

## Top 10 Blue Collar Jobs of the Future

By CareerBuilder.com

Competitive wages and predicted industry growth mean the future is looking bright for numerous blue collar positions. So which manual and technical labor jobs are the most promising?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, construction and extraction jobs are expected to grow 12 percent by 2014, adding 931,000 jobs to the field. Installation, maintenance and repair jobs have a predicted expansion of 11.4 percent with 657,000 additional jobs over the same time period. The transportation and material moving industry is another growing blue collar niche, increasing by 11.1 percent and adding 1.1 million jobs by 2014.

Here are the top 10 blue collar jobs based on current salary medians and expected growth by 2014\*:

- 1. Construction and Building Inspectors**  
*What it pays:* \$43,670 per year  
*Employment projected to increase:* 18-26 percent
- 2. Waste and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators**  
*What it pays:* \$34,960 per year  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 3. Elevator Installers and Repairers**  
*What it pays:* \$28.23 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 4. Subway and Streetcar Operators**  
*What it pays:* \$23.70 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 5. Iron and Metal Workers**  
*What it pays:* \$20.40 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 6. Electricians**  
*What it pays:* \$20.33 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 7. Brickmasons, Blockmasons and Stonemasons**  
*What it pays:* \$20.07 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 8. Plumbers, Pipelayers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters**  
*What it pays:* \$19.85 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent
- 9. Heating, Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers**  
*What it pays:* \$17.43 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 18-26 percent
- 10. Carpenters**  
*What it pays:* \$16.78 per hour  
*Employment projected to increase:* 9-17 percent