



# Introduction: Employment projections

The Bureau classifies jobs by occupation and by industry. The occupational totals presented in the charts represent the sum of jobs in all industries where that occupation appears. For example, occupational employment of automotive mechanics is the sum of mechanics working for automotive dealers and in automotive repair shops, auto supply stores, gas stations, and other industries. The industry totals show the sum of jobs in all occupations in each industry. For example, industry employment for automotive repair shops is the sum of automotive mechanics, automotive body repairers, bookkeeping clerks, managers, and workers in other occupations employed there.

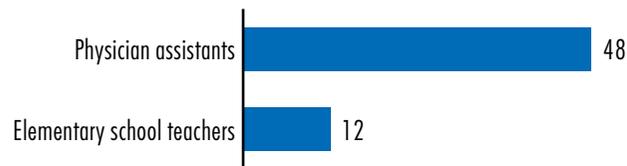
Employment totals shown in this section include those for wage-and-salary workers and for self-employed workers. Occupational data also include both groups of workers, but industry data include nonfarm wage-and-salary workers only.

When one component of a total grows faster than another, the percent distribution of the total changes. For example, faster employment growth of some minority and ethnic groups increases their proportion of the labor force. Several charts show percent distributions.

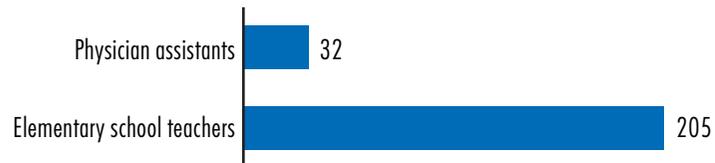


Percent and numeric change may provide different pictures of growth. As the upper chart shows, employment of physician assistants is projected to increase 4 times as fast as that of elementary school teachers. But as the bottom chart shows, there will be 6 times as many new jobs for elementary school teachers as for physician assistants. This is because more elementary school teachers than physician assistants were employed in 1998—nearly 1.8 million, compared to 66,000.

**Employment growth in selected occupations, projected 1998-2008**  
(Percent)

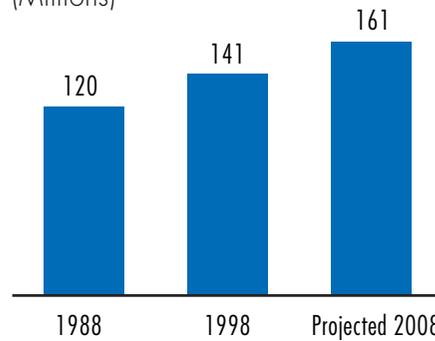


**Employment growth in selected occupations, projected 1998-2008**  
(Thousands)



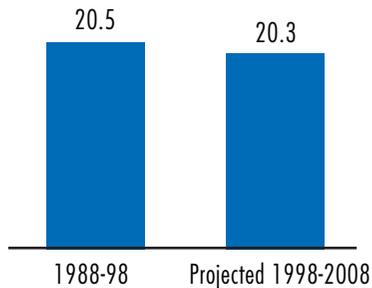
Employment will continue to increase, reaching 161 million by 2008.

**Employment, 1988, 1998, and projected 2008**  
(Millions)



Employment is projected to grow by over 20 million over the next decade, about the same as over the previous one.

**Employment growth, 1988-98 and projected 1998-2008**  
(Millions)



Employment will grow by 14 percent, but the rate of growth will be slower than over the last 10 years.

**Employment growth, 1988-98 and projected 1998-2008**  
(Percent)

