

Table 3. Fastest growing occupations, 2002-12

[Numbers in thousands of jobs]

2000 standard occupation classification code and title	Employment		Change		Quartile rank by 2002 median annual earnings ¹	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training ²
	2002	2012	Number	Percent		
31-9092 Medical assistants	365	579	215	59	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training
15-1081 Network systems and data communications analysts	186	292	106	57	1	Bachelor's degree
29-1071 Physician assistants	63	94	31	49	1	Bachelor's degree
21-1093 Social and human service assistants	305	454	149	49	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training
31-1011 Home health aides	580	859	279	48	4	Short-term on-the-job training
29-2071 Medical records and health information technicians	147	216	69	47	3	Associate degree
31-2022 Physical therapist aides	37	54	17	46	3	Short-term on-the-job training
15-1031 Computer software engineers, applications	394	573	179	46	1	Bachelor's degree
15-1032 Computer software engineers, systems software	281	409	128	45	1	Bachelor's degree
31-2021 Physical therapist assistants	50	73	22	45	2	Associate degree
39-9031 Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	183	264	81	44	3	Postsecondary vocational award
15-1061 Database administrators	110	159	49	44	1	Bachelor's degree
29-2056 Veterinary technologists and technicians	53	76	23	44	3	Associate degree
47-4041 Hazardous materials removal workers	38	54	16	43	2	Moderate-term on-the-job training
29-2021 Dental hygienists	148	212	64	43	1	Associate degree
31-2012 Occupational therapist aides	8	12	4	43	3	Short-term on-the-job training
31-9091 Dental assistants	266	379	113	42	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training
39-9021 Personal and home care aides	608	854	246	40	4	Short-term on-the-job training
25-3021 Self-enrichment education teachers	200	281	80	40	2	Work experience in a related occupation
15-1051 Computer systems analysts	468	653	184	39	1	Bachelor's degree
31-2011 Occupational therapist assistants	18	26	7	39	2	Associate degree
17-2081 Environmental engineers	47	65	18	38	1	Bachelor's degree
25-1000 Postsecondary teachers	1,581	2,184	603	38	1	Doctoral degree
15-1071 Network and computer systems administrators	251	345	94	37	1	Bachelor's degree
19-4091 Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	28	38	10	37	2	Associate degree
25-2011 Preschool teachers, except special education	424	577	153	36	4	Postsecondary vocational award
11-3021 Computer and information systems managers	284	387	103	36	1	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience
29-1123 Physical therapists	137	185	48	35	1	Master's degree
29-1122 Occupational therapists	82	110	29	35	1	Bachelor's degree
29-1126 Respiratory therapists	86	116	30	35	2	Associate degree

¹ The quartile rankings of Occupational Employment Statistics annual earnings data are presented in the following categories: 1=very high (\$41,820 and over), 2=high (\$27,500 to \$41,780), 3=low (\$19,710 to \$27,380), and 4=very low (up to \$19,600). The rankings were based on quartiles using one-fourth of total employment to define each quartile. Earnings are for wage and salary workers.

² An occupation is placed into one of 11 categories that best describes the education or training needed by most workers to become fully qualified. For more information about the categories, see *Occupational Projections and Training Data*, Bulletin 2572 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, forthcoming).