Projections of occupational employment, 2014–24

When it comes to making career decisions, reliable information about employment prospects is key. The charts in this article can help; they show employment change in occupations between 2014 and 2024 as projected by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
Occupations classify jobs according to the type of work performed. For example, people who help retail customers find and buy products are in the occupation of retail salespersons. These charts show projections by major occupational group and detailed occupation.

Between 2014 and 2024, overall employment is projected to grow by about 7 percent. The dotted vertical line in charts 1 and 4 show the overall growth rate. Many of these charts also show median annual wages, the point at which half of the workers earned more than the amount and half earned less. In May 2014, the median annual wage for all workers was $35,540. Wages of self-employed workers are not included.

(For more information on interpreting the charts, understanding wage data, and how we develop the projections, read about our methodology.)

**Growth by major occupational group**

To illustrate general employment trends, these charts show employment growth in broad groups of similar occupations. The federal government classifies workers into groups using the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

Occupational groups related to healthcare are projected to have the fastest employment growth. (See chart 1.)
Healthcare-related occupational groups also are projected to add the most jobs. (See chart 2.)
About 46.5 million job openings for workers entering an occupation are projected across 22 occupational groups. These openings are a combination of those arising from the need to replace workers who are leaving an occupation and from employment growth in the occupation. (See chart 3.)
Growth by detailed occupation

BLS projects employment for 819 detailed occupations. Those projected to have the fastest growth, most new jobs, and largest number of job openings are highlighted in these charts. Another chart shows the occupations that are projected to have the most job losses.

Some occupations that have fast growth rates have a relatively small number of workers, as is the case with wind turbine service technicians and commercial divers. These small, fast-growing occupations may not have as
many new jobs as some larger occupations that are projected to have average growth, such as general and operations managers and maids and housekeeping cleaners.

Of the fastest growing occupations, more than half are related to healthcare. (See chart 4.)

As chart 5 shows, personal care aides and registered nurses are expected to gain the most jobs: more than 400,000 each.
Most job openings for workers entering an occupation are projected to come from the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation for other reasons, rather than from the need to fill newly created jobs. (See chart 6.)
The large occupation of bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks is projected to lose the most jobs over the decade. (See chart 7.)
Chart 7: Most job losses
Numeric decline in employment, projected 2014–24

- Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks
- Cooks, fast food
- Postal service mail carriers
- Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants
- Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse
- Sewing machine operators
- Tellers
- Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators
- Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic
- Switchboard operators, including answering service
- Molding, coremaking, and casting machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic
- Computer programmers
- Printing press operators
- Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service
- Bill and account collectors
- Dishwashers
- First-line supervisors of production and operating workers
- Postal service clerks
- Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers
- Extruding and drawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic

Employment change

Growth in occupations by education assignment

The charts in this section are grouped by the typical education that workers need to enter an occupation: graduate degree, bachelor’s degree, associate’s degree or postsecondary nondegree award, high school diploma or equivalent, or no formal educational credential.

These charts also include information about work experience and training assignments. For work experience in a related occupation, the assignments are as follows: 5 years or more, less than 5 years, or none. Assignments for on-the-job training typically needed to attain competency in an occupation are as follows: internship/residency; apprenticeship; long-term, moderate-term, or short-term training; or none.

Definitions for the education, experience, and training categories are available from the BLS Employment Projections program.

Graduate degree

All of the occupations that typically require a graduate degree to enter and are projected to add the most jobs have median annual wages that are higher than the median annual wage for all workers. (Hover over bars in chart 8.)
In addition to requiring a graduate degree, several of the occupations shown in chart 9 typically require related experience to enter or on-the-job training to attain competency. (Hover over bars in chart 9.)
Chart 9: Most job openings - Graduate degree

Occupations that typically require a master’s, doctoral, or professional degree to enter the occupation, projected 2014–24

- From replacement needs
- From growth

Lawyers
Physicians and surgeons, all other
Physical therapists
Education administrators, elementary and secondary school
Educational, guidance, school, and vocational counselors
Pharmacists
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary
Nurse practitioners
Healthcare social workers
Education administrators, postsecondary
Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists
Speech-language pathologists
Postsecondary teachers, all other
Mental health counselors
Occupational therapists
Family and general practitioners
Physician assistants
Dentists, general
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists
Rehabilitation counselors

Bachelor's degree

All of the occupations that typically require a bachelor's degree to enter and are projected to add the most jobs have median annual wages that are higher than the median annual wage for all workers. (Hover over bars in chart 10.)

In addition to requiring a bachelor's degree, about half of the occupations shown in chart 11 typically require related experience to enter or on-the-job training to attain competency. (Hover over bars in chart 11.)
Twelve of the 20 occupations that typically require an associate's degree or postsecondary nondegree award to enter and are projected to add the most jobs have median annual wages that are higher than the median annual wage for all workers. (Hover over bars in chart 12.)
Few of the occupations shown in chart 13 typically require on-the-job training to attain competency, in addition to an associate's degree or postsecondary award; none require related experience at the entry level. (Hover over bars in chart 13.)
Chart 13: Most job openings - Associate's degree or postsecondary award

Occupations that typically require an associate's degree or postsecondary nondegree award to enter the occupation, projected 2014–24

- Nursing assistants
- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers
- Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses
- Medical assistants
- Automotive service technicians and mechanics
- Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists
- Preschool teachers, except special education
- Dental assistants
- Firefighters
- Emergency medical technicians and paramedics
- Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers
- Paralegals and legal assistants
- Medical records and health information technicians
- Dental hygienists
- Medical and clinical laboratory technicians
- Web developers
- Physical therapist assistants
- Radiologic technologists
- Library technicians
- Phlebotomists

Job openings

High school diploma

Eleven of the 20 occupations that typically require a high school diploma to enter and are projected to add the most jobs have median annual wages that are higher than the median annual wage for all workers. (Hover over bars in chart 14.)
In addition to requiring a high school diploma, all of the occupations shown in chart 15 typically require either related experience to enter or on-the-job training to attain competency. (Hover over bars in chart 15.)
Chart 15: Most job openings - High school diploma

Occupations that typically require a high school diploma or equivalent to enter the occupation, projected 2014–24

- Customer service representatives
- Office clerks, general
- Maintenance and repair workers, general
- Childcare workers
- First-line supervisors of retail sales workers
  - Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products
- Receptionists and information clerks
- First-line supervisors of food preparation and serving workers
- First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers
- Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive
- Police and sheriff’s patrol officers
- Sales representatives, services, all other
- Team assemblers
- Security guards
- Tellers
- Electricians
- Light truck or delivery services drivers
- Billing and posting clerks
- Carpenters
- Insurance sales agents

No formal educational credential

Of occupations that typically do not require a formal educational credential to enter and are projected to add the most jobs, the occupation of construction and maintenance painters has a median annual wage that is higher than the median annual wage for all workers. (Hover over bars in chart 16.)

![Chart 16: Most new jobs - No formal educational credential](image)

Although the occupations shown in chart 17 typically do not require a formal education credential for entry, all require on-the-job training to attain competency; restaurant cooks also need related experience to enter the occupation. (Hover over bars in chart 17.)
Chart 17: Most job openings - No formal educational credential

Occupations that typically require no formal educational credential to enter the occupation, projected 2014–24

- Retail salespersons
- Cashiers
- Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food
- Waiters and waitresses
- Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand
- Stock clerks and order fillers
- Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners
- Personal care aides
- Home health aides
- Maids and housekeeping cleaners
- Cooks, restaurant
- Construction laborers
- Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop
- Food preparation workers
- Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop
- Landscaping and groundskeeping workers
- Bartenders
- Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers
- Dishwashers
- Packers and packagers, hand

From replacement needs
From growth

Job openings
