupations with the most job openings in the

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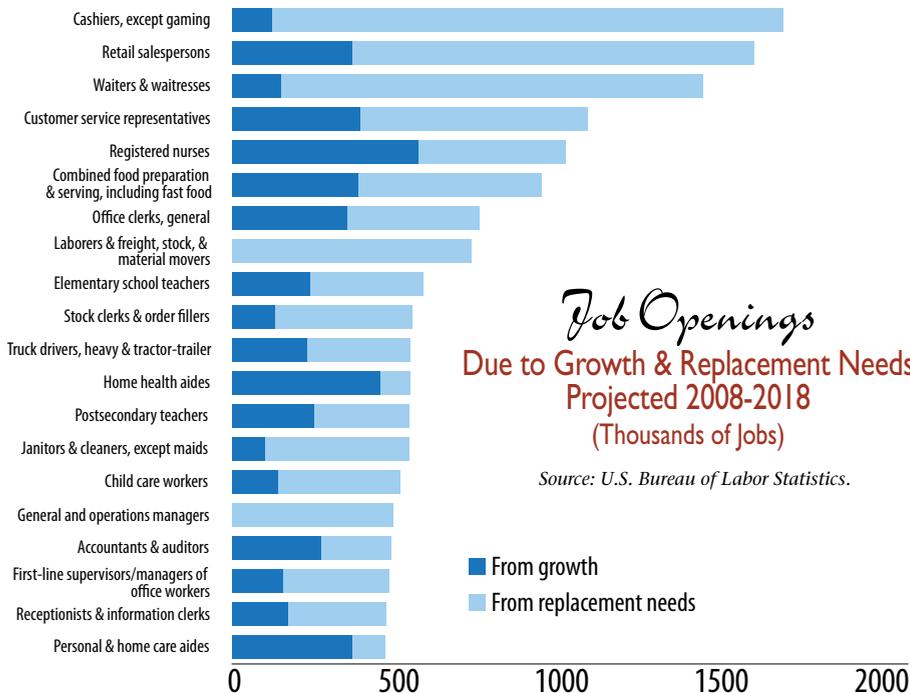
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coming decade, the top 20 are found among retail trade and food services, office management and support workers, healthcare, and education. If we look at a list the 20 fastest growing occupations in terms of percent growth by 2018, this list is dominated by healthcare occupations, with some from information technology and education.

The occupational projections provide results for almost 700 distinct occupations. Among those with a significant number of openings are a wide range of education/training levels needed to qualify and a wide range of average annual wages paid. In general, occupations with higher education and training requirements earn higher wages. ⓘ

For more detailed information:

- Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Winter 2009-2010 —<http://www.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2009/winter/winter2009ooq.pdf>
- Monthly Labor Review, November 2009—<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2009/11/mlr200911.pdf>
- Employment Projections 2008-2018, New Release, December 10, 2009—<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecopro.pdf>



Network systems and data communications analysts are among the fastest growing occupations.

