

Top Jobs of the Future

No one can predict all the jobs young people will be able to choose from in the second half of the 21st century but here are just a few of the jobs that are likely to be in demand over the next 15 years.

Care worker

By 2037 the number of people aged 75+ will have almost doubled meaning a huge demand for people to work in care. Hugely rewarding, these can be careers with plenty of opportunities to progress.

Software developer

Computer programming skills are the most sought after area of expertise in the UK – they're needed everywhere! From cloud computing to artificial intelligence to business intelligence to gaming – and other possibilities yet to be imagined.

Online merchandiser

Your mobile or tablet screen is the digital equivalent to a shop window and needs to attract those all-important sales too. eCommerce is one of the key job areas in retail these days and will continue to play a major role as more people shop online.

Big data analyst

How do you keep track of all the information stored about people and their habits and what can it all tell us? Big data means a big number of jobs.

Carpenters and joiners

The UK construction industry needs 135,000 new apprentices by 2021 in skilled roles such as joiner, bricklayer and electrician.

Cyber security expert

No-one wants to fall victim to cyber-based crime which is why the government is trying to tackle the issue by providing apprenticeships to encourage young people to choose this growing sector.

Nurse

There are currently around 24,000 nursing vacancies in the UK with most hospitals experiencing shortages. Bursaries for nursing degrees have been replaced with fees but there are now more routes into the career with degree apprenticeships in nursing now an option.

Diagnostics technician (light vehicle)

Cars are fitted with more electronics than you can shake a stick at these days and it's the job of a diagnostics technician to spot the fault. With more electric and driverless vehicles hitting the road every year can we manage without them.

Epidemiologist

There will be lots of jobs in life sciences. Epidemiologists research the causes and effects of viruses and diseases in an increasingly global society.

Large Goods Vehicle driver

In huge demand across the country, LGV and HGV drivers support the UK logistics industry and keep everything running to time.

Smart meter fitter

By 2020 the government wants all homes and small businesses to be equipped with smart meters to measure energy use. How many fitters does it take to install smart meters in 50 million homes? Quite a few.

Food technologist

Agri-food is a growing sector with plenty of different job roles and it's crying out for young people to join the industry.

Aircraft pilot

Over half a million new pilots will be needed across the globe over the next 20 years as passenger numbers increase and current pilots retire. Pay and prospects are good.

Accountant

Businesses and individuals need accountants to keep on top of the financial running of their business. And with more people turning to self-employment, the demand will continue.

Teacher

What would we do without them? We need more primary school teachers because the numbers of children in this age group are growing. We need secondary school teachers to teach physics, maths, chemistry and languages. We need teachers!

Production manager

Still an important sector in the UK, manufacturing especially needs people with good management skills to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Fitness instructor

We all know we should be keeping healthy. Fitness instructors can give us that helping hand.

VFX / CGI

It's all about the special effects these days! The UK TV and film sector is extremely good at creating these and to keep it that way we need homegrown experts.

Sales accounts managers

All sectors need people skilled at selling things. There are lots of opportunities for those who can.

Mechanical engineer

Engineers are well paid and in demand. The UK expects that 186,000 people with engineering skills will be needed annually through to 2024 over the next decade.

Vertical Farmer

With experts predicting the world's population will increase to around 9.1 billion by 2050, space will be at a premium in the future. Farms will start to spring up on rooftops and terraces, inside purpose built skyscrapers, and anywhere else where there's any room to grow.



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End of Life Counsellor

Medical technology is also advancing at an astonishing rate. Genetic screening could soon become part of our routine medical checkups in the not-too-distant future, predicting the likelihood of disease and even determining how long we're likely to live.

Data Waste Management Operative

As we move further into the future, our entire film, music and book collections will all be digitally stored, not to mention all our personal correspondence. Sounds neat right? Think again.

Imagine a world where entire data storage facilities will be needed for every individual, where you'll have hundreds of thousands of e-mails to sort through on a weekly basis, and where a virulent virus could prove as deadly as a break-in. To counter this, experts will be needed to help you tidy up your tablet, feng shui your phone and de-clutter your data drives, while also monitoring potential security threats at all times.

Robot Technician

One thing about technology which will remain a constant, however, will be its ability to break, which makes Robot Technician a pretty attractive future career option.

Well, until the robots learn how to fix themselves, that is. Then you're pretty much on your own.

Space Captain/Super commander

With the launch of commercially available spaceflights, popping up to the international space station or taking a cheeky jaunt to Jupiter could become commonplace. And inevitably, there will be a massive recruitment effort to attract drivers

Climate change reversal specialist

Currently, the focus is on preventing further damage, but soon we'll have to look at reversing it altogether. A report by Fast Future, *The Shape Of Jobs To Come*, says a "new breed of engineer-scientists... need to apply multi-disciplinary solutions, such as erecting giant umbrellas to deflect the sun's rays".

Social Media Lawyer

With 5.8 million cybercrimes a year, and Facebook and Twitter incidents reported every 45 minutes, lawyers dealing with these will be a hot commodity.

Pharmer

Yep, that's 'farmer' with a 'p'. With global water shortages inevitable – it's predicted southern Africa alone will see a 15% decline in wheat by 2030 – the genetically modified market is about to explode. Enter the pharmer, who uses both tech and agricultural know-how to raise carefully engineered crops and livestock to improve harvest. "Crops may also be grown with beneficial chemicals – think 'cancer curing' sunflowers," says futurist Rohit Talwar.

Prosthetics Technician

As long as there have been legs, there have been fake legs. But mind-controlled ‘smart’ prosthetics are set to become more common. Anyone with an engineering background will want to bone up on... well, bones. “There will be a rise in the number of implantable devices, which will help us to navigate the world and better understand our biology,” says Professor Andy Miah, chair in Science Communication and Future Media at the University of Salford. “Skills to help people adjust to these devices will become crucial.” So physical disabilities will be managed very differently in 2027.

Virtual reality (VR) director

A degree in film studies has rarely been a passport to riches – until now. VR is the biggest thing in tech: Facebook has invested around £1.5 billion in it, and Google sells boxy VR headsets for £15. It’s up to the next generation of creatives to come up with stories that people want to snap on a headset for, and turn VR from a niche interest to the 21st-century equivalent of cinema.

Time Broker

Time banking assumes time is more valuable than money, so if you ‘deposit’ an hour – say, by helping an elderly person in the community – you earn a ‘time credit’, with which you can ‘buy’ an hour of someone else’s time. “Time-banking already exists, but ‘time broker’ will become a serious profession as time credits become real currency,” says Rohit. It feels like a no-brainer: as freelancers are expected to make up over 40% of the workforce by 2020, assigning currency to your time may be a natural conclusion.

eSport Athlete

In 2014, Amazon snapped up Twitch – which live-streams gaming – for \$970 million. Yep, that’s almost \$1 billion (approx £857 million) to watch people playing video games. It’s a thriving mini-industry and, says Professor Miah, “As eSports rise, so do the prize money and the number of events.” In 2016, the League of Legends World Championship had a prize pool of more than £3.7 million. “Players are signed to world clubs, and traditional sports are looking to eSports for the next generation of athletes.” Turns out all those hours spent playing Crash Bandicoot didn’t go to waste.

Old-age wellness manager

By 2030, over-65s will make up 12% of the world’s population; in 2015 it was just 8.5%. So the demand for elderly-care specialists will soar, along with complex supplements and memory-enhancing drugs, according to *The Shape Of Jobs To Come*. An “old-age wellness manager” will, it says, bridge clients’ needs for medical care, housing, transport, skills development, social care and more. And this role is predicted to create the largest number of future jobs of any sector.

Some areas of work may be growing fast but we’ll always need people to replace those who leave. Remember though, experts believe that perhaps around 60 per cent of the jobs around in 10 years’ time have yet to be invented.

Source: Parental Guidance May 2017 (Sources: 1 – UKCES, 11 – BIS, 13 – Boeing, 20 – EngineeringUK), Reed.co.uk, Glamour Magazine

