

If you're like the majority of high school students, the thought of having to make so many decisions that can affect your adult life is pretty scary stuff. The good news is that nothing is carved in stone. The one thing that is for sure, however, is that getting a good basic education will serve you well, no matter which field you choose to pursue.

But then, there's another big question: What field will you pursue? The most important aspect of that decision lies in what piques your interest. After all, if you're working at something you enjoy, chances are you'll do well. But it may also help to know what it's like out in the current job market.

Listed here are the latest stats regarding today's hottest jobs. 📊

## Fastest Growing Occupations in Kentucky

Occupation	Employment 1998	Employment 2008	Percent Change
<b>1</b> Systems analysts	5,400	10,650	98%
<b>2</b> Computer engineers	1,250	2,500	97%
<b>3</b> Computer support specialists	4,450	8,750	97%
<b>4</b> Desktop publishing specialists	300	550	89%
<b>5</b> Database administrators	650	1,100	77%
<b>6</b> Medical assistants	5,050	8,550	69%
<b>7</b> Paralegals and legal assistants	1,550	2,600	65%
<b>8</b> Ambulance drivers & attendants	200	350	63%
<b>9</b> Social & human service assistants	2,550	4,200	63%
<b>10</b> Residential counselors	1,800	2,800	57%
<b>11</b> Financial services sales agents	2,100	3,250	57%
<b>12</b> Physician assistants	450	700	52%
<b>13</b> Occupational therapy aides	200	300	51%
<b>14</b> Cardiovascular technicians	350	500	47%
<b>15</b> Data processing equipment repairers	950	1,400	47%

Source: Kentucky Department for Employment Services, Labor Market Information

## Fastest Growing Occupations Nationwide Projected Growth for 2000-2010

Occupation	Earnings	Required Education
<b>1</b> Computer software engineers, applications	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>2</b> Computer support specialists	\$\$\$	Associate degree
<b>3</b> Computer software engineer, systems software	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>4</b> Network & Computer systems administrators	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>5</b> Network systems & data communication analysts	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>6</b> Desktop publishers	\$\$\$	Postsecondary vocational award
<b>7</b> Database administrators	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>8</b> Personal & home care aides	\$	Short-term on-the-job training
<b>9</b> Computer systems analysts	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>10</b> Medical assistants	\$\$	Moderate-term on-the-job training
<b>11</b> Social & human service assistants	\$\$	Moderate-term on-the-job training
<b>12</b> Physician assistants	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's degree
<b>13</b> Medical records & health information technicians	\$\$	Associate degree
<b>14</b> Computer & information systems managers	\$\$\$\$	Bachelor's or higher degree, work experience
<b>15</b> Home health aides	\$	Short-term on-the-job training

\$\$\$\$ = Very high (\$39,700 and over)  
 \$\$ = Low (\$18,500 to \$25,760)

\$\$\$ = High (\$25,760 to \$39,660)  
 \$ = Very low (up to \$18,490)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Employment Projections