



High-paying occupations with many openings, projected 2002-12

Over the 2002-12 decade, career choices abound for those seeking high earnings and lots of opportunities. High-paying occupations that are projected to have many openings are varied. This diverse group includes teachers, managers, and construction trades workers.

The job openings shown in the chart represent the total that are expected each year for workers who are entering these occupations for the first time. The job openings result from each occupation's growth and from the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation permanently for some other reason. Not included among these openings are ones that are created when workers move from job to job within an occupation.

Median earnings, such as those listed below, indicate that half of the workers in an occupation made more than that amount, and half made less. The occupations in the chart ranked in the highest or second-highest earnings quartiles for 2002 median earnings. This means that median earnings for workers in these occupations were higher than the earnings for at least 50 percent of all occupations in 2002.

Most of these occupations had another thing going for them in 2002: low or very low unemployment. Workers in occupations that had higher levels of unemployment—truck drivers, carpenters, and electricians—were more dependent on a strong economy or seasonal employment.

	Annual average job openings due to growth and net replacement needs, projected 2002-12	Median annual earnings, 2002
Registered nurses	110,119	\$48,090
Postsecondary teachers	95,980	49,090
General and operations managers	76,245	68,210
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	66,239	42,730
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	62,517	33,210
Elementary school teachers, except special education	54,701	41,780
First-line supervisors or managers of retail sales workers	48,645	29,700
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	45,761	43,950
General maintenance and repair workers	44,978	29,370
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	42,444	33,410
First-line supervisors or managers of office and administrative support workers	40,909	38,820
Accountants and auditors	40,465	47,000
Carpenters	31,917	34,190
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	31,887	30,590
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	31,290	42,270
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	29,480	31,440
Electricians	28,485	41,390
Management analysts	25,470	60,340
Computer systems analysts	23,735	62,890
Special education teachers	23,297	43,450