20 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's our pick of some of the jobs we can expect to be in demand over the next 15 years.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Carpenters and joiners

So very in demand, the skills of carpenters and joiners are needed by the construction industry right across the country.

6. Cyber security

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.

7. Nurse

It's estimated there will be over 400,000 job openings for nurses over the next decade offering greater levels of responsibility and expertise.

8. 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?

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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!

16. Production manager

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

17. Fitness instructor

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

18. 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.

19. Sales accounts managers

All sectors need people skilled at selling things. Lots of opportunities for those who can.

20. Mechanical engineer

Engineers are well paid and in demand. The UK will need around 50,000 new mechanical engineers over the next decade.

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...

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Sources: 1 – UKCES, 7 – UKCES, 11 – BIS, 13 – Boeing, 20 - UKCES