



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	

Management, business, and financial operations

Management occupations

Administrative services managers	247,000	29,000	12	About average growth. As businesses strive to run facilities more efficiently and securely, the need for these workers is expected to increase. Keen competition is expected for top managers; better opportunities are expected at the entry level.
Advertising, marketing, promotions, public relations, and sales managers	583,000	68,000	12	About average growth. Increased business and worldwide competition for customers are expected to spur advertising on television, radio, and outdoor venues, creating more jobs for these managers. Keen competition is expected.
Computer and information systems managers	264,000	43,000	16	Faster than average growth. New technological applications in the workplace are expected to continue driving demand for information technology workers and their managers. Excellent opportunities are expected. Job prospects should be best for those with strong computer and management skills.
Construction managers	487,000	77,000	16	Faster than average growth. Expanding regulations, sophisticated technology, and an increasing number of complex construction projects are expected to spur demand for these workers. Excellent opportunities are expected, especially for those with construction experience and a bachelor's or graduate degree in construction science, construction management, or civil engineering.
Education administrators	443,000	53,000	12	About average growth. Increasing student enrollments, particularly at the preschool and postsecondary levels, are expected to drive demand for these workers. Greater responsibilities and stricter accountability standards have kept some teachers from seeking these jobs, so prospects are good for those who apply.
Engineering and natural sciences managers	228,000	18,000	8	About average growth. As the number of engineers and scientists increases, so will the number of workers who supervise them. The best opportunities are expected in the rapidly growing medical, biomedical, and environmental specialties. Managers with advanced technical knowledge and strong communication and business skills should have the best prospects.



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Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural managers	1,317,000	-87,000	-7	Moderate decline. As farm productivity increases and consolidation continues, a decline in the number of self-employed farmers and ranchers is expected. Agricultural managers at larger, well-financed operations should have better prospects. Some farmers will find opportunities in niche sales, such as organic farming and farmers' markets.
Financial managers	506,000	64,000	13	About average growth. An expanding global economy, increased investment levels, and regulations dictating more oversight are expected to drive job growth for these financial experts. Keen competition is expected. Candidates with a master's degree, certification, and licenses to sell insurance and investment products are expected to have the best prospects.
Food service managers	350,000	18,000	5	Slower than average growth. Employment growth is expected in full-service restaurants and with special food service companies, such as hospital cafeteria contractors, but a decline is expected in fast-food establishments. Job prospects should be good because many workers leave the occupation and need to be replaced.
Funeral directors	29,000	3,600	12	About average growth. Projected job growth reflects increasing demand for death-care services. Good job opportunities are expected, particularly for those who embalm.
Human resources, training, and labor relations managers and specialists	868,000	147,000	17	Faster than average growth. Efforts to recruit and retain employees, the growing importance of employee training, and new legal standards are expected to increase demand for these workers. Opportunities should be best for college graduates who have a certification.
Industrial production managers	157,000	-9,200	-6	Moderate decline. Employment declines are expected for some types of production workers and their managers, in part because of rising worker productivity. Opportunities should be best for college graduates with production experience.
Lodging managers	71,000	8,700	12	About average growth. Steady business travel and increased tourism are expected to drive job growth. But rising numbers of limited-service lodging properties, which require less management, should temper that growth.
Medical and health services managers	262,000	43,000	16	Faster than average growth. The healthcare industry will continue to expand and diversify, requiring more managers. Good job opportunities are expected.



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Property, real estate, and community association managers	329,000	50,000	15	Faster than average growth. The number of apartments and professionally managed commercial properties is expected to increase because of a growing economy and an increased demand for retirement communities by an aging population. Jobseekers with a college degree and a professional designation should have the best prospects.
Purchasing managers, buyers, and purchasing agents	529,000	1,200	0	Little or no change. Job growth is expected to be limited by use of the Internet to make purchases, technology that reduces paperwork, and the outsourcing of some tasks to foreign workers.
Top executives	2,123,000	34,000	2	Little or no change. The number of top executives is expected to remain steady, but some positions may be lost through consolidation of businesses. Keen competition is expected for these sought-after jobs.

Business and financial operations occupations

Accountants and auditors	1,274,000	226,000	18	Faster than average growth. Changing financial laws, increased regulations, and an overall rise in the number of businesses are projected to drive job growth. Favorable opportunities are expected, especially for CPAs.
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	101,000	17,000	17	Faster than average growth. Job growth is expected to be spurred by increased real estate activity, including sales, litigation claims, and foreclosures. Although prospects for appraisers fluctuate with the business cycle, those for assessors may be largely unaffected.
Budget analysts	62,000	4,400	7	About average growth. Increasingly complex budgets and broader job responsibilities should drive demand for these workers. Good job prospects are expected, especially for those with a master's degree.
Claims adjusters, appraisers, examiners, and investigators	319,000	29,000	9	About average growth. Employment should grow as insurance claims increase in number. Keen competition is expected for investigator jobs. College graduates should have the best prospects.
Cost estimators	221,000	41,000	19	Faster than average growth. The increasing number of complex construction projects is expected to drive demand for these workers. Job prospects should be very good, especially for those with experience in construction or manufacturing and a bachelor's degree in construction science, mathematics, statistics, or engineering.



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Financial analysts and personal financial advisors	397,000	147,000	37 ★	Much faster than average growth. As the baby-boom generation retires, the need for financial advice is expected to grow rapidly. The increased complexity of security offerings should also spur demand for financial expertise. But keen competition is expected for these prestigious jobs.
Insurance underwriters	104,000	6,600	6	Slower than average growth. Job growth should result from insurers' need to restore profits from years of underwriting losses and from an expected increase in insurance activity. However, growth should be tempered by underwriting software and other technological advances that increase productivity.
Loan officers	373,000	43,000	11	About average growth. New jobs are expected to stem from overall growth in the population and economy. College graduates and those with banking, lending, or sales experience should have the best prospects.
Management analysts	678,000	149,000	22 ★	Much faster than average growth. As the economy becomes more competitive, organizations are expected to rely increasingly on outside expertise to improve performance. Keen competition is expected for the many qualified people seeking these jobs.
Meeting and convention planners	51,000	10,000	20	Faster than average growth. Economic growth and increasing globalization are expected to increase the demand for meetings and the workers who plan them. Opportunities should be best for those who have a bachelor's degree.
Tax examiners, collectors, and revenue agents	81,000	1,700	2	Little or no change. Automation of tax review processes is expected to reduce demand for these workers, but tax workers should still be needed to decipher complex tax laws. Many openings will stem from the need to replace workers who retire.

Professional and related

Computer and mathematical occupations

Actuaries	18,000	4,300	24 ★	Much faster than average growth. Employment growth in the insurance industry should be stable. Jobs in healthcare and consulting are expected to grow rapidly as companies seek to manage risk. Good prospects are expected, especially for those who have passed at least one certification exam.
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Professional and related

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Computer programmers	435,000	-18,000	-4	Moderate decline. Advancements in the software development process, the offshoring of jobs, and other workers' ability to do some programming are expected to reduce the need for programmers, even as employment in other computer occupations grows.
Computer scientists and database administrators	542,000	200,000 	37 	Much faster than average growth. Job growth is expected as organizations integrate sophisticated networking and other technologies. Excellent job opportunities are expected. Workers who have specialized knowledge and an ability to quickly learn new software applications and programming languages should have the best prospects.
Computer software engineers	857,000	324,000 	38 	Much faster than average growth. The need to create and integrate new types of software for computer systems and networks and new applications for computers and other devices is expected to spur employment and create excellent job prospects, especially for those with practical experience and at least a bachelor's degree in computer engineering or computer science.
Computer support specialists and systems administrators	862,000	155,000	18	Faster than average growth. As computers and software become more complex and as new tools are introduced, more specialists should be needed to help users. Demand for systems administrators is expected to be high as more businesses develop computer networks and focus on cybersecurity. Job prospects are best for workers with a college degree and up-to-date skills.
Computer systems analysts	504,000	146,000	29 	Much faster than average growth. Growth should be spurred by strong demand for networking, e-commerce, and other business-related technologies. Very good job prospects are expected, especially for those with an advanced degree in a computer-related field.
Mathematicians	3,000	300	10	About average growth. Technological advances increase the need for workers with knowledge of mathematics, creating new jobs for mathematicians. But many mathematics experts work in other occupations, such as computer engineer and operations researcher, tempering job growth.
Operations research analysts	58,000	6,200	11	About average growth. Increased competition should spur organizations to hire these workers for help in improving productivity and reducing costs.
Statisticians	22,000	1,900	9	About average growth. Technological advances are expected to spur demand for statisticians, as faster computers allow more data to be gathered and sorted for analysis.



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Architects, surveyors, and cartographers				
Architects, except landscape and naval	132,000	23,000	18	Faster than average growth. Increased construction, especially of commercial structures, is expected to spur employment growth. Keen competition is expected for jobs at prestigious firms.
Landscape architects	28,000	4,600	16	Faster than average growth. New construction to meet the needs of a growing population should spur demand for these workers. Good job prospects are expected, especially for those working in strong real estate markets.
Surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying technicians	148,000	31,000	21 	Much faster than average growth. Increasing demand for fast, accurate, and complete geographic information is expected to lead to new jobs for these workers. Prospects should be good.

Engineers

	1,512,000	160,000	11	About average growth. Most employment growth is expected to be in service industries. Expected employment varies by specialty, with civil, industrial, and electrical and electronics engineers projected to account for the most new jobs and biomedical and environmental engineers expected to have the fastest rates of job growth.
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Drafters and engineering technicians

Drafters	253,000	15,000	6	Slower than average growth. Industrial growth and more complex designs for products and manufacturing processes are expected to increase the demand for drafting services. But demand should be tempered as some tasks are automated and as other tasks are done abroad. Opportunities should be best for those with skills in Computer Assisted Design and Development (CADD) systems and at least 2 years of training after high school.
Engineering technicians	511,000	34,000	7	About average growth. Demand for new products and improved designs are expected to create jobs for these workers. Expected employment varies by specialty, with civil engineering accounting for most new jobs and environmental engineering having the fastest rate of job growth.

Life scientists

Agricultural and food scientists	33,000	3,100	9	About average growth. Biotechnology research is expected to drive job growth. Opportunities should be good for those with a master's degree who seek applied research positions. Those with a Ph.D. should have the best prospects.
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Biological scientists	87,000	8,000	9	About average growth. Biotechnology research and development should continue to spur job growth. Competition is expected for basic research positions, which usually require a Ph.D. Those with a bachelor's or master's degree are likely to find nonscientist jobs related to biology.
Conservation scientists and foresters	33,000	1,700	5	Slower than average growth. People's continued expansion into forestlands is expected to generate new jobs, but limited government budgets are expected to moderate growth. Job prospects should be good, particularly in the Federal Government, because many workers are expected to retire.
Medical scientists	92,000	18,000	20	Faster than average growth. More research in biotechnology, bioterrorism, and infectious diseases is expected to continue driving employment growth. Keen competition is expected for basic research positions, but those with advanced degrees are expected to have very good opportunities.

Physical scientists

Atmospheric scientists	8,800	900	11	About average growth. Most new jobs are expected to be in private companies as weather analysis becomes more accurate and detailed and, thus, more useful to businesses that are affected by weather. The National Weather Service, which has completed hiring for upgraded stations, will provide few new jobs.
Chemists and materials scientists	93,000	8,500	9	About average growth. Pharmaceutical and biotechnology research are expected to increase as advances in genetics create new possibilities for treating disease. Graduates with a Ph.D. should have the best prospects.
Environmental scientists and hydrologists	92,000	23,000	25 	Much faster than average growth. Job growth should be strongest in private consulting firms. Driving this growth is the need to comply with regulations on flood control, clean air, and ground water decontamination and the need to cope with demands on resources by a growing population.
Geoscientists	31,000	6,800	22 	Much faster than average growth. The need for energy, environmental protection, and land and water management is expected to spur growth. Those with a master's degree should have excellent opportunities, especially in the management, scientific, and technical consulting industry. Budget constraints are expected to limit opportunities in governments.



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Physicists and astronomers	18,000	1,200	7	About average growth. Growth in biotechnology and nanotechnology research should continue to be strong. Limited Federal research spending and increased enrollment in physics programs are expected to increase competition for basic Ph.D. research jobs, but prospects should be favorable in applied research and development. Those with a bachelor's degree may qualify for positions related to engineering, mathematics, computer science, and environmental science.

Social scientists and related occupations

Economists	15,000	1,100	7	About average growth. The demand for workers who have knowledge of economics is projected to grow, creating new jobs. But many jobs that require economic knowledge are in other occupations. Ph.D. holders are expected to have the best prospects for finding work as economists; those with less education should have better prospects in related fields.
Market and survey researchers	261,000	51,000	20	Faster than average growth. Companies looking to expand their market share and understand their consumers are expected to employ more of these workers. Opportunities should be best for jobseekers with a master's degree or Ph.D. and strong quantitative skills.
Psychologists	166,000	25,000	15	Faster than average growth. Increased demand for psychological services is expected in hospitals, social service agencies, consulting firms, and private companies. Job prospects should be best for people who have a doctoral degree in an applied specialty, such as counseling, school psychology, or health.
Urban and regional planners	34,000	4,900	15	Faster than average growth. Employment growth should be driven by the need to plan for population and business growth and for public services. The desire for redevelopment and for historic preservation is also expected to create jobs. Those with a master's degree, strong computer skills, and Geographic Information Systems experience should have the best prospects.
Social scientists, other	18,000	1,800	10	About average growth. Many social scientists work for governments, but growth is expected to be concentrated in the private sector as organizations continue to include social science in their policy, marketing, and other research. Jobseekers may face competition.



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Science technicians

	267,000	33,000	12	About average growth. Job growth is expected with continued growth in scientific and medical research, especially biotechnology. Employment of forensic science technicians and environmental science and protection technicians is expected to grow much faster than average, while that of chemical technicians is expected to grow more slowly than average. The best prospects are expected for graduates of applied science technology programs who train on lab and production equipment.
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Community and social services occupations

Counselors	635,000	136,000	21 	Much faster than average growth. Job growth is expected from demand for rehabilitation, marriage and family, mental health, and substance abuse counseling services. Prospects should be excellent, because many current workers are expected to retire or leave the occupation for other reasons.
Health educators	62,000	16,000	26 	Much faster than average growth. As healthcare costs rise, insurance companies, businesses, and governments are expected to hire health educators to teach the public how to avoid and detect illnesses. Opportunities should be best for those who have a bachelor's degree and some experience.
Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists	94,000	10,000	11	About average growth. Jobs are expected to increase with government funding levels. The need to replace workers who retire is expected to create excellent prospects.
Social and human service assistants	339,000	114,000	34 	Much faster than average growth. New jobs are expected to result from increasing demand for services for substance abusers, the elderly, and people with mental and physical disabilities. Opportunities should be excellent, particularly for those who have some training after high school.
Social workers	595,000	132,000	22 	Much faster than average growth. The rapidly increasing elderly population is expected to spur demand for social services. Job prospects should be favorable because of the need to replace the many workers retiring or leaving the field. Although a bachelor's degree is the minimum qualification, a master's degree in social work may sometimes be required.



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Legal occupations				
Court reporters	19,000	4,700	25 ★	Much faster than average growth. The continuing need for transcripts of legal proceedings and the growing demand for TV captioning are expected to create jobs. Prospects should be excellent, especially for certified reporters who specialize in broadcast captioning or Web casting.
Judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers	51,000	2,300	4	Slower than average growth. Budget pressures are expected to limit the hiring of new judges despite rising caseloads, particularly in Federal courts. Alternatives to litigation are usually faster and less expensive, spurring demand for arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators.
Lawyers	761,000	84,000	11	About average growth. The growth in both population and business activity is expected to result in more civil disputes and criminal cases and, thus, a greater demand for lawyers. Legal activity related to areas such as healthcare, intellectual property, and the environment should also spur growth, as will the increasing number of affordable legal clinics. Keen competition for jobs is expected as the number of law school graduates increases.
Paralegals and legal assistants	238,000	53,000	22 ★	Much faster than average growth. Employers trying to reduce costs and increase the availability and efficiency of legal services are expected to hire more paralegals to perform tasks previously done by lawyers.

Education, training, library, and museum occupations

Archivists, curators, and museum technicians	27,000	5,000	18	Faster than average growth. The increasing amount of information preserved is expected to create demand for more archivists to manage it. The demand for curators and museum technicians should rise as more museums are renovated and as finances and museum visits remain stable. Keen competition is expected for these popular jobs.
Instructional coordinators	129,000	29,000	22 ★	Much faster than average growth. Continued efforts to improve educational standards are expected to result in more jobs for those who plan curricula and train teachers in new methods. Opportunities should be best for those who train teachers to use technology and who have experience in reading, mathematics, and science curricula.
Librarians	158,000	5,800	4	Slower than average growth. Growth is expected to be limited by government budget pressures and by the public's ability to use electronic resources independently. Many librarians are expected to retire over the next decade, but increased enrollment in library science training programs is expected to create competition for jobs.



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Library technicians	121,000	10,000	8	About average growth. Continued automation of library systems will allow these workers to perform more tasks and to replace some higher paid librarians. Opportunities should be good for technicians with specialized training.
Teacher assistants	1,312,000	137,000	10	About average growth. Increasing numbers of special education students and students who are not native speakers of English are expected to create a need for teacher assistants. Favorable job prospects are expected, particularly in the South and West, which have fast-growing enrollments.
Teachers—adult literacy and remedial education	76,000	11,000	14	Faster than average growth. As the need for educated workers increases, so will the need for teachers to instruct them. In addition, there should be demand for teachers to help immigrants and others improve their English language skills. Opportunities should be favorable due to job growth and high turnover. Many jobs are part time.
Teachers—postsecondary	1,672,000	382,000 	23 	Much faster than average growth. Enrollments in post-secondary institutions are expected to continue rising as more people attend college and as workers return to school to update their skills. Opportunities should be favorable, but many positions are temporary or part time.
Teachers—preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle, and secondary	3,954,000	479,000 	12	About average growth. Overall enrollment will grow more slowly than in recent years, but expanded offerings at the preschool and kindergarten levels are expected to create more teaching jobs. Prospects are usually better in urban and rural regions, for bilingual teachers, and for teachers of mathematics or science.
Teachers—self-enrichment education	261,000	60,000	23 	Much faster than average growth. Demand is expected to increase as retirees and others seek learning opportunities. Job growth and high turnover should make prospects favorable, especially for teachers of subjects related to self-improvement, personal finance, computers, and hands-on activities.
Teachers—special education	459,000	71,000	15	Faster than average growth. Employment of these teachers is expected to rise as more students qualify for special education services and as recent reforms raise graduation standards and emphasize training and employment of people with disabilities. Excellent job prospects are expected.



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Art and design occupations				
Artists and related workers	218,000	34,000	16	Faster than average growth. Many of these new jobs are expected to be for multimedia artists and animators as demand for realistic digital images increases. Keen competition is expected for art jobs in all fields.
Commercial and industrial designers	48,000	3,400	7	About average growth. Demand for new medical, high-tech, and other products is expected to spur demand for the workers who design them. Keen competition is expected for these popular jobs. Those with training in engineering and computer-aided design should have the best prospects.
Fashion designers	20,000	1,000	5	Slower than average growth. A growing population is expected to create demand for more, and more stylish, clothing, especially among middle-income consumers. But some clothing manufacturing jobs are moving abroad, tempering growth. Keen competition is expected, as many are attracted to this occupation.
Floral designers	87,000	-7,700	-9	Moderate decline. Despite growing demand for floral decorations, these jobs are expected to decline because more shops are cutting costs by purchasing flowers directly from growers. But the need to replace the many florists who leave the occupation should create good opportunities.
Graphic designers	261,000	26,000	10	About average growth. Jobs are expected to increase with the expanding video entertainment outlets, including television, movies, and made-for-Internet. Interactive media—Web sites, cellular telephones, and other technology—and the demand for advertising materials are also expected to create opportunities. Keen job competition is expected.
Interior designers	72,000	14,000	19	Faster than average growth. Economic expansion, growing homeowner wealth, and an increasing interest in interior design should spur demand for these workers. Design expertise related to healthcare facilities, ergonomics, and the environment is also expected to create jobs. But keen competition is expected for these sought-after jobs.
Entertainers and performers, sports and related occupations				
Actors, producers, and directors	163,000	18,000	11	About average growth. Expanding cable and satellite channels and demand for more movies are expected to create more jobs for these workers. Keen competition is expected because there are many applicants.



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Athletes, coaches, umpires, and related workers	253,000	38,000	15	Faster than average growth. Employment is expected to grow as more people participate in organized sports for recreation, entertainment, and physical conditioning. Very keen competition is expected for jobs at the highest levels of sport.
Dancers and choreographers	40,000	2,400	6	Slower than average growth. Funding is not expected to keep pace with rising production costs, but continued public interest in dance is expected to be enough to sustain larger companies. Keen job competition is expected.
Musicians, singers, and related workers	264,000	29,000	11	About average growth. Most new jobs are expected to be in religious organizations. Keen competition is expected for full-time jobs.

Media and communication-related occupations

Announcers	71,000	-4,900	-7	Moderate decline. Consolidation among broadcasting companies and new technology that increases announcers' productivity are expected to reduce the overall number of jobs. Keen job competition is expected.
Broadcast and sound engineering technicians and radio operators	105,000	18,000	17	Faster than average growth. The movement toward digital broadcasting is expected to create jobs for technicians who can install and operate digital transmitters. Competition should be keen in major metropolitan areas, where pay is often higher.
Interpreters and translators	41,000	9,700	24 	Much faster than average growth. More interpreters and translators should be needed as international activity increases and as the number of foreign language speakers in the United States grows. Job prospects vary by language but are best in urban areas.
News analysts, reporters, and correspondents	67,000	1,200	2	Little or no change. Consolidation in the broadcasting and publishing industries is expected to limit job growth. Prospects should be best in digital media. Competition is expected to be keen in national markets and large metropolitan areas.
Photographers	122,000	13,000	10	About average growth. The growth of Internet newspapers, journals, and magazines is expected to increase demand for commercial photographers. As the population increases, demand should also rise for portrait photographers. Keen job competition is expected for commercial photographers and photojournalists; freelancers may have the best opportunities.



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Public relations specialists	243,000	43,000	18	Faster than average growth. An increasingly competitive business environment should spur demand for these workers. Keen competition is expected for these high-profile jobs, but those who speak multiple languages should be in demand. College graduates with a degree related to communications and relevant internship experience are expected to have the best prospects.
Television, video, and motion picture camera operators and editors	47,000	5,700	12	About average growth. Rapid expansion in the entertainment market and in Internet media is expected to spur job growth. Keen competition is expected for these popular jobs.
Writers and editors	306,000	30,000	10	About average growth. Online publications are growing in number and sophistication, spurring demand for writers and editors—especially those with multimedia experience. Competition for jobs is expected to be keen because print-only publications are diminishing. Job prospects should be best for technical writers and those with training in a specialized field.

Health diagnosing and treating practitioners

Audiologists	12,000	1,200	10	About average growth. Demand for these workers is expected to grow as the population ages and more people have hearing loss. Jobs in schools should increase with enrollments, especially of special education students.
Chiropractors	53,000	7,600	14	Faster than average growth. Projected growth stems from increasing consumer demand for alternative healthcare. Job prospects are expected to be good.
Dentists	161,000	15,000	9	About average growth. Increases in the population and in the number of older people needing complicated dental work are expected to create new jobs. But job growth will be tempered by technology that increases dentists' productivity and by the use of more dental hygienists and assistants. Job prospects are expected to be good.
Dietitians and nutritionists	57,000	4,900	9	About average growth. Job growth is expected to result from an increasing emphasis on disease prevention through improved dietary habits. Good job prospects are expected, especially for licensed and registered dietitians.
Occupational therapists	99,000	23,000	23	★ Much faster than average growth. The increasing older population is expected to need more occupational therapy services. Job opportunities should be good, particularly where the elderly receive most of their treatment: in acute-care, hospital, rehabilitation, and orthopedic settings.



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Optometrists	33,000	3,700	11	About average growth. The aging population and more insurance coverage of eye care should lead to more jobs. Job prospects are expected to be very good because of the limited number of optometry schools—and their graduates.
Pharmacists	243,000	53,000	22 	Much faster than average growth. As the population grows and ages and the use of prescription drugs increases, demand for pharmacists is expected to expand. Excellent job opportunities are expected.
Physical therapists	173,000	47,000	27 	Much faster than average growth. Demand should be spurred by the increasing number of individuals with disabilities or limited function. Good job opportunities are expected.
Physician assistants	66,000	18,000	27 	Much faster than average growth. Projected job growth reflects the expansion of healthcare and a desire to use assistants to contain costs and increase efficiency. Good job opportunities are expected, especially in rural and inner-city clinics.
Physicians and surgeons	633,000	90,000	14	Faster than average growth. The growing and aging population is expected to drive job growth as consumers continue to demand high-level medical care and as advances make more types of treatments possible. Very good opportunities are expected.
Podiatrists	12,000	1,100	9	About average growth. Projected job growth reflects a more active, older population that is sustaining a rising number of foot injuries. Good job opportunities are expected.
Radiation therapists	15,000	3,600	25 	Much faster than average growth. As the U.S. population grows and ages, more radiation therapists are expected to be needed to treat an increasing number of patients. Good prospects are expected, especially for those who are certified.
Recreational therapists	25,000	900	4	Slower than average growth. An increasing number of older people, who are more likely to have health problems, should increase demand for these workers. But cost-containment efforts, especially in nursing homes and hospitals, will temper job growth. Competition for jobs is expected, but applicants who have specialized and well-known certifications should have good opportunities.



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Registered nurses	2,505,000	587,000 ★	23 ★	Much faster than average growth. Registered nurses are projected to have the largest number of new jobs among all occupations. Growth will be driven by technological advances, which permit more health problems to be treated, and by an increasing emphasis on preventive care. Also, the number of older people, who are more likely than younger people to need nursing care, is projected to grow. Excellent job opportunities are expected.
Respiratory therapists	122,000	23,000	19	Faster than average growth. An increase in the aging population, which is more susceptible to cardiopulmonary disease, is expected to increase demand for these workers, especially as they take on additional duties related to case management, disease prevention, and emergency care. Very good opportunities are expected.
Speech-language pathologists	110,000	12,000	11	About average growth. The aging of the population is expected to lead to an increase in patients who have the neurological disorders and associated impairments that these workers treat. Rising enrollments, including those of special education students, should also create jobs. Excellent job opportunities are expected, especially for those who speak a second language.
Veterinarians	62,000	22,000	35 ★	Much faster than average growth. Demand for veterinarians is expected to increase with advances in veterinary care and pet owners' willingness to pay for new types of treatment, including diagnostics. Excellent job opportunities are expected because there are few veterinary schools and graduates.

Health technologists and technicians

Athletic trainers	17,000	4,200	24 ★	Much faster than average growth. Demand for athletic trainers is expected to grow with new treatments, an increasing emphasis on preventative care, and an increasing number of older people in need of healthcare. Job prospects should be good in healthcare industries but more competitive in sports organizations.
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	45,000	12,000	26 ★	Much faster than average growth. Increased demand is expected from an aging population, which has higher rates of disease and other complications of the heart and vascular system. Also, medical advances and greater public awareness are expected to result in better disease detection, creating more demand for vascular treatments. And increasing Medicaid reimbursement should spur additional demand of vascular exams.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	319,000	43,000	14	Faster than average growth. Employment of these workers is expected to rise as the volume of laboratory tests continues to increase with population growth and development of new tests. Excellent opportunities are expected.
Dental hygienists	167,000	50,000	30 	Much faster than average growth. The demand for dental services is expected to grow, and hygienists will continue to perform some services previously performed by dentists. Job prospects are expected to remain excellent.
Diagnostic medical sonographers	46,000	8,700	19	Faster than average growth. Demand is expected to increase for diagnostic imaging and therapeutic technology as the population ages. Additional job growth is expected as patients continue to choose sonography as a safer alternative to radiologic procedures. Employment is expected to grow rapidly in physicians' offices and in medical and diagnostic laboratories as third-party payers encourage outpatient care.
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	201,000	39,000	19	Faster than average growth. As recruiting volunteers becomes more difficult, governments are expected to hire more of these workers for pay. An aging population, which is more likely to have medical emergencies, is also expected to increase demand. Those who have advanced certification are expected to have the best prospects.
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	749,000	105,000	14	Faster than average growth. The increasing elderly population's need for long-term care and the general increase in demand for healthcare should lead to more jobs for these workers. Very good job opportunities are expected.
Medical records and health information technicians	170,000	30,000	18	Faster than average growth. Demand stems from rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that need to be recorded and shared with insurers, regulators, courts, and consumers. Also, technicians will be needed to enter patient information into databases because of Federal legislation mandating electronic recordkeeping. Very good job prospects are expected.
Nuclear medicine technologists	20,000	2,900	15	Faster than average growth. Growth is expected to arise from technological advancement, development of new nuclear medicine treatments, and an increase in the number of older people, who are the primary users of nuclear medicine tests. Still, the number of jobs is expected to be relatively small because of the occupation's small size.
Occupational health and safety specialists and technicians	56,000	5,200	9	About average growth. More specialists and technicians are expected to be needed to ensure healthy work settings, emergency preparedness, and loss prevention.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Opticians, dispensing	66,000	5,700	9	About average growth. An aging population and more insurance coverage for eye care are expected to increase demand for more eyeglasses and optical devices. Job prospects should be good for those who master the use of new technology that aids in creating eyewear.
Pharmacy technicians	285,000	91,000	32 	Much faster than average growth. Demand for these workers is expected to grow as their responsibilities expand and as the use of prescription drugs increases. Job prospects should be good, especially for those with formal training or experience.
Radiologic technologists and technicians	196,000	30,000	15	Faster than average growth. Demand for diagnostic imaging is expected to increase as the population grows and ages and as imaging becomes more widespread and affordable. Many new jobs will be in physicians' offices and diagnostic imaging centers.
Surgical technologists	86,000	21,000	24 	Much faster than average growth. Demand for these workers is expected to rise as a growing and aging population has more surgeries and as advances allow technologists to assist surgeons more.
Veterinary technologists and technicians	71,000	29,000	41 	Much faster than average growth. Job growth is expected as veterinary services advance and new treatments are developed, pet owners spend more money on their pets, and technicians replace assistants. Excellent job opportunities are expected because relatively few veterinary technology students graduate each year.

Service

Healthcare support occupations

Dental assistants	280,000	82,000	29 	Much faster than average growth. The demand for dental services is expected to grow as the population ages and requires more care. Assistants increasingly perform routine tasks for dentists. Excellent job prospects are expected.
Massage therapists	118,000	24,000	20	Faster than average growth. Increasing interest in massage therapy and greater recognition of its health benefits are expected to spur demand. Certified therapists are expected to have very good prospects, especially for part-time jobs.
Medical assistants	417,000	148,000	35 	Much faster than average growth. Increased employment and excellent prospects are expected as demand for healthcare rises with the development of new treatments and the growth of the population.



Service

Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Medical transcriptionists	98,000	13,000	14	Faster than average growth. An aging population is expected to need more medical care and medical records, creating job growth and good opportunities.
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	2,296,000	647,000 	28 	Much faster than average growth. Home health aides are expected to gain jobs faster than other health aides as home care becomes more possible and needed. Nursing aide jobs are expected to grow faster than average to meet the long-term care needs of an increasing older population. Few new jobs are expected for psychiatric aides, the smallest specialty. Excellent job opportunities are expected.
Occupational therapist assistants and aides	33,000	8,200	25 	Much faster than average growth. Long-term demand for these workers is expected to rise as the number of older people and people with disabilities increases and as more work is delegated to assistants and aides. Very good opportunities are expected for assistants who have training after high school.
Pharmacy aides	50,000	-5,600	-11	Rapid decline. Demand for pharmacy aides is expected to fall as pharmacy technicians take on many of their tasks. But good job prospects are expected because of high turnover.
Physical therapist assistants and aides	107,000	31,000	29 	Much faster than average growth. Demand for these workers is expected to grow as they take on more duties and as the number of people who are elderly or disabled increases. Very good opportunities are expected for assistants. Aides, who often have no training after high school, could face keen competition.

Protective service occupations

Correctional officers	500,000	82,000	16	Faster than average growth. Mandatory sentencing and reduced parole are expected to increase the number of people housed in correctional facilities. Excellent opportunities are expected.
Fire fighting occupations	361,000	43,000	12	About average growth. Employment is expected to increase as a growing urban and suburban population requires more services and as more volunteer positions become paying jobs. But keen competition is expected for these popular jobs.
Police and detectives	861,000	97,000	11	About average growth. Increased security concerns and continued population growth are expected to spur demand. Job prospects in local police departments should be excellent; more competition is expected for Federal and State jobs.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Private detectives and investigators	52,000	9,400	18	Faster than average growth. Heightened security concerns, increased litigation, and the need to protect property and information are expected to create jobs. Keen competition is expected for these popular jobs.
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	1,049,000	178,000	17	Faster than average growth. Growth in the number of security guards is expected to stem from concerns about crime and terrorism and from the privatization of some duties previously handled by police. Casinos are expected to hire more surveillance officers as more States legalize gambling. Opportunities should be excellent for security guards and good for gaming surveillance officers.

Food preparation and serving related occupations

Chefs, cooks, and food preparation workers	3,113,000	351,000 	11	About average growth. Job growth is expected to result from a growing population and increased demand for dining convenience. Plentiful opportunities are expected in this large occupation.
Food and beverage serving and related workers	7,422,000	993,000 	13	About average growth. An increasing population and the growing popularity of dining out are expected to create new jobs. Excellent prospects are expected because of growth and worker turnover.

Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations

Building cleaning workers	4,154,000	569,000 	14	Faster than average growth. A growing population and an expanding economy are expected to create demand for more offices, houses, and other buildings that require cleaning. Opportunities should be plentiful, but many are part time.
Grounds maintenance workers	1,521,000	270,000 	18	Faster than average growth. Growth in the number of office buildings, parks, and highways is expected to increase demand for maintaining grounds. Demand is also tied to a rise in the number of older or two-income homeowners, who are less likely to care for their own lawns. Very good job prospects are expected.
Pest control workers	70,000	11,000	15	Faster than average growth. Population growth, particularly in warmer climates, and new pesticide regulations that require complex pest-control strategies are expected to spur demand for professional services. Favorable job prospects are expected.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Personal care and service occupations				
Animal care and service workers	200,000	39,000	19	Faster than average growth. Growth in both the pet population and in pet owners' willingness to pay for care is expected to create jobs. Very good prospects are expected at pet-service establishments. But keen competition is expected for jobs at zoos and aquariums.
Barbers, cosmetologists, and other personal appearance workers	825,000	117,000	14	Faster than average growth. A growing population is expected to increase demand for personal appearance services, especially skin care. Good prospects are expected.
Childcare workers	1,388,000	248,000	18	Faster than average growth. More jobs are expected as two-income families seek formal childcare. Good prospects are expected.
Fitness workers	235,000	63,000	27	Much faster than average growth. New jobs are expected to be created as people spend more time and money on fitness and as more businesses offer employee fitness programs. Good prospects are expected, especially for part-time work.
Flight attendants	97,000	10,000	11	About average growth. Population growth and an expanding economy are expected to boost demand for air travel and, thus, flight attendants. Keen competition is expected for these popular jobs, but prospects may be better for positions with smaller regional airlines.
Gaming services occupations	174,000	40,000	23	Much faster than average growth. As more States legalize casinos and as gaming becomes more popular, these occupations are expected to grow. But keen competition is expected for dealer jobs.
Personal and home care aides	767,000	389,000	51	Much faster than average growth. Demand for aides is expected to increase as a growing number of elderly and disabled patients live at home rather than in residential care facilities. Excellent prospects are expected.
Recreation workers	320,000	41,000	13	About average growth. Job growth is expected as many retiring baby boomers have more leisure time, high disposable income, and concern for fitness. Job prospects should be best for part-time and seasonal work; competition should remain keen for full-time, year-round positions.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Sales and related				
Advertising sales agents	170,000	35,000	20	Faster than average growth. Growth in the number of cable channels, Web sites, and other advertising media is expected to create new jobs for sales agents. Those with a proven sales ability should have good job prospects.
Cashiers	3,527,000	-116,000	-3	Moderate decline. The rising popularity of online shopping and the growing use of self-service checkout systems are expected to reduce employment. Stronger job growth is expected for gaming cashiers as more States legalize casinos and gaming becomes more popular. Opportunities should be good because of high turnover.
Counter and rental clerks	477,000	109,000	23 ★	Much faster than average growth. Businesses are expected to hire more clerks to improve customer service. Growth is expected to be especially fast in amusement and recreation industries. Many opportunities are expected.
Demonstrators, product promoters, and models	107,000	19,000	18	Faster than average growth. The need for these workers is expected to increase as trade shows and in-store promotions become larger and more frequent. Keen competition is expected for modeling jobs.
Insurance sales agents	436,000	56,000	13	About average growth. Population growth and the increasing popularity of health and long-term care insurance are expected to increase sales and create jobs for these workers.
Real estate brokers and sales agents	564,000	60,000	11	About average growth. Relatively low interest rates, the perception that real estate often is a good investment, and a growing population in need of housing are expected to create jobs for these workers. But job growth is expected to be limited by communications technology that improves productivity.
Retail salespersons	4,477,000	557,000 ★	12	About average growth. Rising consumer spending and a growing population are expected to increase demand for these workers. Good job prospects are expected, especially for part-time work.
Sales engineers	76,000	6,500	9	About average growth. The need to sell goods and services that are increasingly varied and technical is expected to spur demand for these workers.
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	1,973,000	182,000	9	About average growth. Job growth is expected to be driven by increases in the number and variety of goods sold. But growth is expected to be limited somewhat by technology that increases worker productivity. Keen competition is expected for these relatively high-paying jobs.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Sales worker supervisors	2,206,000	91,000	4	Slower than average growth. An expanding population and economy are expected to create jobs for these workers, but growth should be tempered as sales workers take on more of the tasks previously done by supervisors.
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	320,000	79,000	25 	Much faster than average growth. The retirement of the baby-boom generation and the replacement of traditional pension plans with defined-contribution plans should increase demand for financial products and services and the workers who sell them. But keen competition is expected for these relatively high-paying jobs.
Travel agents	101,000	1,000	1	Little or no change. Despite increased spending on travel and tourism, employment is not expected to increase much as the Internet allows more customers to plan and buy their own trips. Fair to good job prospects are expected, especially for those who specialize in specific destinations or types of travelers or in exotic or luxury travel.

Office and administrative support

Financial clerks

Bill and account collectors	434,000	99,000	23 	Much faster than average growth. Rising levels of debt and companies' increased emphasis on collecting debts quickly are expected to raise the demand for these workers. Opportunities should be favorable, especially in the healthcare industry and with third-party bill collectors.
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	542,000	24,000	4	Slower than average growth. Automation and electronic billing are simplifying these workers' tasks, making them more productive and slowing employment growth. But the complicated nature of medical billing is expected to create jobs in the healthcare industry. Worker turnover is expected to create many opportunities.
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	2,114,000	264,000 	12	About average growth. New jobs are expected to result from an increase in the number of businesses, changing financial laws, and more stringent regulations. Good opportunities are expected in this large occupation, especially for those with certification and experience.
Gaming cage workers	18,000	2,000	11	About average growth. The increasing popularity of gaming and its legalization in more States are expected to create jobs. Favorable opportunities are expected. People who have skills in mathematics and bookkeeping and experience in customer service or casinos are expected to have the best opportunities.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	214,000	6,600	3	Slower than average growth. The automation of many timekeeping tasks is expected to limit job growth, but the growing complexity of pay and withholdings should create some new opportunities. The need to replace workers who leave should also create openings.
Procurement clerks	78,000	-1,600	-2	Little or no change. Automation, online purchasing, business restructuring, and the movement of jobs to companies abroad are expected to limit or slightly reduce job growth for these workers. High school graduates with good communication and computer skills should have the best job prospects.
Tellers	608,000	82,000	13	About average growth. More bank branches and extended banking hours are expected to create job growth for these workers, even as ATMs and other technology temper it. Favorable prospects are expected, especially for tellers with customer service skills and the ability to sell financial products.

Information and record clerks

Brokerage clerks	73,000	15,000	20	Faster than average growth. As baby boomers retire and the use of defined contribution pension plans grows, more people are expected to invest in securities, spurring demand for clerks to process transactions and comply with recordkeeping requirements. Prospects should be good for qualified workers.
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks	69,000	-5,800	-8	Moderate decline. Use of computerized credit scoring and other technology is expected to allow fewer workers to process an increasing number of credit applications. But worker turnover should create good job prospects.
Customer service representatives	2,202,000	545,000 ★	25 ★	Much faster than average growth. Employment is expected to rise as tasks become more complex and as organizations rely more on these workers to assist customers. Excellent opportunities are expected, especially for jobseekers who are bilingual or have training after high school.
File clerks	234,000	-97,000	-41	Rapid decline. Productivity gains from office automation and the consolidation of clerical jobs are expected to lead to employment declines. But the need to replace existing workers who leave should create a number of openings.
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	219,000	38,000	17	Faster than average growth. Increases in both lodging properties and travel spending are expected to create new jobs for these clerks. Job prospects should be good.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	168,000	19,000	11	About average growth. As human resources assistants assume more duties, employment is expected to grow with the overall economy. Opportunities should be best for those with excellent communication, office, and computer skills.
Interviewers	589,000	22,000	4	Slower than average growth. Advances in technology and online surveys are making interviewers more productive, limiting growth. Most new jobs are expected to be for those who interview people in healthcare and social assistance settings.
Library assistants, clerical	116,000	9,100	8	About average growth. Cost-containment efforts are expected to cause libraries to assign more duties to these support workers. Prospects should be good, especially for part-time jobs.
Order clerks	271,000	-66,000	-24	Rapid decline. Employment is expected to decline, due to improvements in technology and office automation. But numerous job openings are expected, especially for seasonal work, to replace existing workers who leave the occupation.
Receptionists and information clerks	1,173,000	202,000 	17	Faster than average growth. Although technology makes these workers more productive, many new jobs are expected as clerical work is consolidated and these workers take on more tasks. Rapid growth is expected in physicians' offices and in the legal services and employment services industries. Plentiful opportunities are expected, especially for those with clerical and technical skills.
Reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks	165,000	1,800	1	Little or no change. Automated reservation and ticketing operations are expected to speed tasks and allow the same number of workers to handle expanding workloads. Keen job competition is expected because entry requirements are low and travel benefits attract jobseekers.

Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing occupations

Cargo and freight agents	86,000	14,000	16	Faster than average growth. More agents should be needed to handle increasing cargo traffic, the shipment of online purchases, and the growing popularity of same-day delivery.
Couriers and messengers	134,000	-200	0	Little or no change. Widespread use of e-mail and faxes is reducing demand for hand-delivery services. But because some items still need to be delivered in person, employment levels are expected to remain steady.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Dispatchers	289,000	16,000	6	Slower than average growth. Job growth from expansion of the economy, the population, and the elderly's need for emergency services is expected to be tempered by the consolidation of communication centers. Jobseekers with computer skills should have better prospects.
Meter readers, utilities	47,000	-4,800	-10	Rapid decline. Increased use of automatic meter reading technology is expected to reduce employment. But the need to replace workers who leave the occupation should create some openings, in part because not all areas can afford the new technology.
Postal Service workers	615,000	-12,000	-2	Little or no change. Automation is expected to reduce employment of mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators. But those job declines are expected to be offset by stable employment of mail carriers and clerks. Keen job competition is expected.
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	293,000	12,000	4	Slower than average growth. With greater emphasis on the timely delivery of goods and services, the need for these clerks is expected to increase.
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	769,000	28,000	4	Slower than average growth. Increased shipping is expected to spur employment, even as growth is tempered by the use of computers and high-tech scanners to store and retrieve records. Good prospects are expected because of job growth and worker turnover.
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,705,000	-131,000	-8	Moderate decline. The growing use of computerized inventory and automated stocking and packaging equipment is expected to decrease employment. But the need to replace existing workers who leave the occupation should create some opportunities.
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	79,000	-9,000	-11	Rapid decline. Automation is expected to diminish employment, but the need to replace existing workers who leave the occupation should create job opportunities.

Other office and administrative support occupations

Communications equipment operators	209,000	-25,000	-12	Rapid decline. New laborsaving communications technologies, the proliferation of cell phones, and the consolidation of operator jobs are expected to reduce employment. But turnover should create good job prospects.
Computer operators	130,000	-32,000	-25	Rapid decline. Increasingly complex software is automating tasks previously done by these workers. Because not all tasks can be automated, some opportunities are expected.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Data entry and information processing workers	492,000	-35,000	-7	Moderate decline. Employment levels are expected to decline as more businesses use data-capturing technology and hire contract or temporary workers. But favorable job prospects are expected for those with expertise in relevant computer software.
Desktop publishers	32,000	300	1	Little or no change. Increased computer-processing capacity and improved software are allowing people outside of this occupation to do publishing work. But good job prospects are expected, especially for those with experience in graphic and Web design.
Office and administrative support worker supervisors and managers	1,418,000	82,000	6	Slower than average growth. Job growth is expected to be tempered by technology that makes these workers more efficient and also slows growth in the clerical occupations these workers supervise. Keen competition is expected.
Office clerks, general	3,200,000	404,000 	13	About average growth. Demand is expected to be spurred by new technology that allows these workers to do tasks previously done by specialists. Numerous opportunities are expected, especially for those with writing and computer skills.
Secretaries and administrative assistants	4,241,000	362,000 	9	About average growth. Growth will vary by industry and specialty. Medical secretaries, executive secretaries, and administrative assistants are expected to have the fastest job growth. Many opportunities are expected, especially for those with advanced communication and computer skills.

Farming, fishing, and forestry

Agricultural workers	858,000	-21,000	-2	Little or no change. Despite rising agricultural output, employment is expected to remain steady as farms consolidate and workers become more productive. But high turnover is expected to create good prospects, especially for nursery and greenhouse workers.
Fishers and fishing vessel operators	38,000	-6,200	-16	Rapid decline. Employment reductions are expected because of rising imports, stricter limits on fish-catching yields, and increased use of fish farms.
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	88,000	-1,200	-1	Little or no change. Employment of forest and conservation workers is expected to increase as more land is protected and as Federal legislation to prevent wildfires takes effect. But increased mechanization of logging operations and improvements in logging equipment are expected to temper employment of timber-cutting and logging workers.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Construction trades and related workers				
Boilermakers	18,000	2,500	14	Faster than average growth. Employment is expected to grow as aging boilers need upgrades and maintenance and as new power plants are constructed to comply with laws and to meet demands for electric power. Excellent prospects are expected from job growth and the need to replace the large number of retiring workers. Opportunities should be best for those with a welding certificate or welding training.
Brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons	182,000	18,000	10	About average growth. The need to construct new buildings and refurbish older ones is expected to increase employment. Workers with skills in restoration and the installation of new synthetic materials are expected to have the best prospects.
Carpenters	1,462,000	150,000	10	About average growth. The need for carpenters is expected to grow as construction activity increases. Job opportunities vary by geographic area.
Carpet, floor, and tile installers and finishers	196,000	7,500	4	Slower than average growth. The continued need for refurbishment is expected to create job growth. Increased demand for specialized tile and stone floors is expected to result in faster than average growth of tile installers, the largest specialty. No new jobs for carpet installers are expected as hardwood grows in popularity. Floor sanders and finishers are expected to have rapidly declining employment and limited job opportunities.
Cement masons, concrete finishers, segmental pavers, and terrazzo workers	229,000	26,000	11	About average growth. New construction and renovation projects are expected to spur demand for these workers. Good job opportunities are expected, due to a lack of qualified applicants.
Construction and building inspectors	110,000	20,000	18	Faster than average growth. Safety concerns and a desire to improve the quality of construction are expected to drive growth for these workers. Prospects should be best for workers who have some college education, are certified, and have previous experience in construction.
Construction equipment operators	494,000	42,000	8	About average growth. Demand for these operators is expected to increase as new bridges, pipelines, and roads are built. Opportunities are expected to be very good, especially for workers who have pipeline experience or accredited training.



Construction trades and related workers

Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Construction laborers	1,232,000	134,000	11	About average growth. Increased construction activity is expected to drive job growth. Workers with limited skills should face keen competition for jobs, but those able to perform more complicated tasks should have better opportunities.
Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers	240,000	17,000	7	About average growth. The number of new construction and remodeling projects is expected to increase and spur demand for these workers. Job opportunities should be good because of high turnover.
Electricians	705,000	52,000	7	About average growth. More electricians are expected to be needed to construct power plants and other structures and rewire buildings to support new appliances. Good opportunities are expected because of growth and the need to replace current workers who retire.
Elevator installers and repairers	22,000	1,900	9	About average growth. New construction and the need to maintain equipment are expected to create demand for these workers. Excellent opportunities are expected, especially for jobseekers with knowledge of electrical systems.
Glaziers	55,000	6,600	12	About average growth. Demand for glaziers will be driven by the need for windows in construction and remodeling projects. Good opportunities are expected.
Hazardous materials removal workers	39,000	4,400	11	About average growth. Employment growth is expected to result from the need for lead and asbestos abatement in Federal and historic buildings. Job prospects in most specialties should be good due to high turnover.
Insulation workers	61,000	5,200	8	About average growth. Demand for these workers is expected to grow as insulation is added to structures to improve energy efficiency. Excellent opportunities are expected due to high turnover.
Painters and paperhangers	473,000	53,000	11	About average growth. New construction and renovation are expected to create demand and excellent opportunities for painters. Prospects for paperhangers are expected to be limited as paper, vinyl, and fabric wall coverings become less common.
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	569,000	59,000	10	About average growth. Construction and renovation are expected to drive demand for these workers. Very good job opportunities are expected, especially for workers with welding experience.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Plasterers and stucco masons	61,000	5,000	8	About average growth. Employment growth is expected to be driven by customers' increased appreciation for the durability and attractiveness of troweled finishes. Good job opportunities are expected due to high turnover and the limited number of skilled plasterers.
Roofers	156,000	22,000	14	Faster than average growth. New construction and roof repair and replacement are expected to drive demand for roofers. Job growth and high turnover are expected to create excellent prospects.
Sheet metal workers	189,000	13,000	7	About average growth. Employment reflects increases in the construction of industrial, commercial, and residential structures. Opportunities in construction should be good, especially for those who have apprenticeship training or are certified welders; in manufacturing, jobseekers may experience competition.
Structural and reinforcing iron and metal workers	102,000	7,800	8	About average growth. Increases in nonresidential and heavy construction are expected to create jobs. In most areas, job prospects should be excellent for qualified workers.

Installation, maintenance, and repair

Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers

Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	175,000	5,200	3	Slower than average growth. As the number of computers, ATMs, and office machines increases, some new repairers will be needed. But improvements that simplify repair tasks are expected to limit job growth. Prospects should be best for those with formal training and knowledge of electronics.
Electrical and electronics installers and repairers	169,000	5,200	3	Slower than average growth. Employment growth is expected to vary by specialty, growing fastest in commercial, industrial, and automotive installation and repair. The best prospects are expected for applicants with certification, an associate degree in electronics, and related experience.
Electronic home entertainment equipment installers and repairers	40,000	1,200	3	Slower than average growth. Technological advances are expected to improve the reliability of home entertainment equipment and lower maintenance requirements. And as prices for these products fall, more consumers will replace equipment rather than have it fixed.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Radio and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers	205,000	4,800	2	Little or no change. The growing number of communication and video services will require upgrading and installing new telecommunications systems. But improved reliability is expected to reduce the need for repairs, keeping employment steady. Opportunities should be best for those with computer skills and electronics training after high school.
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers				
Aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and service technicians	138,000	14,000	10	About average growth. The number of mechanic jobs is expected to increase with passenger traffic, and many mechanics are expected to retire. Job opportunities should be favorable, especially at small commuter and regional airlines, at FAA repair stations, and in general aviation.
Automotive body and related repairers	206,000	26,000	12	About average growth. The growing number of vehicles is expected to increase demand for these workers. But improvements in vehicle quality and insurers' increased willingness to certify a car as "totaled" are expected to temper growth. Prospects should be excellent for those with training in collision repair.
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	773,000	110,000	14	Faster than average growth. More drivers and an increasing number of vehicles per household are expected to increase demand for these workers. Good opportunities are expected for those with formal training in automotive repair.
Diesel service technicians and mechanics	275,000	32,000	11	About average growth. Employment growth is linked to the continued need for freight shipping and increasing popularity of high-mileage diesel engines in passenger vehicles. The large number of retiring technicians who need to be replaced should create very favorable prospects for those with formal training.
Heavy vehicle and mobile equipment service technicians and mechanics	188,000	18,000	10	About average growth. Employment will be driven by growth in the commercial construction and mining industries. Many job openings are expected to arise from the need to replace experienced technicians who retire. Excellent opportunities are expected for those with formal training.
Small engine mechanics	78,000	9,100	12	About average growth. The retirement of baby boomers is expected to spur spending on motorboats and motorcycles, creating good employment opportunities. Prospects are expected to be very good for those with formal training in motorcycle or motorboat repair.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations				
Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers	48,000	-1,400	-3	Moderate decline. New vending machines require less maintenance and repair. But the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation is expected to create good opportunities for those with training in electronics.
Heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	292,000	25,000	9	About average growth. Population growth and movement to areas that need climate control are expected to drive demand for these workers. Job growth and the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation are expected to create excellent opportunities.
Home appliance repairers	57,000	900	2	Little or no change. Growth in population and in sales of high-end appliances should increase the number of home appliances in use. But usually, only major appliances are repaired. The need to replace retiring workers is expected to create very good opportunities for those with formal training.
Industrial machinery mechanics and maintenance workers	345,000	23,000	7	About average growth. As factories become increasingly automated, more workers should be needed to maintain and repair the equipment. Job growth and the need to replace workers who retire are expected to create favorable job prospects for applicants with broad skills.
Line installers and repairers	275,000	16,000	6	Slower than average growth. Population increases are expected to cause demand for electricity and telecommunications services to grow. But demand for the workers who install and repair lines is expected to be tempered by productivity gains and the rise of wireless communications. The need to replace retiring workers should create very good opportunities.
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1,391,000	140,000	10	About average growth. Demand for new workers will be driven by the need to maintain the many existing buildings. Excellent opportunities are expected as many workers retire and need to be replaced.
Millwrights	55,000	3,200	6	Slower than average growth. Although some manufacturing work is expected to move abroad, U.S. firms are expected to need new millwrights to dismantle equipment and install high-tech machinery. Excellent job opportunities are expected because of job growth, a limited number of trained workers, and the need to replace existing workers who retire.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Precision instrument and equipment repairers	68,000	8,700	13	About average growth. Employment growth is expected to vary among the many specialties in this field, from rapid growth for medical equipment repairers to decline for camera and photographic equipment repairers and watch repairers. The need to replace the many highly skilled workers who are retiring is expected to create excellent opportunities.

Production

Assemblers and fabricators

	2,075,000	-93,000	-4	Moderate decline. Increased automation and the movement of some assembly work abroad are expected to reduce employment. But workers who make aircraft products are expected to see some job growth. The need to replace existing workers who retire should improve job prospects for skilled workers.
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Food processing occupations

	705,000	59,000	8	About average growth. As meat processing moves from retail stores to food processing plants, employment growth is expected to be concentrated in lesser skilled manufacturing jobs. Highly skilled bakers are expected to have excellent job opportunities because of the growing demand for artisan bread.
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Metal workers and plastic workers

Computer control programmers and operators	158,000	-5,700	-4	Moderate decline. Employment is expected to be limited by advances in computer-controlled machine tools, manufacturing technology, and software that further automates production. Excellent prospects are expected because few people are entering training programs.
Machinists	397,000	-12,000	-3	Moderate decline. Strong foreign competition and better automation are expected to reduce total employment. But despite the decline, job opportunities for machinists should continue to be good because of the need to replace retiring workers.
Machine setters, operators, and tenders—metal and plastics	1,141,000	-166,000	-15	Rapid decline. Installation of new laborsaving machinery, such as robots and computer-controlled machine tools, and the movement of manufacturing work abroad are expected to reduce employment. But the need to replace retiring workers should create many openings for those with certification who are skilled in using multiple machines.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Tool and die makers	101,000	-9,700	-10	Rapid decline. Strong foreign competition and increased productivity from advances in automation are expected to reduce employment. But excellent job prospects are expected as workers retire and few people train to replace them.
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	462,000	22,000	5	Slower than average growth. Demand for welders is increasing as welding technology improves and is more widely used. Excellent prospects are expected because of job growth and the need to replace workers who retire.

Printing occupations

Bookbinders and bindery workers	72,000	-15,000	-21	Rapid decline. Better automation is expected to increase productivity and reduce the need for post-press workers, but high turnover is expected to create some opportunities.
Prepress technicians and workers	119,000	-19,000	-16	Rapid decline. Software that simplifies the prepress process is expected to increase productivity and reduce the need for these workers. Prospects should be best for those with computer skills and specialized training.
Printing machine operators	198,000	-11,000	-6	Moderate decline. Fewer workers will be needed as computers improve productivity and as some types of printing tasks move abroad. But the need to replace retiring workers is expected to create favorable job prospects for those with computer skills and training.

Textile, apparel, and furnishing occupations

	873,000	-97,000	-11	Rapid decline. Fewer workers will be needed as production of apparel and textiles continues to move abroad, imports to the U.S. increase, and technological advances make workers more productive. But the need to replace existing workers who retire should create some openings for new workers.
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Woodworkers

	370,000	11,000	3	Slower than average growth. Increased automation is expected to slow job growth. Prospects vary by specialty but should be good for qualified workers, especially for those with skills in custom work and in computer-aided design and production.
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Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Plant and system operators				
Power plant operators, distributors, and dispatchers	47,000	900	2	Little or no change. New power plant construction is planned, but automation is expected to hold employment of these workers to its current level. However, the need to replace existing workers who retire is expected to create very good job prospects.
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	45,000	1,600	3	Slower than average growth. Continuing commercial and industrial development will increase the amount of equipment to be operated and maintained, but job growth is expected to be tempered by automated equipment that increases productivity. Competition is expected for these high-paying jobs.
Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators	111,000	15,000	14	Faster than average growth. An increasing population and the growth of the economy are expected to boost demand for water and wastewater treatment services. Job growth and the need to replace existing workers who retire are expected to create excellent opportunities.
Other production occupations				
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	491,000	-35,000	-7	Moderate decline. Overall employment is expected to decline as increased automation makes workers more productive and as some production moves abroad. But some new jobs are expected in medical and biotechnology firms.
Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers	52,000	-1,200	-2	Little or no change Although demand for jewelry is strong, employment for these workers is expected to remain steady as some jewelry-related jobs move abroad. Very good job prospects are expected for skilled jewelers to replace master jewelers who retire. Keen competition is expected for less-skilled workers, whose tasks are more susceptible to automation and moving abroad.
Medical, dental, and ophthalmic laboratory technicians	95,000	5,000	5	Slower than average growth. The increasing prevalence of two causes of limb loss—diabetes and cardiovascular disease—is expected to increase demand for these workers, as is a growing demand for cosmetic dental prostheses and greater need of vision-care products for an aging population But technology is expected to improve productivity and temper growth. Favorable job prospects are expected.
Painting and coating workers, except construction and maintenance	192,000	-8,000	-4	Moderate decline. Better spraying and coating machines and techniques are expected to increase productivity. Excellent opportunities are expected for experienced painters in the oil and gas industry and in the shipbuilding industry.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	73,000	-33,000	-45	Rapid decline. The widespread use of digital cameras and editing software by both consumers and professional photographers is expected to decrease the demand for these workers.
Semiconductor processors	42,000	-5,500	-13	Rapid decline. Despite growing demand for microprocessors, automation and foreign competition are reducing the number of jobs. But job openings and jobseekers are expected to be in rough balance because of the need to replace workers who leave the occupation and because the specialized training needed reduces the number of qualified applicants available.

Transportation and material moving

Air transportation occupations

Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	107,000	14,000	13	About average growth. Employment of pilots is expected to increase as the population grows, the economy expands, and demand for travel increases. Pilots seeking jobs with major airlines face strong competition; opportunities should be better with regional and low-fare airlines. Newer planes usually do not need flight engineers.
Air traffic controllers	25,000	2,600	10	About average growth. More air traffic is expected to spur demand for more controllers. But budget constraints and automation are expected to temper job growth. Competition to get into FAA training programs is expected to remain keen, but graduates of these programs have good job prospects.

Motor vehicle operators

Bus drivers	653,000	67,000	10	About average growth. More drivers should be needed to transport growing general and school-aged populations. Good prospects are expected, especially for school bus drivers.
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	229,000	30,000	13	About average growth. Demand is expected to grow as local and suburban travel increases. High turnover should create plentiful opportunities, especially for those with good customer service skills and flexible schedules.



Occupation	Employment, 2006	Employment change, projected 2006-16 ¹		Employment prospects
		Numeric	Percent	
Truck drivers and driver/ sales workers	3,356,000	258,000 	8	About average growth. The expanding economy and growth in the amount of freight to be transported are expected to create new jobs for truck drivers. Favorable prospects for truck drivers are expected to arise from job growth and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. There should be more competition for jobs with local carriers than for those with long-distance carriers.

Rail transportation occupations

	125,000	1,700	1	Little or no change. New technology is expected to increase productivity and consolidate the duties of railroad occupations, reducing employment growth. Favorable job prospects are expected for conductors and locomotive engineers.
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Water transportation occupations

	84,000	14,000	16	Faster than average growth. Job growth is expected to stem from increases in tourism, international trade, and offshore oil and gas production, all of which require ships. Good job prospects are expected from growth and the need to replace existing workers who retire.
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Material moving occupations

	4,825,000	-25,000	-1	Little or no change. Improvements in automated storage and retrieval systems, conveyors, and other equipment are expected to raise productivity and to hold employment steady. Many openings are expected due to high worker turnover.
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Job opportunities in the U.S. Armed Forces

	4,825,000 ²	(³)	(³)	Job prospects are expected to be excellent in all branches of the military, especially for enlistees with technical skills.
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¹ Numeric and percent changes are rounded, but they are calculated from unrounded figures for current and projected employment.

² This estimate is from the U.S. Department of Defense.

³ A projection is not available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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