

**Table 1.3 Fastest growing occupations, 2008 and projected 2018
(Numbers in thousands)**

2008 National Employment Matrix title and code	Major occupational group	Employment		Change, 2008-18		Median Annual wage quartile	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training
		2008	2018	Number	Percent		
Biomedical engineers	17-2031 Professional and related	16.0	27.6	11.6	72.02	VH	Bachelor's degree
Network systems and data communications analysts	15-1081 Professional and related	292.0	447.8	155.8	53.36	VH	Bachelor's degree
Home health aides	31-1011 Service	921.7	1382.6	460.9	50.01	VL	Short-term on-the-job training
Personal and home care aides	39-9021 Service	817.2	1,193.0	375.8	45.99	VL	Short-term on-the-job training
Financial examiners	13-2061 Management, business, and financial	27.0	38.1	11.1	41.16	VH	Bachelor's degree
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	19-1042 Professional and related	109.4	153.6	44.2	40.36	VH	Doctoral degree
Physician assistants	29-1071 Professional and related	74.8	103.9	29.2	38.99	VH	Master's degree
Skin care specialists	39-5094 Service	38.8	53.5	14.7	37.86	L	Postsecondary vocational award
Biochemists and biophysicists	19-1021 Professional and related	23.2	31.9	8.7	37.42	VH	Doctoral degree
Athletic trainers	29-9091 Professional and related	16.3	22.4	6.0	36.95	H	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapist aides	31-2022 Service	46.1	62.8	16.7	36.29	L	Short-term on-the-job training
Dental hygienists	29-2021 Professional and related	174.1	237.0	62.9	36.14	VH	Associate degree
Veterinary technologists and technicians	29-2056 Professional and related	79.6	108.1	28.5	35.77	L	Associate degree
Dental assistants	31-9091 Service	295.3	400.9	105.6	35.75	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer software engineers, applications	15-1031 Professional and related	514.8	689.9	175.1	34.01	VH	Bachelor's degree
Medical assistants	31-9092 Service	483.6	647.5	163.9	33.9	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist assistants	31-2021 Service	63.8	85.0	21.2	33.28	H	Associate degree
Veterinarians	29-1131 Professional and related	59.7	79.4	19.7	32.95	VH	First professional degree
Self-enrichment education teachers	25-3021 Professional and related	253.6	334.9	81.3	32.05	H	Work experience in a related occupation
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety	13-1041 Management, business, and financial	260.2	341.0	80.8	31.05	H	Long-term on-the-job training
Occupational therapist aides	31-2012 Service	7.8	10.2	2.4	30.74	L	Short-term on-the-job training
Environmental engineers	17-2081 Professional and related	54.3	70.9	16.6	30.62	VH	Bachelor's degree
Pharmacy technicians	29-2052 Professional and related	326.3	426.0	99.8	30.57	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer software engineers, systems software	15-1032 Professional and related	394.8	515.0	120.2	30.44	VH	Bachelor's degree
Survey researchers	19-3022 Professional and related	23.4	30.5	7.1	30.36	H	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapists	29-1123 Professional and related	185.5	241.7	56.2	30.27	VH	Master's degree
Personal financial advisors	13-2052 Management, business, and financial	208.4	271.2	62.8	30.13	VH	Bachelor's degree
Environmental engineering technicians	17-3025 Professional and related	21.2	27.5	6.4	30.1	H	Associate degree
Occupational therapist assistants	31-2011 Service	26.6	34.6	7.9	29.78	H	Associate degree
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	39-9031 Service	261.1	337.9	76.8	29.41	L	Postsecondary vocational award

Source: Employment Projections Program, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics