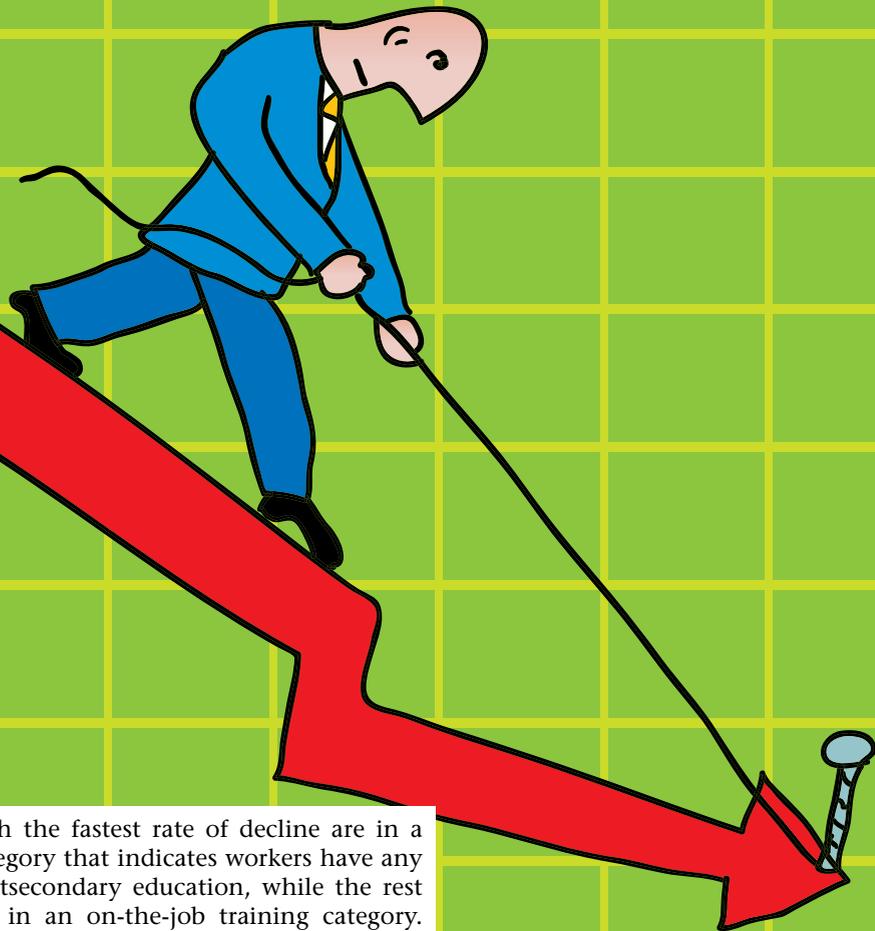


Occupations

on the Decline



When was the last time you encountered a phone line installer, a meter reader or a gas station attendant? When you make a purchase, how often is it done face-to-face with a sales clerk vs. from a computer to another computer. How long has it been since you saw a want-ad for a file clerk? Those occupations are following in the same disappearing footsteps as the shoe repairer, postal service mail sorters and projectionists.

One thing impacting all these occupations is technology. Technology is not the only “culprit” that can cause a decline in an occupation’s demand: changing consumer demand, changing business practices and foreign competition are others. Many consumers choose less expensive foreign-made goods over more expensive American-made products. And often, there are no American manufacturers left to compete with the imports.

Education level correlates with job growth. Only two of the occupations

with the fastest rate of decline are in a category that indicates workers have any postsecondary education, while the rest are in an on-the-job training category. In general, occupations requiring postsecondary education are expected to experience higher rates of growth than those in an on-the-job training category.

Occupations in the associate-degree category are projected to grow faster than those occupations requiring less education, at about 19 percent.

In addition, occupations in the master’s and first-professional-degree categories are anticipated to grow by 18 percent each, and occupations in the bachelor’s and doctoral degree categories are expected to grow by about 17 percent each.

All is not lost. The need for replacements in declining occupations will still provide some jobs. And with some education, an employee can enter a growing occupation. ●

Other resources:

<http://data.bls.gov/>

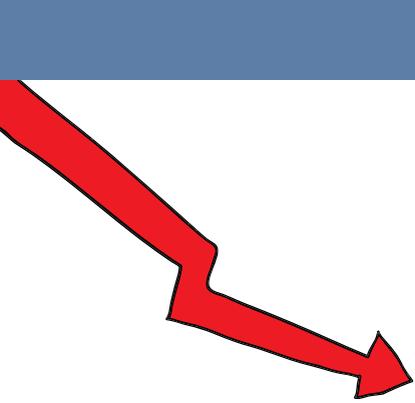
www.skilltran.com

<http://hotjobs.yahoo.com/>

<http://jobs.utah.gov/ui/Jobseeker.asp>

readersdigest.com

zonta.org



Occupations with the Fastest Decline

Occupation	Percent change	Number of jobs lost (in thousands)	Wages (May 2008 median)	Education/training category
Textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators and tenders	-45	-7.2	\$ 23,680	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Textile winding, twisting, and drawing out machine setters, operators, and tenders	-41	-14.2	23,970	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Textile knitting and weaving machine setters, operators, and tenders	-39	-11.5	25,400	Long-term on-the-job training
Shoe machine operators and tenders	-35	-1.7	25,090	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Extruding and forming machine setters, operators, and tenders, synthetic and glass fibers	-34	-4.8	31,160	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Sewing machine operators	-34	-71.5	19,870	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Semiconductor processors	-32	-10.0	32,230	Postsecondary vocational award
Textile cutting machine setters, operators, and tenders	-31	-6.0	22,620	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Postal Service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	-30	-54.5	50,020	Short-term on-the-job training
Fabric menders, except garment	-30	-0.3	28,470	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Wellhead pumpers	-28	-5.3	37,860	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Fabric and apparel patternmakers	-27	-2.2	37,760	Long-term on-the-job training
Drilling and boring machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	-27	-8.9	30,850	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	-27	-14.9	32,940	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Order clerks	-26	-64.2	27,990	Short-term on-the-job training
Coil winders, tapers, and finishers	-25	-5.6	27,730	Short-term on-the-job training
Photographic processing machine operators	-24	-12.5	20,360	Short-term on-the-job training
File clerks	-23	-49.6	23,800	Short-term on-the-job training
Derrick operators, oil and gas	-23	-5.8	41,920	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Desktop publishers	-23	-5.9	36,600	Postsecondary vocational award

SOURCE: BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and Division of Occupational Outlook