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USNews
 2012

The 25 Best Jobs

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All of our Best Jobs of 2012 are outstanding, but the top 25 make for a particularly great career choice. We've ranked them, comparing their projected growth to the year 2020 to their industry's employment rate. Also contributing to a job's overall score is its average salary, predicted job prospects, and a quantitative assessment of job satisfaction. Read more on how we ranked the Best Jobs.

JOBS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

Sales Engineer, Content Security
 Barracuda Networks - Ann Arbor, MI

OTR Driver
 Dart - Detroit, MI

Legal Network Performance Manager
 Asset Acceptance - Warren, MI

QA Senior Manager - PLM & DM
 Autodesk - Novi, MI

What: Where:
 title, keywords city, state, or zip

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The Rankings



See all Registered Nurse Job Openings

#1 Registered Nurse

The nursing profession will almost always have great hiring opportunity because of its expanse (from pediatric care to geriatric care, and everything in between). And as a substantial chunk of our population ages, the necessity for qualified RNs intensifies.

Overall Score:	8.2
Growth:	711,900
Unemployment:	5.5%
Median Salary:	\$64,690
Satisfaction:	MEDIUM

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See all Software Developer Job Openings

#2 Software Developer

These tech-smart professionals who design, construct, test, and maintain software should see abundant job growth up to the year 2020. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts 27.6 percent expansion, or 143,800 new positions.

Overall Score:	7.6
Growth:	143,800
Unemployment:	7.9%
Median Salary:	\$87,790
Satisfaction:	MEDIUM

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Best Job Rankings For:

TECHNOLOGY
 Software Developer, Database Administrator, Web Developer, Computer Systems Analyst, more...

HEALTHCARE
 Registered Nurse, Pharmacist, Medical Assistant, Physical Therapist, more...

SOCIAL SERVICES
 Maintenance and Repair Worker, Elementary School Teacher, Speech-Language Pathologist, Social Worker, more...

BUSINESS
 Meeting Planner, Sales Representative, Accountant, Receptionist, more...



See all Pharmacist Job Openings

#3 Pharmacist

With a fairly solid job satisfaction score and a very solid average salary, the pharmacist profession nabs the no. 3 spot on our list. Possessors of a Pharm.D can anticipate nearly 70,000 available jobs this decade.

Overall Score:	7.6
Growth:	69,700
Unemployment:	5.5%
Median Salary:	\$111,570
Satisfaction:	MEDIUM

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See all Medical Assistant Job Openings

#4 Medical Assistant

If you'd like to join the more than 520,000 professionals who work as medical assistants, you can expect to earn approximately \$28,860 per year and to find generous job opportunities. There will be more than 160,000 new positions in this field by 2020.

Overall Score:	7.5
Growth:	162,900
Unemployment:	5.5%
Median Salary:	\$28,860
Satisfaction:	MEDIUM

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See all Database Administrator Job Openings

#5 Database Administrator

The more digitized our society becomes, the more important the role of "database administrator" becomes. By 2020, we'll need about 33,900 new ones to store, organize, manage, and troubleshoot all the content we store on computers.

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Overall Score: 7.5

Growth: 33,900
Unemployment: 7.9%
Median Salary: \$73,490
Satisfaction: MEDIUM



See all Web Developer Job Openings

#6 Web Developer

"Web developer" might seem like a generic term, but a lot of schooling and skill goes into making a website look good and operate well. According to the Labor Department, about 65,700 new Web developers will enter the working world by 2020.

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Overall Score: 7.5

Growth: 65,700
Unemployment: 7.9%
Median Salary: \$75,660
Satisfaction: HIGH



See all Computer Systems Analyst Job Openings

#7 Computer Systems Analyst

Having a hard time distinguishing one tech job from another on this list? Think of a computer systems analyst as the one who keeps the trains running on time. They're often a liaison between the IT department and a client.

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Overall Score: 7.5

Growth: 120,400
Unemployment: 7.9%
Median Salary: \$77,740
Satisfaction: MEDIUM



See all Physical Therapist Job Openings

#8 Physical Therapist

Use your training period to start networking and begin your search for physical therapist jobs. Although there will be more than 77,000 jobs in this field this decade, the early birds will be more marketable.

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Overall Score: 6.9

Growth: 77,400
Unemployment: 5.5%
Median Salary: \$76,310
Satisfaction: HIGH



See all Computer Programmer Job Openings

#9 Computer Programmer

C++, Python, and other computer languages should be second-nature for an ambitious computer programmer. Some of the most proficient could earn up to \$114,000 a year.

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Overall Score: 6.8

Growth: 43,700
Unemployment: 7.9%
Median Salary: \$71,380
Satisfaction: MEDIUM



See all Occupational Therapist Job Openings

#10 Occupational Therapist

An occupational therapist's skills range from building ramps for those with physical impairments to formulating rehabilitation regimens for amputees. For the immediate future, the most opportunities in our No. 10 profession will be for those working with the elderly.

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Overall Score: 6.8

Growth: 26,400
Unemployment: 5.5%
Median Salary: \$72,320
Satisfaction: MEDIUM

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SLIDE SHOWS



The 10 Best Jobs

Check out the top tier of our list of The Best Jobs of 2012.

- ▶ The 6 Best Business Jobs of 2012
- ▶ The 6 Best Technology Jobs of 2012

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