



U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

New Occupations Emerging Across Industry Lines

Emerging occupations may be entirely new, created by changes in technology, society, markets, or regulations. They may also be existing ones that have been substantially modified by the same trends, and are increasing in employment.

Emerging occupations are most often found in the most rapidly growing or changing industries. For example, the services division reported the greatest number of emerging occupations. (See table.) Within this division, the industry groups reporting the most emerging occupations were social services, health services, business services, and education. Quite often, such occupations are specific to an industry—*resettlement coordinators* are not often found outside of their social service niche, nor are *bus aides* found outside of educational services.

Some emerging occupations, however, are reported in a fairly wide range of industries. The chart shows the number of industry divisions containing establishments that reported the new or emerging occupations in 1996. Administrative assistants, for example, are found in eight industry divisions; convention managers in five; web masters in four; and quality assurance directors in two.

Although downsizing and technological innovations such as personal computers, voice mail, and the like have reduced the employment of secretaries, *administrative assistants* are being reported as new occupations by establishments in many industries. These workers typically

have more responsibilities than general secretaries, and often provide high level support to executive staff. Administrative assistants may also have office management functions, working with payroll, budget, or personnel records. Administrative assistants may also work independently on projects involving research and preparing outlines or presentation materials.

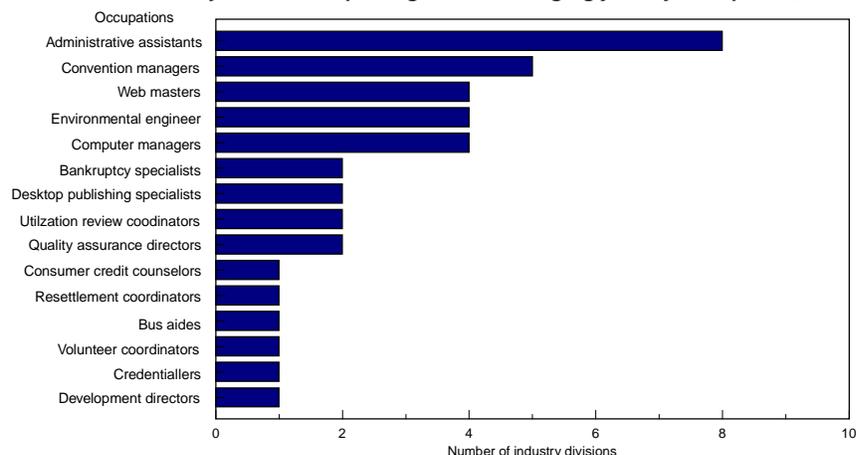
Another occupation that has emerged in a surprisingly wide variety of industries is *convention manager*. Convention planning personnel serve as liaison between their own organization and various outside vendors providing goods and services necessary for a convention. Convention managers coordinate activities of convention center, hotel, and banquet personnel in order to make arrangements for group meetings and conventions. Convention managers were most prominent in membership organizations, but were also frequently reported in business services, educa-

tional services, publishing; and social services.

Web masters or coordinators write the computer code necessary to publish or update text and images on Internet web sites. They design and maintain Internet web sites. As more and more organizations project a presence on the Internet, more of these World Wide Web workers are being reported. Establishments in the publishing, trade, business services, and membership organizations reported growing employment of Internet personnel.

Environmental engineers work to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and company policy. The work may involve the disposal of hazardous materials, monitoring emissions of pollutants, or safety of employees on the job. Environmental engineers may also work on environmental impact statements or environmental assessments. Some may work as contractors advising clients to ensure

Number of industry divisions reporting new or emerging jobs by occupation, 1996



compliance with environmental law and regulations. These environmental professionals were most often reported in the industries most affected by environmental regulations, such as paper; fabricated metal; industrial equipment; electric, gas, and sanitary services; construction; wholesale trade; business services; health services; engineering; and management services.

Technological change continues to create emerging opportunities in computer-related occupations. **Computer managers** are responsible for an organization's computer network. They are increasingly responsible for overseeing the installation, configuration, and maintenance of both software and hardware in a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), or Internet/ Intranet system. Computer managers monitor network usage to ensure that adequate computer service is available to all users. Their duties may also include keeping the computer network secure. Establishments in many industries, including printing and publishing, wholesale trade, depository institutions, and services, reported increasing

numbers of computer managers.

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program has compiled this report of the emerging occupations that have been reported most frequently by respondents on the 1996 OES survey. The survey asks employers to report the number of people they employ in various occupational categories. In large establishments (more than 50 employees), employees who do not fit into an existing occupation are reported in "all other" categories. At the end of the survey form employers are asked to provide a job title and description for the "all other" occupations that they believe to be "numerically important or emerging due to technological change." Small establishments (fewer than 50 employees) are asked to report employment that does not fit into a specific category. OES staff reviews reports from all establishments and determines which job titles and descriptions represent emerging occupations. These occupations were among those reported in *Occupational Employment and Wages, 1996* (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 1998, Bulletin 2506).

Number of emerging occupations by industry division, 1996

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Number</i>
Mining	1
Construction	2
Manufacturing	6
Transportation, communications, gas, and electric	3
Wholesale trade	5
Retail trade	2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	6
Services	14

For more information on emerging occupations, contact the Occupational Employment Statistics Branch, at (202) 606-6569 or by e-mail (oesinfo@bls.gov).

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 Bureau of Labor Statistics
 Postal Square Building, Rm. 2850
 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE
 Washington, DC 20212-0001

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