

40 top jobs of the future

(Groups listed in alphabetical order)

Using the most up-to-date occupational research, this guide has been produced to showcase 40 top jobs in 10 key occupations that our analysis of the UK job market suggests will be crucial over the next decade.

The aim is to inspire young people about the wide range of jobs that are out there, inspiration which they can use when mapping a career pathway.

From the 40 jobs listed, we have picked 12 examples of some of the most exciting and rewarding jobs that we believe will present young people with a good mix of opportunity, reward, and long-term potential – all key aspects people should be considering when making their career decisions. We highlight what each of these dozen occupations entails, from the skills and attitude required to longer-term growth predictions and, crucially, how people can start to engage with this sector, and make it a career they can aspire to.

Agriculture



• Farmers

Farmers play a crucial role in our future; from environmental concerns to the origins of the food on our plates they are involved in everything from cultivation of crops and livestock to land management and ecological concerns.

Business & Finance



• Sales accounts and business development managers

People working in this field engage with customers to understand their needs and also coach and lead a team of sales people to work towards agreed sales targets.

• Business and financial project managers

Project managers work across all areas of business and the public sector to plan and organise resources and people to make sure projects finish on time, stay within budget and meet the requirements of the organisation.

• Finance and investment analysts and advisers

From mortgage advisers to investment analysts, people working in this group help individuals and businesses to choose the right investment for their needs based on research and analysis.

• Chartered and certified accountants

Accountants provide accountancy services for clients as part of private practice or within a business. They handle tax and accounts, carry out audits and advise on financial matters.

• Management consultants and business analysts

Management consultants and business analysts use their business skills to help organisations solve problems, improve efficiency and manage change.

Construction



• Carpenters and joiners

Carpenters and joiners make and install wooden fixtures and fittings as part of construction projects, working in a variety of roles including shop fitter and kitchen fitter.

• Architects

Architects design new buildings and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings. They manage the construction process, control budgets and deal with planning issues.

• Construction project managers

Construction project managers oversee construction and civil engineering projects and building contracts to make sure they are completed safely, on time and within budget.

• Plumbers and heating and ventilating engineers

These jobs involve fitting, servicing and repairing water pipes and heating systems in homes and businesses.

• Chartered surveyors

Chartered surveyors carry out vital observations related to the measurement, management, valuation and development of land, buildings and other property, searching for any dangers or structural issues which may impact on almost all aspects of construction work.

Education



• Secondary education teachers

Secondary school teachers help to prepare young people for a fulfilling life after school by providing instruction in one or more subjects in a secondary school.

• Teaching assistants

Teaching assistants help teachers with their day-to-day classroom work and with administrative tasks.

• Primary and nursery education teachers

Primary and nursery school teachers give young children the best start in life, developing and preparing them for secondary school.

• Senior education professionals

Including senior roles such as head teachers, college principals and senior academic administrator roles, people working in this group manage the effective running of a school, university or college.

Health & Care



• Doctors

From GPs to surgeons, doctors diagnose and treat illnesses and disease in patients, providing advice and reassurance.

- **Nurses**

Every day, Britain's nurses save lives; they're at the coalface of A&E and are the people patients see most while recuperating, providing vital care and assistance to those in need.

- **Nursing auxiliaries and assistants**

Often known as health care assistants, people working in this area assist doctors and nurses in the day-to-day care of patients, either in hospitals or the wider community.

- **Care workers and home carers**

Care workers are the frontline staff in all care settings. They work with all types of people who need care and support to ensure the individual's overall comfort and wellbeing and to help them to live as independently as possible.

- **Dentists**

While their work may set some people's teeth on edge, rather than straight and pearly white, dentists play an important role in our day-to-day health, specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of problems that affect the mouth and teeth.

Information Technology



- **Programmers and software developers**

From designing the software that keeps huge retailers and manufacturers moving, to building the latest hit games and apps, programmers and software developers create solutions in almost every sector imaginable.

- **IT specialist managers**

From data centre managers to IT support managers, people working in this job manage the delivery of specialist IT services within an organisation.

- **IT business analysts, architects and systems designers**

People working in this role are employed by companies to design IT systems and processes or analyse existing ones and to recommend improvements.

- **IT project and programme managers**

IT project managers oversee the implementation of major IT projects, such as the installation of computer systems, to meet the needs of a wide range of organisations.

- **Web designers and developers**

People working in this group use their creativity and technical skills to design, build and maintain websites.

Manufacturing, Installation, Maintenance



- **Electricians and electrical fitters**

Electricians fit and repair electrical circuits and wiring and maintain electrical machinery in people's homes or in businesses.

- **Metal working production and maintenance fitters**

This role includes engineering maintenance fitters and involves installing, servicing and repairing engineering machinery and equipment, including mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems.

- **Pipe fitters**

Pipe fitters install pipe systems and maintain and repair pipes on sites such as petrochemical plants, oil refineries and other processing plants, often working in harsh conditions and at considerable heights.

- **Aircraft maintenance and related trades**

With job titles such as aircraft mechanic and aircraft fitter, people working in this role fit, service, repair and overhaul aircraft engines and assemblies.

- **Telecommunications engineers**

Telecommunications engineers install, test and repair communications systems, such as fixed-line and mobile telephony networks, copper wire and fibre-optic cabling and digital satellite systems.

Protective Services



- **Police officers**

Police officers are on the frontline of justice, working in partnership with the community to make life safer for your friends and neighbours, and to make your area a better place to live.

Science, Engineering & Technology



- **Mechanical engineers**

Mechanical engineers undertake research and design, direct the manufacture and manage the operation and maintenance of mechanical systems, such as engines, vehicles and machinery.

- **Research and development managers**

Research and development managers are responsible for the process by which new products and services are developed or existing ones improved. This can involve managing market research and design work.

- **Physical scientists**

Including a range of scientific roles from physicist to geologist, people in this job study the world around us. Their findings act as the scientific basis for practical developments in areas as diverse as oil and gas, and space and satellites.

- **Design and development engineers**

Design and development engineers take initial product ideas (across a wide range of areas, including for engines, instruments, vehicles, electronic equipment etc) and develop them into designs and prototypes.

- **Biological scientists and biochemists**

From biologists to horticulturists, people working in this job study living things such as plants and animals and the world they live in. Their work is used widely in sectors such as medicine, agriculture and environmental management.

Transport & Logistics



- **Aircraft pilots**

Pilots fly passengers and cargo to destinations around the world.

- **Large goods vehicle drivers**

Large goods vehicle (LGV) drivers, also known as HGV drivers, deliver goods across the UK and overseas. They move everything from foodstuffs to fuel.

- **Ship officers**

Ship officers work in a variety of settings from cruise ships to oil tankers, handling the navigation, communications, crew, cargo and overall running of the ship.

- **Train and tram drivers**

Workers in this role drive trains to transport passengers and goods on surface and underground railways, and transport passengers in trams.