

Media & Communications

Occupations within this sector:

- **Radio and television announcers**

Improving technology and consolidation of radio and television stations will limit the growth in this field. Many stations are able to do more tasks with less staff. Technology continues to increase the productivity of radio and television announcers and reduce the time required to edit material or do other off-air technical and production work.

- **Broadcast and sound engineering technicians**

Employment of broadcast and sound engineering technicians is expected to grow 10 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Growth is expected as businesses, schools, and radio and television stations demand new equipment to improve their audio and video capabilities.

Competition for jobs will be strong. This occupation attracts many applicants who are interested in working with the latest technology and electronic equipment. Many applicants also are attracted to working in the radio and television industry.

- **Editors**

Employment of editors is expected to experience little or no change from 2010 to 2020 as print media continue to face strong pressure from online publications. Despite some job growth for editors in online media, the number of traditional editing jobs in print newspapers and magazines is declining and will temper overall employment growth.

Competition for jobs with established newspapers and magazines will be particularly strong because the publishing industry is projected to decline in employment. Editors who have adapted to online media and are comfortable writing for and working with a variety of electronic and digital tools should have an advantage in finding work. Some job openings will arise as workers retire, transfer to other occupations, or leave the labor force. Although the way in which people consume media is changing, editors will continue to add value by reviewing and revising drafts and keeping the style and voice of a publication consistent.

- **Camera operators**

Employment of camera operators is projected to experience little or no change, growing 2 percent from 2010 to 2020.

There will be some job openings due to workers leaving the occupation, however, camera operators and film and video editors will still face strong competition for jobs. The broadcasting and motion picture industries attract many more applicants than there are jobs available. Those with more experience at a TV station or on a film set should have the best job prospects.

- **Interpreters and translators**

Employment of interpreters and translators is expected to grow 42 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations

Job opportunities should be best for those who have professional certification.

Job prospects for interpreters and translators should also vary by specialty and language. For example, interpreters and translators of Spanish should have good job opportunities.

Interpreters for the deaf will continue to have favorable employment prospects because there is a shortage of people with the needed skill levels.

- **Photographers**

Employment of photographers is projected to grow by 13 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Overall growth will be limited because of the decreasing cost of digital cameras and the increasing number of amateur photographers and hobbyists. Improvements in digital technology reduce barriers of entry into this profession and allow more individual consumers and businesses to produce, store, and access photographic images on their own.

Photographers will face strong competition for most jobs. Because of reduced barriers to entry, there will be many qualified candidates for relatively few positions.

- **Reporters and correspondents**

Employment of reporters and correspondents is expected to moderately decline by 8 percent from 2010 to 2020. Declines are expected because of the consolidation of news organizations, decreases in the readership of newspapers, and declines in viewership for many news television shows.

Opportunities are expected to be limited because of both the number of workers who are interested in entering this field and declines in the number of positions. Prospects should be best for those with experience in the field, often gained through internships or by working on school papers.

- **Technical writers**

Employment of technical writers is expected to grow 17 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by the continuing expansion of scientific and technical products and by growth in Web-based product support. Growth and change in the high-technology and electronics industries will result in a greater need for those who can write instruction manuals and communicate information clearly to users.

- **Writers and authors**

Strong competition is expected, given that many people are attracted to this occupation. Competition for jobs with established newspapers and magazines will be particularly strong because the publishing industry is projected to become smaller. Writers and authors who have adapted to online media and are comfortable writing for and working with a variety of electronic and digital tools should have an advantage in finding work. The declining costs of self-publishing, the growing popularity of electronic books, and the increasing number of readers of electronic books will allow many freelance writers to get their work published. Some job openings will arise as experienced workers retire, transfer to other occupations, or otherwise leave the labor force.

