Hottest Careers for College Graduates
Experts Predict Where the Jobs Will Be in 2018

Government economists estimate which occupations will have the most job openings between 2008 and 2018. Openings occur because new jobs are created and because workers retire or leave the field for other reasons.

Check out these top 10 lists of occupations, sorted by the level of education typically required:

**Graduate degree**

- Postsecondary teachers: 553,000
- Doctors and surgeons: 261,000
- Lawyers: 240,000
- Clergy: 218,000
- Pharmacists: 106,000
- Educational, vocational, and school counselors: 94,000
- Physical therapists: 79,000
- Medical scientists, except epidemiologists: 66,000
- Mental health and substance abuse social workers: 61,000
- Instructional coordinators: 61,000

**Bachelor's degree**

**Associate's degree or postsecondary vocational award**

**Occupations with the Most Job Openings: Graduate Degree**

**Occupation** | **Total Job Openings 2008–2018**
---|---
Postsecondary teachers | 553,000
Doctors and surgeons | 261,000
Lawyers | 240,000
Clergy | 218,000
Pharmacists | 106,000
Educational, vocational, and school counselors | 94,000
Physical therapists | 79,000
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists | 66,000
Mental health and substance abuse social workers | 61,000
Instructional coordinators | 61,000

**Occupations with the Most Job Openings: Bachelor's Degree**

**Occupation** | **Total Job Openings 2008–2018**
---|---
Elementary school teachers, except special education | 597,000
Accountants and auditors | 498,000
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education | 412,000
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education | 251,000
Computer systems analysts | 223,000
Computer software engineers, applications | 218,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Total Job Openings 2008–2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered nurses</td>
<td>1,039,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants</td>
<td>422,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses</td>
<td>391,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer support specialists</td>
<td>235,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive service technicians and mechanics</td>
<td>182,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool teachers, except special education</td>
<td>178,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance sales agents</td>
<td>153,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration technicians</td>
<td>136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate sales agents</td>
<td>128,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
# Best Jobs in America

## Job Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>10-year Growth</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineer</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>$78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Telecommunications Network Engineer</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>$87,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>$62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Software Architect</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>$119,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Environmental Engineer</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Physical Therapist</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Employment Recruiter</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Environmental Health &amp; Safety Specialist</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>$71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Occupational Therapist</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Construction Estimator</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Optometrist</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Project Engineer</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Civil Engineer</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Structural Engineer</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$93,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Transportation Engineer</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Computer and Information Scientist</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Management Consultant</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$117,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Risk Management Manager</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Healthcare Consultant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Business Development Analyst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Top 10 Lists

- Median Pay
- Top Pay
- Job Growth
- Low Stress
- Job Security
- Flexibility
- Future Growth
- Satisfaction
- Benefit to Society

## Galleries

- Have the best job in America
- See them all

## Quick Vote

Do you love your job?
- Yes, it's interesting and pays well.
- Not really, but I'm glad I've got a job.
- No, I'd switch careers in a second.
- I wish I did, I'm unemployed.

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## Video

- **Building the Next Hubble**
  - Scott Tucker helps build the James Webb Space Telescope. 1,000x more powerful than Hubble, it is scheduled to launch in 2014.

## Best Jobs in America

- Money/Payscale.com's list of great careers

## Job Search

- See 175,032 new jobs added today

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Sources: Payscale.com, Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Job growth is estimated for 2006-2016.*