

Issues in Labor Statistics



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Bureau of Labor Statistics
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New and emerging occupations

The composition and quality of the workforce is constantly changing in response to economic forces, social trends, and technology. As a result, old occupations may grow or decline in employment and new occupations may emerge. The occupations discussed here are those that either have not appeared in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Survey in previous years or are appearing with increased frequency. New occupations have been most likely to appear in the services and distribution industries, but every sector has been affected to some degree. (See chart 1.)

Human service occupations. People are taking better care of their personal appearance and physical conditioning. They also are living longer with the support of advanced medical technologies. More attention is being devoted to schooling, protecting, and developing young people and more efforts are being made to develop parenting skills within increasingly diverse family structures.

Occupations and industries associated with these social and health trends include aerobic and other exercise instructors, in settings ranging from general hospitals to membership sports and recreational clubs. The healthcare needs of an aging population are creating demands for dialysis reuse technicians in kidney dialysis centers and for medical equipment repairers in hospitals.

The needs of the youth population have resulted in a demand for schoolbus aides, attendants, and monitors on local passenger transportation, on schoolbuses, and at elementary and secondary schools. Various civic, social, and fraternal organizations now employ afterschool counselors and parenting educators and trainers.

Business communication occupations. The commercial world is busy wiring itself to incorporate advances in communications. At the ends of the wires, new categories of technicians are installing and maintaining the com-

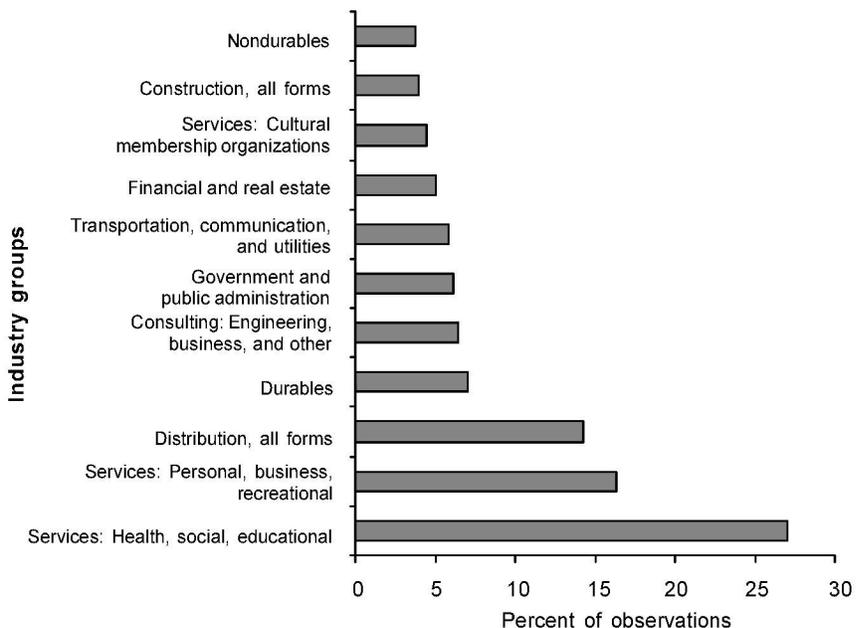
puter and telecommunications devices that are making the age of e-commerce possible. This basic structure links the Web sites developed and maintained by a variety of Webmasters and Web designers in industries such as book publishing and printing, electronic computers, camera and photographic supply stores, industrial machinery and equipment firms, and a variety of miscellaneous retail stores.

The graphic visual content used at Internet and intranet sites to support e-commerce appears to be driving requirements for designers and Web advertising specialists who can meet the current preference for “visualization” in all forms: Catalogs, product training and instructions, and continuing service notices. Within the Internet occupations, more new occupations were linked to such Web site development tasks than to either site administration or support. (See chart 2.)

Business air travel occupations. Modern business enterprises seek more rapid air transportation to wherever it is needed. This has been reflected in the increasing emergence of both ground support personnel and aircrews in industries as different as petroleum bulk stations and terminals and the offices and clinics of doctors of medicine. Helicopter pilots have increasingly been reported in the nonscheduled air transportation industry.

Business office occupations. The sheer physical layout of office workspace has changed radically, and created new occupations for persons who install and rearrange modular furniture. Desktop publishing and document production has changed the character of much work within those cubicles. Multitalented professionals now deliver finished products ready for immediate printing or electronic transfer in this way,

CHART 1. Industries with new and emerging occupations



contributing to new productivity gains. Desktop publishing specialists have appeared in industries from electronic connectors, components, and accessories producers to a variety of business consultants.

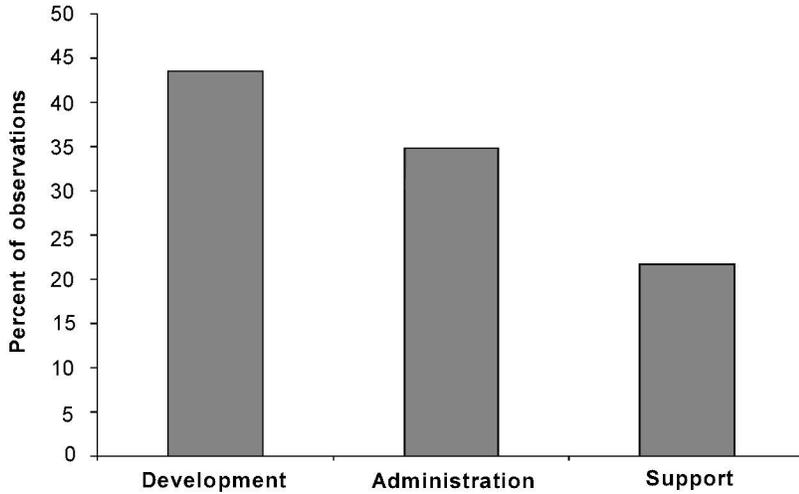
Global business, new occupations. The manufacturing plant environment also is changing. New emphasis is being placed on meeting the higher engineering and production standards required for International Organization for Standards (ISO) certification. The ISO publishes its

International Standards as the result of negotiated agreements. These standards require a new category of quality and industrial engineering expertise, resulting in jobs for ISO coordinators and ISO specialists.

Regulatory compliance. Government emphasis on safety and quality is influencing the demand for compliance specialists. In addition, the standards of voluntary organizations are having a similar effect. A variety of compliance roles has evolved in the business sector, including those of corporate compliance officers, compliance coordinators, and compliance analysts. Occupational, construction, environmental, and health safety requirements are creating a need for technicians who collect and test a variety of samples. New safety demands have created the need for specialists who install fencing and other protective devices.

For further information on new and emerging occupations, contact Jerome Pikulinski at 202-691-5095 or the Occupational Employment Statistics program at oesinfo@bls.gov. Material in this publication is in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission. This information is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200. Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339. ■

CHART 2. Functional specialties in Web-related jobs



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