

BUSINESS INSIDER

The 12 Best Jobs In The Booming American Health Care Industry



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As the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, kicks in and the population ages, hiring in the health care industry is expected to generate the largest number of jobs compared to all other industries by 2020, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

That's a total of 5.6 million jobs with an annual growth rate of 3%.



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To find out which jobs offer the best opportunities in health care, [job search site CareerCast](#) analyzed survey data that weighed stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook of 200 occupations.

"What's similar for the jobs on this list, with the exception of biomedical engineer, is that they work individually one-on-one with another person," Tony Lee, publisher at CareerCast.com, tells Business Insider. "When you're working with someone else, the job satisfaction is pretty high because you see someone often and they're giving you feedback, as opposed to having very few people thanking you."

Lee predicts that the need for these professionals will last for years to come. "Baby boomers are entering retirement, and as our body ages, the type of medical professionals that are needed to help people deal with that are going to be in greater

demand."

The overall score for each job **takes into account** the pay; hiring outlook; stress; emotional factors, including the level of competitiveness and degree of public contact; and physical demands, such as stamina required and work conditions, that normally come with a job. Once the categories are combined, a lower overall score signals that the job is more desirable to employees.

Much of the data used to evaluate the jobs comes from the BLS, other government agencies, trade associations, and private survey firms.

12. Physician assistant

Overall score: 414

Annual median salary: \$90,930

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 30%

Work environment score: 72

Stress score: 31

What they do: Aid in the performance of essential procedures, which frees physicians to attend to more specialized aspects of their work.



COD Newsroom/Flickr

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

11. Medical records technician

Overall score: 354

Annual median salary: \$34,610

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 21%

Work environment score: 44

Stress score: 7

What they do: Maintain complete, accurate, and up-to-date medical records for use in treatment, billing, and statistical surveys.



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10. Respiratory therapist

Overall score: 350

Annual median salary: \$55,870

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 28%

Work environment score: 60

Stress score: 19

What they do: Treat and rehabilitate patients suffering from cardiopulmonary (heart and lung) ailments that interfere with normal breathing.



BLS

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9. Podiatrist

Overall score: 299

Annual median salary: \$116,440

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 20%

Work environment score: 59

Stress score: 18

What they do: Diagnose and treat problems of the feet, through corrective devices, medication, therapy, and surgery.



Heidi Jones/Getty Images

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

8. Pharmacist

Overall score: 268

**Annual median
salary:** \$116,670

**BLS projected growth
(through 2020):** 25%

Work environment score: 57

Stress score: 15

What they do: Advise physicians and patients on the affects of drugs and medications; prepare and dispense prescriptions.



[flickr/dougww](#)

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7. Speech pathologist

Overall score: 218

Annual median salary: \$69,870

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 23%

Work environment score: 51

Stress score: 12

What they do: Assess hearing, speech, and language disabilities and provide treatment. Assist individuals with communication disorders through diagnostic techniques.



Flickr/IntelFreePress

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

6. Chiropractor

Overall score: 216

Annual median salary: \$66,160

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 28%

Work environment score: 55

Stress score: 13

What they do: Treat physical problems by manipulating various parts of the body, especially the spinal column.

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



YouTube

5. Physical therapist

Overall score: 199

Annual median salary: \$79,860

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 39%

Work environment score: 58

Stress score: 14

What they do: Plan and direct treatment to improve mobility and alleviate pain in persons disabled by injury or disease.

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The I-News Network1

4. Optometrist

Overall score: 166

Annual median salary: \$97,820

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 33%

Work environment score: 53

Stress score: 17

What they do: Diagnose visual disorders and prescribe and administer corrective and rehabilitative treatments.

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Flickr/woodleywonderworks

3. Occupational therapist

Overall score: 166

Annual median salary:
\$75,400

**BLS projected growth
(through 2020):** 33%

Work environment score: 52

Stress score: 13

What they do: Develop individualized programs of activity for mentally, physically, developmentally and emotionally impaired persons, to aid them in achieving self-reliance.



Flickr/The US Army

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2. Dental hygienist

Overall score: 161

Annual median salary:
\$70,210

**BLS projected growth
(through 2020):** 38%

Work environment score: 53

Stress score: 12

What they do: Clean teeth, examine patients for oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provide other preventative dental care. They also educate patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health.



Greg Williams / flickr

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1. Biomedical engineer

Overall score: 133

Annual median salary: \$86,960

BLS projected growth (through 2020): 62%

Work environment score: 49

Stress score: 16

What they do: Analyze and design solutions to problems in biology and medicine, with the goal of improving the quality and effectiveness of patient care.



UC Davis College of Engineering/Flickr

The ranking is based on data that weighted stress, physical demands, and both the current and future employment outlook across 200 occupations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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