# Where the Jobs Are 

MISSION-CRITICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICA

3RD EDITION-2009

## WHERETHE JOBS ARE 2009

Our federal government is hiring tens of thousands of new employees at a steady pace, with job openings available for every interest area and at virtually every agency.

Where the Jobs Are, the only comprehensive projection of the federal government's hiring needs, presents a clear roadmap of these exciting public service possibilities, outlining both the specific types of permanent, full-time federal jobs being filled and agency-by-agency hiring projections.

By fall of 2012, we estimate that the federal government will hire nearly 273,000 new workers for mission-critical jobs-positions considered crucial by agencies to fulfill their essential obligations to the American people.

The good news is that these jobs cover almost all occupational fields and issue areas, and are located around the world. They include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, law enforcement and immigration personnel, accountants, auditors, lawyers, information technology specialists, engineers, program managers, administrators and professionals in many other important job categories.

The projected growth in mission-critical hiring-a 41 percent increase compared to the previous three fiscal years-reflects, in part, a need to replace retiring baby boomers and those leaving federal service for other reasons. While the government is not growing significantly larger in historical terms (by the end of 2012, it will be smaller than in 1967), agencies are adding new positions to meet an increased demand for services fueled by factors such as two prolonged wars, pressing homeland security needs and the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

This hiring surge comes at a time of high national unemployment and a renewed enthusiasm for public service. This means there will be fierce competition for federal jobs, offering the government a chance to select high-caliber talent, reinvigorate the civil service and build a workforce for tomorrow.

For highly capable job seekers motivated by a desire to make a difference and improve the lives of Americans, there are no better possibilities than those provided in the federal civil service.

Legislators, policymakers and agency leaders can use the data to identify areas where strategic investments should be made, innovative recruitment approaches can be employed and hiring flexibilities granted to ensure a topflight workforce. The data also provide government managers with the opportunity to step back and assess talent needs on an organization-wide basis.

The projected 273,000 openings in the next three fiscal years do not include every single job that will be available in our government, just those designated as permanent, full-time, mission-critical positions. Separately, we estimate that during the full four years of President Obama's term, new hiring for all types of federal government positions will reach nearly 600,000 people or almost one-third of the current workforce.
$\star$ FEDERAL HIRING IS ACCELERATING
Job opportunities are available in our federal government because of increased demand for services, priority program initiatives, retirements and normal attrition. In the next three fiscal years, the government will hire nearly 273,000 individuals for mission-critical jobs, a sizable jump from the 2007-2009 timeframe when agencies said they needed to hire 193,000 new workers for essential occupations.
$\star$ NEW JOBS WILL REMAIN CONCENTRATED IN KEY OCCUPATIONAL AREAS
The majority of new federal hires are expected to come in five broad professional fields led by jobs in the medical and public health category, and in the security and protection grouping. The number of medical and public health openings is 53 percent higher than in 2007-2009, while demand for security and protection jobs will grow by 46 percent. Other top categories include compliance and enforcement, legal occupations, and administration and program management. The legal job category, including attorneys, paralegals and claims examiners, catapulted from the ninth largest category of hiring to the fourth in our new survey.

* NATIONAL SECURITY AND VETERANS SUPPORT ARE BIG REASONS FOR NEW HIRING
The largest increase in new hires from 2010-2012 will come at the Department of Veterans Affairs in the wake of increased demand for services. From 2007-2009, the VA needed about 30,000 new workers, but the department plans to recruit 48,159 new hires in the next three years. The Department of Homeland Security projects a jump from almost 48,000 hires in the previous three-year period to an estimated 65,730 new job openings between 2010 and 2012. The Department of Defense (including the Army, Navy and Air Force) estimates it will hire 43,514 new employees, an increase from the 35,000 it needed in the 2007-2009 timeframe.

PROJECTED MISSION-CRITICAL FEDERAL HIRING


## THE FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKFORCE AT A GLANCE

The federal government is the nation's largest employer, with more than $\mathbf{1 . 6 7}$ million full-time, permanent workers (excluding the Postal Service). This figure rises to $\mathbf{1 . 9}$ million if non-permanent and part-time employees are included.


## TOP

## reasons to work for government

(1) the nation's Largest employer is hiring

Increasing demand for services and retiring baby boomers mean tens of thousands of job opportunities.

## (2) FEDERAL SERVICE IS PUBLIC SERVICE

Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of Americans and your community? Federal employees can make a positive difference in the lives of Americans and play a vital role in addressing challenging and pressing national issues.
(3) FEDERAL JOBS PAY BETTER THAN YOU THINK

Low federal pay is a myth. Federal salaries are often competitive with the private sector, plus there are great benefits, job stability and opportunities for advancement.

## (4) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP PAY FOR SCHOOL

Federal agencies may help you pay back up to $\$ 10,000$ per year in student loans, and some agencies will pick up the tab if you decide to pursue a graduate degree.

## (5) you can develop a unique skill set

The federal government offers cutting-edge training and professional development, from information technology to foreign language immersion.

## (6) THERE ARE FEDERAL JOBS AROUND THE COUNTRY...

## AND AROUND THE WORLD

Nearly 85 percent of federal jobs are outside the D.C. area. Looking to go global? More than 44,000 federal employees work abroad.

## (7) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

Federal agencies serve as a model to the private sector in achieving workforce diversity, and actively encourage minorities and individuals with disabilities to consider government service through internships and fellowships.

## (8) THERE ARE JOBS FOR EVERY INTEREST AND MAJOR

Not a political science major? Not a problem. There are federal jobs suited to every interest and skill, from art history to zoology.
(9) FEDERAL JOBS PROMOTE GREAT WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Agencies offer flexible work schedules, world class benefits, job sharing, onsite child care and other incentives to facilitate a high quality of life.

## (10) YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The federal government is our most powerful agent in addressing national issues. There is no bigger stage for making an impact.

## MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The biggest demand in government for new employees is in the medical and public health category, with federal agencies estimating that they need to fill 54,114 positions, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical technicians, occupational therapists and industrial hygienists by the end of 2012. As in previous years, the Department of Veterans Affairs is the most active employer, projecting that its hiring needs will include 25,205 nurses and 8,525 doctors to staff hospitals throughout the country. The Department of Defense (including the Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Department of Health and Human Services also project significant hiring in this category-4,384 and 7,622 positions, respectively.

| occupational area/position | $\begin{array}{r} \text { \# OF EMPLOYEES } \\ \text { AS OF 9/30/08 } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | PROJECTED HIRES FY 2010-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| department of agriculture |  |  |
| Consumer Safety | 276 | 33 |
| Dietitian and Nutritionist | 122 | 13 |
| department of defense (excluding army, navy and air force) |  |  |
| Nurse | 78 | 20 |
| Pharmacist | 33 | 15 |
| Physician | 40 | 2 |
| department of energy |  |  |
| Industrial Hygiene | 32 | 23 |
| department of health and human services |  |  |
| Consumer Safety | 2,187 | 761 |
| General Health Science | 3,093 | 1,378 |
| Nurse | 2,405 | 2,709 |
| Physician | 1,627 | 1,579 |
| Public Health Program Specialist | 2,392 | 1,195 |
| department of state |  |  |
| Unspecified | 53 | 11 |
| department of the army |  |  |
| Nurse | 4,153 | 2,395 |
| Pharmacist | 438 | 219 |
| Physician | 772 | 384 |
| department of the navy |  |  |
| Nurse | 1,476 | 731 |
| Pharmacist | 168 | 87 |
| Physician | 207 | 75 |
| department of veterans affairs |  |  |
| Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist | 2,610 | 1,072 |
| Medical Record Administration | 2,038 | 530 |
| Medical Technologist | 4,061 | 1,287 |
| Nurse | 43,579 | 19,071 |
| Nursing Assistant | 9,015 | 3,104 |
| Pharmacist | 5,458 | 2,305 |
| Physician | 14,684 | 8,525 |
| Practical Nurse | 11,355 | 6,134 |
| united states air force |  |  |
| Nurse | 743 | 395 |
| Physician | 62 | 61 |
| total | 113,157 | 54,114 |

## SECURITY AND PROTECTION

The majority of the projected 52,077 new hires in the security and protection category will be for airport screeners, police and correctional officers, and intelligence analysts. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice are the key hiring agencies for these occupations.

| Occupational arealposition | $\begin{array}{r} \text { \# OF EMPLOYEES } \\ \text { AS OF } 9 / 30 / 08 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | PROJECTED HIRES FY 2010-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| department of defense (excluding army, navy and air force) |  |  |
| Fire Protection/Prevention | 146 | 34 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 161 | 216 |
| Police Officer | 984 | 464 |
| Security Administration | 983 | 334 |
| department of homeland security |  |  |
| Asylum Officer | 442 | 155 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 851 | 390 |
| Police Officer | 1,447 | 470 |
| Security Administration | 1,591 | 825 |
| Transportation Security Officer | 50,284 | 34,500 |
| department of justice |  |  |
| Correctional Officer | 16,930 | 4,646 |
| Corrections Administration | 1,674 | 12 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 3,334 | 1,345 |
| Security Administration | 820 | 147 |
| US Marshal | 673 | 912 |
| department of state |  |  |
| Intelligence Analysis | 63 | 15 |
| department of the army |  |  |
| Fire Protection/Prevention | 2,601 | 519 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 1,854 | 623 |
| Police Officer | 2,652 | 1,142 |
| Security Administration | 1,810 | 381 |
| department of the interior |  |  |
| Park Ranger | 3,602 | 180 |
| department of thenavy |  |  |
| Fire Protection/Prevention | 3,389 | 734 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 1,326 | 580 |
| Police Officer | 2,771 | 1,466 |
| Security Administration | 1,487 | 372 |
| department of the treasury |  |  |
| Intelligence Analysis | 186 | 105 |
| nuclear regulatory commission |  |  |
| Security Administration | 126 | 24 |
| office of personnel management |  |  |
| Personnel Security Specialist | 46 | 37 |
| united states air force |  |  |
| Fire Protection/Prevention | 2,264 | 575 |
| Intelligence Analysis | 1,195 | 402 |
| Police Officer | 387 | 127 |
| Security Administration | 1,552 | 345 |
| total | 107,631 | 52,077 |

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

This category includes criminal and general investigators, inspectors, border patrol agents, adjudication officers and immigration enforcement agents. Although more than a third of the surveyed agencies list needs in this category, the Department of Homeland Security projects the greatest need, with 22,685 new hires, while the Department of Justice plans to hire 4,679 people in these types of jobs.

| occupational area/position | $\begin{array}{r} \text { \# OF EMPLOYEES } \\ \text { AS OF } 9 / 30 / 08 \end{array}$ | PROJECTED HIRES FY 2010-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| department of agriculture |  |  |
| Agricultural Commodity Grading | 1,376 | 158 |
| Consumer Safety Inspection | 3,622 | 407 |
| Food Inspection | 3,077 | 251 |
| department of energy |  |  |
| Environmental Protection Specialist | 115 | 48 |
| Safety and Occupational Health | 88 | 56 |
| department of homeland security |  |  |
| Adjudication Officer | 5,037 | 2,250 |
| Border Patrol Agent | 17,483 | 9,800 |
| Criminal Investigation | 9,972 | 1,410 |
| Customs and Border Protection | 19,629 | 4,950 |
| General Inspection/Investigation/Compliance | 10,521 | 3,000 |
| Immigration Enforcement | 5,690 | 1,150 |
| Import Specialist | 1,089 | 125 |
| department of justice |  |  |
| Compliance Inspection Support | 940 | 93 |
| Criminal Investigation | 22,517 | 3,774 |
| General Inspection/Investigation/Compliance | 2,986 | 812 |
| department of labor |  |  |
| Criminal Investigation | 171 | 44 |
| Equal Opportunity Compliance | 453 | 295 |
| General Inspection/Investigation/Compliance | 695 | 165 |
| Mine Safety and Health | 1,430 | 304 |
| Pension Law/Benefit Advising | 199 | 44 |
| Safety and Health Officer | 1,280 | 354 |
| Wage-Hour Compliance | 941 | 107 |
| department of the army |  |  |
| Safety and Occupational Health | 1,003 | 245 |
| department of the navy |  |  |
| Safety and Occupational Health | 1,071 | 222 |
| environmental protection agency |  |  |
| Environmental Protection Specialist | 2,649 | 532 |
| EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION |  |  |
| General Inspection/Investigation/Compliance | 803 | 186 |
| office of personnel management |  |  |
| General Inspection/Investigation/Compliance | 1,811 | 252 |
| united states air force |  |  |
| Safety and Occupational Health | 482 | 108 |
| OTHER* | 515 | 134 |
| total | 117,645 | 31,276 |

*This is a partial list. For the full list visit wherethejobsare.org.

## LEGAL

Government agencies have a growing need for attorneys, paralegals, claims examination/assistance officers, contact representatives, and passport and visa examiners. The fiscal 2010-2012 hiring total is estimated to be 23,596 positions-an increase of nearly 14,000 from the previous three-year period. This increase is attributable mainly to a demand for claims examiners at the Department of Veterans Affairs (a hike of 3,427 new hires) and contact representatives in the Department of Treasury/ IRS (an estimated increase of more than 2,500). There also is increased demand at the Social Security Administration, the Department of Justice, and at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

| occupational area/position | \# OF EMPLOYEES AS OF $9 / 30 / 08$ | PROJECTED HIRES FY 2010-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| department of commerce |  |  |
| Attorney | 830 | 95 |
| department of homeland security |  |  |
| Attorney | 1,715 | 745 |
| Contact Representative | 61 | 90 |
| department of housing and urban development |  |  |
| Attorney | 396 | 80 |
| department of justice |  |  |
| Attorney | 8,510 | 2,700 |
| Legal Assistance | 2,637 | 986 |
| Paralegal | 2,027 | 870 |
| department of labor |  |  |
| Attorney | 427 | 94 |
| Claims Assistance and Examining | 1,291 | 360 |
| department of state |  |  |
| Passport and Visa Examining | 1,615 | 877 |
| department of transportation |  |  |
| Attorney | 725 | 293 |
| department of the treasury |  |  |
| Attorney | 2,115 | 339 |
| Contact Representative | 13,979 | 6,282 |
| department of veterans affairs |  |  |
| Veterans Claims Examining | 8,839 | 4,277 |
| environmental protection agency |  |  |
| Attorney | 972 | 169 |
| federal deposit insurance corporation |  |  |
| Attorney | 238 | 389 |
| federal trade commission |  |  |
| Attorney | 573 | 201 |
| Securities and exchange commission |  |  |
| Attorney | 1,476 | 441 |
| social security administration |  |  |
| Claims Assistance and Examining | 1,791 | 3,500 |
| Contact Representative | 11,525 | 4,000 |
| Other* | 15,469 | 308 |
| total | 75,420 | 23,596 |

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## ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

More than two-thirds of the agencies identified administration and program management to be a critical occupational need, with a projected 17,287 new hires expected in this category. This includes management/ program analysis, human resources, equal employment opportunity, logistics management and a variety of support activities.

| occupational arealposition | \# OF EMPLOYEES AS OF 9/30/08 | PROJECTED HIRES FY 2010-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| department of agriculture |  |  |
| General Administration/Program Mgmt. | 2,562 | 371 |
| Management/Program Analysis | 1,722 | 242 |
| department of commerce |  |  |
| Management/Program Analysis | 1,128 | 232 |
| department of defense (excluding army, navy and air force) |  |  |
| Human Resources | 1,389 | 403 |
| department of health and human services |  |  |
| Health Insurance Administration | 2,151 | 992 |
| department of homeland security |  |  |
| Human Resources | 1,034 | 430 |
| Management/Program Analysis | 8,383 | 1,850 |
| department of housing and urban development |  |  |
| General Administration/Program Mgmt. | 1,403 | 360 |
| Support Clerk/Assistant | 813 | 600 |
| department of justice |  |  |
| General Administration/Program Mgmt. | 4,422 | 989 |
| Human Resources | 1,137 | 340 |
| Management/Program Analysis | 2,624 | 362 |
| department of the army |  |  |
| Human Resources | 4,390 | 888 |
| Logistics Management | 6,127 | 1,111 |
| department of thenavy |  |  |
| Human Resources | 2,043 | 466 |
| Logistics Management | 4,062 | 983 |
| department of the treasury |  |  |
| Human Resources | 1,576 | 192 |
| department of veterans affairs |  |  |
| Human Resources | 2,019 | 1,854 |
| environmental protection agency |  |  |
| Management/Program Analysis | 2,897 | 695 |
| general service administration |  |  |
| General Administration/Program Mgmt. | 1,070 | 255 |
| government accountability office |  |  |
| Analyst | 1,751 | 600 |
| national aeronautics and space administration |  |  |
| General Administration/Program Mgmt. | 2,671 | 595 |
| united states air force |  |  |
| Human Resources | 2,540 | 330 |
| Logistics Management | 2,931 | 437 |
| OTHER* | 9,050 | 1,710 |
| total | 71,895 | 17,287 |

*This is a partial list. For the full list visit wherethejobsare.org.

## FIND MORE ONLINE

Visit wherethejobsare.org to access the most comprehensive and detailed accounting of federal employment opportunities that will be available from fiscal 2010 through 2012.

Here is what you will find online:

* See where the federal government has the greatest hiring needs.
* View hiring projections by agency and occupational field.
$\star$ Get tips on finding and applying for a federal job.
* Learn background information about dozens of agencies.
* Read about hiring incentives, such as student loan repayment, special internships and scholarships used by some agencies.
$\star$ Explore how the agencies compare in our Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings.


## METHODOLOGY

Our full report, the third in the Where the Jobs Are series, summarizes the federal government's most critical anticipated hiring needs—by agency and occupation—from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012.

The Partnership for Public Service compiled the job data from 35 federal agencies employing 1,000 or more workers. We asked the federal agencies to (1) identify their most critical positions to accomplish program priorities; and (2) project future hiring needs in these mission-critical occupations over the next three years.

The 35 organizations include the largest executive branch agencies, plus the Government Accountability Office, a legislative branch agency. Partial data was supplied for the first time by the intelligence community that included hiring projections for fiscal 2010. The survey participants employ about 99 percent of all full-time, permanent federal workers.

In the rare circumstance where the agency could not provide precise hiring estimates, we computed projections based on historic hiring data. We thank all participating agencies for their assistance.

We are also grateful to our sponsors, Monster Government Solutions and Aon Consulting for making this edition of Where the Jobs Are possible.

# AOW 

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The Partnership for Public Service is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to revitalize our federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works.


[^0]:    *This is a partial list. For the full list visit wherethejobsare.org.

