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10 occupations in high demand

CareerBuilder commits to Clinton Global Initiative to help unemployed workers find jobs

By Hope Gurion, chief development officer at CareerBuilder

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As the unemployment rate hovers at 8.2 percent, job seekers -- especially those who have faced long-term unemployment -- may be thinking the jobs just aren't there. Yet jobs are available, and some companies are even struggling to fill positions. A recent CareerBuilder survey found that nearly two in four hiring managers say they have open positions for which they cannot find qualified candidates.

Yet much of today's economic news focuses on the lack of jobs, so job seekers may not know where to turn for information on fields that are experiencing a hiring surge. Or they may not think they have the right skills to pursue a career in one of the growing fields.

That's why programs such as the Clinton Global Initiative are making an impact. Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, the CGI convenes global leaders to devise and implement

innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges -- including unemployment.

Connecting job seekers with jobs

CareerBuilder has made a major commitment to the CGI with the goal of providing current and future workers with information and new skills. CareerBuilder's commitment provides CareerOneStop centers, sponsored by the Labor Department, with CareerBuilder's Supply & Demand data. The S&D data enable CareerBuilder to help job seekers discover occupations that are in high demand and hone their skills for areas with great growth opportunities.

Using the S&D data, CareerBuilder has compiled lists of the top occupations with the most demand and least supply in each center's local area. The lists will be sent to the centers in the top 20 cities with the highest number of unemployed workers.

Using the same S&D data, here is a list of 10 of the most in-demand occupations nationwide, all with strong growth and earning potential:

1. Computer specialists

Most common job titles: Project manager (information technology), Java developer, Web developer, .NET developer, SharePoint developer, PHP developer

Median entry-level salary: \$56,750

Education: High-school plus equivalent experience or bachelor's degree plus experience; certifications are available for both entry-level and experienced workers

2. Marketing managers

Most common job titles: Product manager, business development manager, product marketing manager, marketing manager/director, account manager, marketing communications manager

Median entry-level salary: \$66,000

Education: 84 percent have a bachelor's degree

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3. Network and computer systems administrators

Most common job titles: Systems administrator, network engineer, network administrator, system administrator, systems engineer, SharePoint administrator, Linux systems administrator

Median entry-level salary: \$55,000

Education: High-school plus equivalent experience or bachelor's degree plus experience; certifications are available for both entry-level and experienced workers

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4. Medical and health services managers

Most common job titles: Director of nursing, clinical manager, medical director, nurse manager, nursing home administrator, practice manager, director of pharmacy, program manager rehab

Median entry-level salary: \$73,000

Education: 52 percent have a bachelor's degree; 41 percent have a master's degree

5. Industrial engineers

Most common job titles: Quality engineer, quality manager, process engineer, manufacturing engineer, project engineer, test engineer, design engineer, product engineer

Median entry-level salary: \$60,000

Education: 62 percent have a bachelor's degree

6. Occupational therapists

Most common job titles: Occupational therapist, OT

Median entry-level salary: \$60,000

Education: 85 percent have a master's degree

7. Merchandise displayers and window trimmers

Most common job titles: Merchandiser, retail sales merchandiser, retail project merchandiser, reset merchandiser, master merchandiser

Median entry-level salary: \$35,000

Education: 77 percent have a high-school diploma or the equivalent

8. Medical scientists, except epidemiologists

Most common job titles: Clinical research associate or coordinator, research scientist, clinical laboratory scientist

Median entry-level salary: \$57,000

Education: 81 percent have a doctoral/professional degree

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9. Occupational therapist assistants

Most common job titles: Occupational therapy assistant, certified occupational therapy assistant, occupational therapist assistant

Median entry-level salary: \$53,000

Education: 96 percent have an associate degree*

10. Physical therapist assistants

Most common job titles: Physical therapy assistant, PTA

Median entry-level salary: \$49,500

Education: 71 percent have an associate degree

*Data from O*Net

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As Chief Development Officer, Hope Gurion is in charge of identifying and growing new business ventures for the company. In addition to overseeing investments in opportunities to expand the services CareerBuilder provides to its customers, she also oversees product development, including advertising, creative services, talent intelligence, SEO and CareerBuilder's niche sites, including WorkInRetail.com, Sologig.com, MiracleWorkers.com and MoneyJobs.com. Prior to joining CareerBuilder.com, Gurion held a variety of marketing and business development roles for America Online and Discovery Communications. Gurion holds an MBA degree from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

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Story Filed Monday, June 11, 2012 - 2:42 PM

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