

Depending on one's definition, 18 – 24 (60 – 80%) of the top 30 fastest growing occupations are STEM related.

**Table 1.3 Fastest growing occupations, 2008 and projected 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

2008 National Employment Matrix title and code		Major occupational group	Employment		Change, 2008-18		Median Annual wage quartile, 2008	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training
			2008	2018	#	%		
Biomedical engineers	17-2031	Professional and related	16.0	27.6	11.6	72	VH	Bachelor's degree
Network systems and data communications analysts	15-1081	Professional and related	292.0	447.8	155.8	53.4	VH	Bachelor's degree
Home health aides	31-1011	Service	921.7	1382.6	460.9	50	VL	Short-term on-the-job training
Personal and home care aides	39-9021	Service	817.2	1,193.0	375.8	46	VL	Short-term on-the-job training
Financial examiners	13-2061	Management, business, and financial	27.0	38.1	11.1	41.2	VH	Bachelor's degree
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	19-1042	Professional and related	109.4	153.6	44.2	40.4	VH	Doctoral degree
Physician assistants	29-1071	Professional and related	74.8	103.9	29.2	39	VH	Master's degree
Skin care specialists	39-5094	Service	38.8	53.5	14.7	37.9	L	Postsecondary vocational award
Biochemists and biophysicists	19-1021	Professional and related	23.2	31.9	8.7	37.4	VH	Doctoral degree
Athletic trainers	29-9091	Professional and related	16.3	22.4	6.0	37	H	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapist aides	31-2022	Service	46.1	62.8	16.7	36.3	L	Short-term on-the-job training
Dental hygienists	29-2021	Professional and related	174.1	237.0	62.9	36.1	VH	Associate degree
Veterinary technologists and technicians	29-2056	Professional and related	79.6	108.1	28.5	35.8	L	Associate degree
Dental assistants	31-9091	Service	295.3	400.9	105.6	35.8	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer software engineers, applications	15-1031	Professional and related	514.8	689.9	175.1	34	VH	Bachelor's degree
Medical assistants	31-9092	Service	483.6	647.5	163.9	33.9	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist assistants	31-2021	Service	63.8	85.0	21.2	33.3	H	Associate degree
Veterinarians	29-1131	Professional and related	59.7	79.4	19.7	33	VH	First professional degree
Self-enrichment education teachers	25-3021	Professional and related	253.6	334.9	81.3	32.1	H	Work experience in a related occupation
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	13-1041	Management, business, and financial	260.2	341.0	80.8	31.1	H	Long-term on-the-job training
Occupational therapist aides	31-2012	Service	7.8	10.2	2.4	30.7	L	Short-term on-the-job training
Environmental engineers	17-2081	Professional and related	54.3	70.9	16.6	30.6	VH	Bachelor's degree
Pharmacy technicians	29-2052	Professional and related	326.3	426.0	99.8	30.6	L	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer software engineers, systems software	15-1032	Professional and related	394.8	515.0	120.2	30.4	VH	Bachelor's degree
Survey researchers	19-3022	Professional and related	23.4	30.5	7.1	30.4	H	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapists	29-1123	Professional and related	185.5	241.7	56.2	30.3	VH	Master's degree
Personal financial advisors	13-2052	Management, business, and financial	208.4	271.2	62.8	30.1	VH	Bachelor's degree
Environmental engineering technicians	17-3025	Professional and related	21.2	27.5	6.4	30.1	H	Associate degree
Occupational therapist assistants	31-2011	Service	26.6	34.6	7.9	29.8	H	Associate degree
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	39-9031	Service	261.1	337.9	76.8	29.4	L	Postsecondary vocational award

Source: Employment Projections Program, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Interest in STEM majors in MA (as expressed by SAT and SATII test-takers) is significantly lower than the national average, and in many of MA's economic competitor states.

**Interest in STEM Majors Among SAT and SATII Test-Takers (2010 Graduation Cohort: Public & Private Schools)**

<b>STEM Major</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>VA</b>
% Total STEM Interest (Question Respondents)	36.7%	42.6%	44.7%	41.6%	46.5%	40.9%	42.0%
Health	15.1%	18.5%	22.6%	16.0%	23.6%	19.2%	16.9%
Engineering & Engineering Technologies/Technicians	8.3%	9.9%	9.2%	10.3%	9.1%	8.3%	10.3%
Other STEM	13.3%	14.2%	12.9%	15.3%	13.8%	13.4%	14.9%
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%
Architecture and Related Services	1.6%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	2.0%	1.7%	2.0%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	6.1%	6.0%	5.2%	6.4%	5.7%	5.0%	5.8%
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	2.1%	2.4%	2.6%	3.4%	2.5%	2.7%	3.3%
Mathematics and Statistics	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.0%
Natural Resources and Conservation	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Physical Sciences	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%