

30 Fastest-Growing Careers for 2008 and Beyond

Interested in getting a new job this year? Here is a list of the 30 fastest-growing careers according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov.

1. Network systems and data communications analysts

2006 employment: 262,000

2016 projection: 402,000

Percent growth: 53.4

Salary range: \$46,360 or more

Education/training: Bachelor's degree

2. Personal and home care aides

2006 employment: 767,000

2016 projection: 1,156,000

Percent growth: 50.6

Salary range: Less than \$21,220

Education/training: On-the-job training

3. Home health aides

2006 employment: 787,000

2016 projection: 1,171,000

Percent growth: 48.7

Salary range: Less than \$21,220

Education/training: On-the-job training

4. Computer software engineers, applications

2006 employment: 507,000

2016 projection: 733,000

Percent growth: 44.6

Salary range: \$46,360 or more

Education/training: Bachelor's degree

5. Veterinary technologists and technicians

2006 employment: 71,000

2016 projection: 100,000

Percent growth: 41

Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560

Education/training: Associate degree

6. Personal financial advisors

2006 employment: 176,000

2016 projection: 248,000

Percent growth: 41

Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

7. Makeup artists, theatrical and performance

2006 employment: 2,000
2016 projection: 3,000
Percent growth: 39.8
Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300
Education/training: Postsecondary vocational award

8. Medical assistant

2006 employment: 417,000
2016 projection: 565,000
Percent growth: 35.4
Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560
Education/training: Moderate on-the-job training

9. Veterinarians

2006 employment: 62,000
2016 projection: 84,000
Percent growth: 35
Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: First professional degree

10. Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors

2006 employment: 83,000
2016 projection: 112,000
Percent growth: 34.3
Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

11. Skin care specialists

2006 employment: 38,000
2016 projection: 51,000
Percent growth: 34.3
Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560
Education/training: Postsecondary vocational award

12. Financial analysts

2006 employment: 221,000
2016 projection: 295,000
Percent growth: 33.8
Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

13. Social and human service assistants

2006 employment: 339,000

2016 projection: 453,000

Percent growth: 34.3

Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560

Education/training: Moderate on-the-job training

14. Gaming surveillance officers and gaming investigators

2006 employment: 9,000

2016 projection: 12,000

Percent growth: 33.6

Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560

Education/training: Moderate on-the-job training

15. Physical therapist assistants

2006 employment: 60,000

2016 projection: 80,000

Percent growth: 32.4

Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300

Education/training: Associate degree

16. Pharmacy technicians

2006 employment: 285,000

2016 projection: 376,000

Percent growth: 32

Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560

Education/training: Moderate on-the-job training

17. Forensic science technicians

2006 employment: 13,000

2016 projection: 17,000

Percent growth: 30.7

Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300

Education/training: Bachelor's degree

18. Dental hygienists

2006 employment: 167,000

2016 projection: 217,000

Percent growth: 30.1

Salary range: \$46,360 or more

Education/training: Associate degree

19. Mental health counselors

2006 employment: 100,000

2016 projection: 130,000

Percent growth: 30
Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300
Education/training: Master's degree

20. Mental health and substance abuse social workers

2006 employment: 122,000
2016 projection: 159,000
Percent growth: 29.9
Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300
Education/training: Master's degree

21. Marriage and family therapists

2006 employment: 25,000
2016 projection: 32,000
Percent growth: 29.8
Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300
Education/training: Master's degree

22. Dental assistants

2006 employment: 280,000
2016 projection: 362,000
Percent growth: 29.2
Salary range: \$21,260 - \$30,560
Education/training: Moderate on-the-job training

23. Computer systems analysts

2006 employment: 504,000
2016 projection: 650,000
Percent growth: 29
Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

24. Database administrators

2006 employment: 119,000
2016 projection: 154,000
Percent growth: 28.6
Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

25. Computer software engineers, systems software

2006 employment: 350,000
2016 projection: 449,000
Percent growth: 28.2
Salary range: \$46,360 or more
Education/training: Bachelor's degree

26. Gaming and sports book writers and runners

2006 employment: 18,000

2016 projection: 24,000

Percent growth: 28

Salary range: Less than \$21,220

Education/training: On-the-job training

27. Environmental science and protection technicians

2006 employment: 36,000

2016 projection: 47,000

Percent growth: 28

Salary range: \$30,630 - \$46,300

Education/training: Associate degree

28. Manicurists and pedicurists

2006 employment: 78,000

2016 projection: 100,000

Percent growth: 27.6

Salary range: Less than \$21,220

Education/training: Postsecondary vocational award

29. Physical therapists

2006 employment: 173,000

2016 projection: 200,000

Percent growth: 27.1

Salary range: \$46,360 or more

Education/training: Master's degree

30. Physician assistants

2006 employment: 66,000

2016 projection: 83,000

Percent growth: 27

Salary range: \$46,360 or more

Education/training: Master's degree