



MoneyWatch | Managing Your Money CBS News Price Tracker



**How new grads can navigate a challenging job market**  
(03:26)

MoneyWatch

## See which jobs are forecast to grow fastest — and slowest — over the next decade

By Megan Cerullo

August 28, 2026 / 4:29 PM EDT / CBS News

 Add CBS News on Google

America's aging population and the rising incidence of chronic health conditions such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes are projected to create millions of healthcare and social assistance jobs over the next decade, according to new government labor data.

Employment in the sector is projected to grow 9.5%, adding 2.2 million jobs, from 2025 to 2035, the Labor Department forecasts. That accounts for roughly 37% of all new U.S. jobs over that period, the agency estimates.

The fastest-growing U.S. industry over the next decade is likely to be utilities, driven by growing demand for energy needed to power artificial intelligence. The Labor Department projects that sector will expand by 9.8% through 2035. But that growth is projected to add only 58,800 jobs over 10 years, given the modest size of the utilities sector.

Growing demand for AI-based systems and tools, as well as research and development in the burgeoning AI space, is also expected to create nearly 927,000 jobs in the professional, scientific and technical services sector.

"A lot of those nearly 1 million jobs relate to AI demand. It's your software developers, consultants and engineers," Breyon Williams, chief labor market economist at Groundwork Collaborative, an economic think tank and advocacy group, told CBS News.

## The 20 fastest-growing jobs of the next decade

Health care occupations account for half of the 20 fastest-growing jobs through 2035, according to a new forecast from the Department of Labor.

|                                                                    | Projected growth, 2025-35 (%) | Median pay, 2025 (\$) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nurse practitioners                                                | 41%                           | \$132,300             |
| Solar photovoltaic installers                                      | 37%                           | \$53,140              |
| Data scientists                                                    | 35%                           | \$120,230             |
| Wind turbine service technicians                                   | 30%                           | \$64,120              |
| Medical and health services managers                               | 24%                           | \$123,860             |
| Physical therapist assistants                                      | 23%                           | \$68,380              |
| Psychiatric technicians                                            | 22%                           | \$45,130              |
| Computer and information research scientists                       | 22%                           | \$140,300             |
| Occupational therapy assistants                                    | 21%                           | \$72,300              |
| Ophthalmic medical technicians                                     | 21%                           | \$45,570              |
| Physician assistants                                               | 21%                           | \$135,880             |
| Information security analysts                                      | 21%                           | \$129,180             |
| Occupational health and safety technicians                         | 19%                           | \$61,560              |
| Hearing aid specialists                                            | 19%                           | \$65,160              |
| Epidemiologists                                                    | 19%                           | \$87,220              |
| Occupational health and safety specialists                         | 18%                           | \$90,150              |
| Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors | 18%                           | \$59,350              |
| Home health and personal care aides                                | 18%                           | \$35,800              |
| Health specialties teachers, postsecondary                         | 18%                           | \$107,310             |
| Industrial machinery mechanics                                     | 18%                           | \$64,520              |

Chart: Aimee Picchi • Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook

Yet while growing demand for AI is expected to boost employment in some sectors, it will reduce demand in administrative functions and at retailers, among other industries, according to economists.

"It's not surprising that 752,000 administrative jobs, like office clerks, customer service reps and secretaries, are projected to be eliminated within the next 10 years," Williams said of the Labor Department's employment projections. "The story is mixed. There are some gains from AI demand coupled with losses in places where it's not surprising we'd see some drop-offs."

The use of AI could also limit demand for some jobs in the arts, design, entertainment, sports and media occupational group, the Labor Department notes.

Federal government jobs are expected to decline by 3.4% from 2025 to 2035.

## The 20 fastest-shrinking jobs of the next decade

While total U.S. employment is projected to grow 3.5% between 2025 and 2035, these 20 occupations are expected to shrink — some by more than a quarter, according to a new Department of Labor forecast.

|                                                                    | Projected change, 2025-35 (%) | Median pay, 2025 (\$) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Word processors and typists                                        | -34.4%                        | \$49,280              |
| Telephone operators                                                | -27.6%                        | \$41,740              |
| Switchboard operators, including answering service                 | -26%                          | \$38,630              |
| Data entry keyers                                                  | -25.5%                        | \$41,340              |
| Foundry mold and coremakers                                        | -23%                          | \$48,110              |
| Patternmakers, metal and plastic                                   | -22.8%                        | \$58,000              |
| Telemarketers                                                      | -21.4%                        | \$35,450              |
| Grinding and polishing workers, hand                               | -19.2%                        | \$42,660              |
| Roof bolters, mining                                               | -18.9%                        | \$78,540              |
| Cutters and trimmers, hand                                         | -18.9%                        | \$38,020              |
| Print binding and finishing workers                                | -17.5%                        | \$42,290              |
| Order clerks                                                       | -17.5%                        | \$46,170              |
| Model makers, metal and plastic                                    | -17.3%                        | \$63,340              |
| Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic | -17.2%                        | \$49,030              |
| Engine and other machine assemblers                                | -17%                          | \$53,710              |
| Carpet installers                                                  | -16.4%                        | \$50,340              |
| Payroll and timekeeping clerks                                     | -15.9%                        | \$58,260              |
| File clerks                                                        | -15.8%                        | \$43,600              |

Loading and moving machine operators,  
underground mining

-15.8% \$74,500

Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials

-15.7% \$35,060

Chart: Aimee Picchi • Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections

Edited by [Alain Sherter](#)

## More from CBS News

### MONEYWATCH

OpenAI, Anthropic warn AI cyberattacks could surge in coming months



### MONEYWATCH

What should seniors do now if Social Security is cut in 2032? 4 options to consider



### MONEYWATCH

How much interest can a \$150,000 high-yield savings account earn over the next year?



### MONEYWATCH

How much interest can \$40,000 earn over the next year? Here are 4 options to consider.



## Go deeper with The Free Press

### THE FREEPRESS

Where Is the AI Jobs Apocalypse?



### THE FREEPRESS

Big Food Is Killing Our Children



In: [Artificial Intelligence](#) [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

© 2026 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.