

EXPLORING JOB POSSIBILITIES

Most of the new jobs out there today are in service industries—businesses that: sell items (retail), move people (tourism) or money (banking), or provide services (education, legal help, health care). Many service jobs are in retail. That's why it may not be hard to find low paying retail jobs at fast food restaurants or in the mall. Some careers in retail can be dead ends, depending on what other training you get and whether you will be able to rise in the ranks quickly enough to offset the initial low wages. Landing a different type of job that pays on the higher end usually means getting specialized training and skills. A good idea, in this economic climate, is to "job shadow." Start to learn what people do in different jobs. Once you see actual possibilities, you'll have a better idea of what you'll want to do. There are choices: you'll just have to look around to see them!

THE 20 FASTEST GROWING JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES

The numbers of openings in these jobs are expected to grow the fastest during the next five to seven years. The Fastest Growing Occupations, 2004-14 From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005, lists the following careers:

1. **HOME HEALTH AIDE**
2. Network Systems & Data Communications Analyst
3. **MEDICAL ASSISTANT**
4. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
5. **Computer software engineer, applications**
6. PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
7. **DENTAL HYGIENIST**
8. Computer Software Engineer, Systems Software
9. **DENTAL ASSISTANT**
10. PERSONAL AND HOME CARE AIDE
11. Network and computer system administrator
12. **Database administrator**
13. PHYSICAL THERAPIST
14. **Forensic science technician**
15. Veterinary technologist and technician
16. **DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER**
17. PHYSICAL THERAPIST AIDE
18. **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**
19. MEDICAL SCIENTISTS, EXCEPT EPIDEMIOLOGIST
20. **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

JOB SHADOW:
To "shadow" or follow an adult friend at his or her job, ask questions, watch what he/she does, and/or look for an internship or apprenticeship.

More information at: <http://www.bls.gov/emp/emptab21.htm>

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