

Job Outlook Information — Careers for the Future

AN OVERVIEW OF JOB OUTLOOK INFORMATION

Job outlook information forecasts the growth and decline of jobs in the near future — usually for a 10 year period. In order to predict the future of a job, analysts collect information about the state and national economy, the amount of exports and imports, labor force trends (including the age of workers), employment trends and geographical differences.

Outlook information may also include:

- Estimations of how many jobs will be available in industries or specific careers in the future.
- Expectations of how much growth a field or occupation will experience.
- Projections of how many skilled workers will be competing for available jobs.

The purpose of outlook information is to identify where future employment opportunities may occur.

Using job outlook information

Job outlook information can help define a specific job or career within a field. It also suggests what careers will be “hot” or careers that are supposed to grow in the future.

Job outlook information can be a useful tool for planning your future. However, changes in the economy and technology, social trends and other factors can and will affect jobs in unexpected ways. For example, 15 years ago careers in computers were practically nonexistent. Now, almost every employer wants people with computer skills.

Fastest-Growing Career Fields in the U.S. from 1998 to 2008

Computer and Data Processing Services	+117% change
Health Services	+67% change
Residential Care	+57% change
Management and Public Relations	+45% change
Personnel Supply Services	+43% change
Equipment Rental and Leasing	+43% change
Museums, Botanical and Zoological Gardens	+42% change
Research and Testing Services	+40% change
Transportation Services	+40% change
Securities and Commodity Brokers	+40% change

INFO SERIES IS-46

To learn more about careers and related topics, **contact ICPAC at 1-800-992-2076** or visit the Web site at **icpac.indiana.edu**. Ask for free copies of:

- **IS-09:** *Job Search Tips — Résumés, Interviews and More*
- **IS-45:** *Education — What It's Worth*
- **IS-50:** *Discover Careers that Fit You*
- **IS-65:** *Career Areas to Explore and Jobs in Them*
- **IS-74:** *Job Shadowing, Internships and More Ways to Experience Careers*
- **IS-82:** *Skills You Will Need for the Workplace*
- **IS-83:** *Indiana's WorkOne Centers*
- **Indiana Career Profiles** — information on the work environment, salary, education and other aspects of specific careers.



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OUTLOOKS FOR INDUSTRIES, CAREER FIELDS AND JOBS

Industries for the future

The greatest amount of growth in the nation is expected to occur in industries that provide services: business, health care, education and technology services.

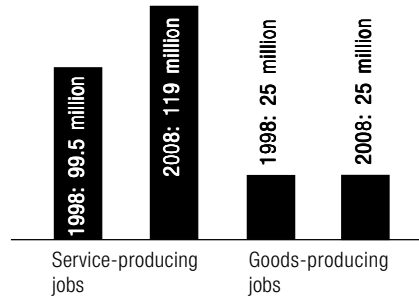
Business and management services will be needed

to help people work and live in an ever-changing world. In addition to improvements in medical technology, **health services are in greater demand** because the number of elderly Americans is growing. Also, people who are ill are not staying in hospitals as long as they once did. **Education services are growing** because people need training in order to work and succeed in a more technical world. Also, as technological advances continue more people will need to be trained and hired to repair the equipment.

In addition to business, health, education and technology services, the career areas expected to account for the greatest number of jobs available in the future include personnel supply services, management, public relations and social services.

Although service-producing industries are expected to grow, many industries that produce goods — like manufacturing and mining — are expected to hold steady or decline across the country because improvements in technology will automate procedures and reduce the need for human workers. **Indiana seems to be the exception** because it is the leading producer of steel in

Projected Job Growth in Service and Goods Industries



the U.S. Indiana also ranks among the top five producers of motor vehicle parts, assembly machines, truck and bus bodies, pharmaceuticals and medical instruments.

JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

Even though the strongest job outlooks are in the areas of business, health care, education and technology, **most of the 10 fastest-growing jobs are computer or health related** (see the chart on Page 4). In addition, jobs in sales and transportation are also expected to increase in number.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO MEASURE JOB OUTLOOK INFORMATION

Job growth and replacement needs

Job growth and replacement needs both refer to the **demand** for occupations — how many skilled workers will be needed in the future to fill jobs available in a field. Outlook information can also be presented in terms of **supply** — as in the number of skilled workers that will be competing for the jobs available.

Future employment opportunities become available because of job growth and replacement needs. Job growth means the field is growing and new positions are being created. Replacement needs are created when current workers leave the field.

Replacement needs are usually higher in jobs with low pay and low training requirements. People in these jobs often try to move into higher paying positions quickly or find different career paths. Workers also leave because they have been promoted, changed careers, returned to school, retired or left the field for personal reasons.

Percent change and numerical change

Job growth can be measured two ways: by **percent** change and by the actual increase in the **number** of new jobs available. The fastest growing occupations, those with the highest percent change, may not provide the largest number of jobs in the future. You may, therefore, want to consider careers that are growing fast — those with a high percent change in job growth — **and** with large numerical increases in job opportunities. Some of these include:

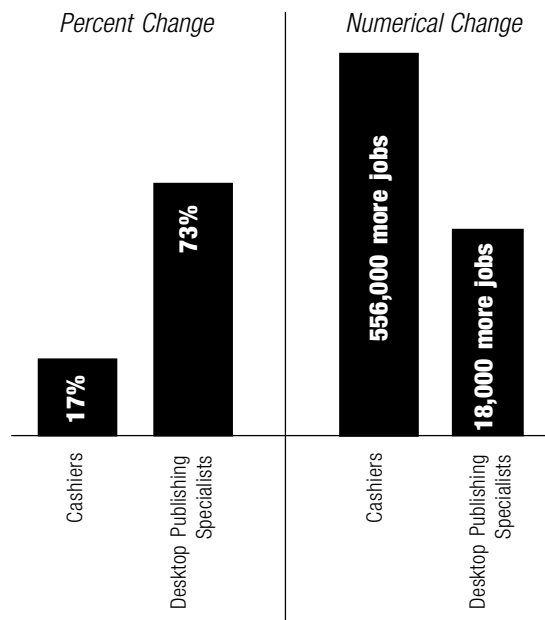
- lawyers
- physicians
- mathematicians
- management analysts
- speech pathologists and audiologists
- engineering managers
- radiologic technologists/technicians
- hotel and motel managers
- adult and vocational education teachers
- corrections officers

For instance, you may be interested in a career in art or communications because the job outlook shows people in desktop publishing are expected to be in high demand across the country. But outlook information also suggests there will be a large supply of Indiana residents trained to work in these fields. This means fewer jobs

may be available in art and communications in Indiana because of the great supply of skilled workers expected to enter these fields. The chart below illustrates the difference in percent change vs. numerical change for job growth for these careers.

For a more complete list of the fastest growing jobs, the jobs with the most employment and the highest paying jobs, check out the ICPAC Web site at icpac.indiana.edu.

Two Ways to Measure Job Growth



Geography

Most job outlook statistics show what is expected for careers across the country as a whole. But the **future of careers in specific states often differs from national outlook information**. For instance, although manufacturing is expected to decrease across the country, Indiana expects to have a lot of job openings in manufacturing and processing in the future — and not enough skilled workers to fill them.

Additional Resources

Indiana Department of Workforce Development is on the Internet at www.in.gov/dwd or call 1-888-WorkOne or e-mail a question to workone@dwd.state.in.us.

Indiana Department of Labor is on the Internet at www.in.gov/labor or call 317-232-2655 or 1-800-743-3333.

Indiana's Fastest-Growing Jobs from 1998-2008

Data Communication Analysts	+106% change
Computer Security Specialists	+106% change
Computer Engineers	+103% change
Computer Systems Analysts	+85% change
Computer Support Specialists	+85% change
Page Layout Workers	+76% change
Chiropractors	+70% change
Paralegals	+68% change
Medical Assistants	+62% change
Speech Pathologists and Audiologists	+60% change

Job outlooks also may differ between rural and urban areas. For example, welders are expected to be in greater demand in urban areas — where there are likely to be more business and industry — than in rural areas.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A VARIETY OF JOB OUTLOOK INFORMATION

Use different kinds of job outlook information from as many different sources as possible to help you make the best decisions about your future. Here are a few ways to access more and different types of job outlook information:

- **Use the ICPAC Web site at icpac.indiana.edu.** The Web site features in-depth profiles of over 480 careers. These profiles include national and state job outlook information.

- **Talk to people working in career fields you are thinking about.** They can tell you about changes they are seeing at the job currently and future trends. Consider job shadowing or doing an informational interview with someone in a career that interests you.
- Gather information from **Indiana Workforce Development Centers and local employment agencies.** Organizations like these, which provide job search services, may have information about jobs available in your area.
- **Use free job search services,** like America's Job Bank, that give you an idea of current job openings in specific areas of the country. You can link to America's Job Bank and many other Web sites through ICPAC's **Career Resources: Résumé Posting and Job Listings** section at icpac.indiana.edu.

Don't base your career choice on job availability and outlook information alone. No one knows for sure what the future will be like. Think about several factors when planning for the future, including what you enjoy, what you are good at and what will give you the most options.

For in-depth outlook information on industries, career fields and jobs, check out the **Occupational Outlook Handbook**. Your guidance counselor may have a copy of this book, or you can find it at your school or local library. You can also access the Web site at www.bls.gov/oco/.

Sources:

America's Career InfoNet at <http://www.acinet.org/acinet/> (11/01).

Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://stats.bls.gov/> (11/01).

Occupational Outlook Handbook at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/> (11/01).