



CARY COMMUNICATIONS INSIGHTS

The Hottest Jobs in 2026

By Karen Bluestein

As the job market evolves, certain roles are expanding rapidly. LinkedIn's latest [Jobs on the Rise](#) report highlights 25 positions that have seen the fastest growth in the U.S. over the past three years. These roles reflect how technology, business needs, and workforce preferences are changing in real time. More than half of professionals plan to look for a new role this year, yet many feel unprepared for what's ahead, making these growth areas especially relevant.

Top 26 Hottest Jobs *(details below)*

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| 1. Artificial Intelligence Engineer | 14. Commissioning Manager |
| 2. AI Consultant | 15. Venture Partner |
| 3. AI Strategist | 16. Field Marketing Representative |
| 4. Data Annotator | 17. Fundraising Officer |
| 5. AI or Machine Learning Researcher | 18. Background Investigator |
| 6. New Home Sales Specialist | 19. Business Development Executive |
| 7. Healthcare Reimbursement Specialist | 20. Data Center Technician |
| 8. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner | 21. Travel Advisor |
| 9. Strategic Advisor | 22. Quantitative Researcher |
| 10. Independent Consultant | 23. Financial Advisor |
| 11. Founder | 24. Construction Project Lead |
| 12. Advertising Sales Specialist | 25. Legal Researcher |
| 13. Sales Executive | |

1. Artificial Intelligence Engineers

These specialists build and implement AI models that tackle tasks requiring human decision-making, such as prediction, classification, and automation. The rise of AI across industries underpins this role's strong growth.

2. AI Consultants and Strategists

Not all AI work is technical. Consultants and strategists help organizations plan and adopt AI tools strategically, bridging tech capabilities with business goals.

3. New Home Sales Specialists

This role focuses on guiding buyers through the purchase of newly constructed homes, managing tours and transactions. Demand reflects continued momentum in certain real estate markets.

4. Data Annotators

Data annotation remains critical to training high-quality AI systems. Annotators label and validate data that machines use to learn and improve.

5. AI/Machine Learning Researchers

Researchers push the boundaries of AI by designing and testing new models and algorithms. Their work underlies advances across tech and beyond.

6. Healthcare Reimbursement Specialists

These professionals handle billing and claims to make sure healthcare providers receive correct payments. Growth here ties to complexity in healthcare systems.

7. Strategic Advisors & Independent Consultants

Experienced operators are increasingly offering specialized advice on strategy and execution, often on a project or contract basis.

8. Advertising Sales Specialists

These specialists drive revenue by selling advertising space and media solutions across platforms.

9. Founders

LinkedIn data shows a significant uptick in people adding “Founder” to their profiles, signaling growth in entrepreneurial and self-directed work.

10. Sales Executives

Companies continue to invest in sales leadership to drive growth, particularly in competitive sectors.

11. Commissioning Managers

These roles ensure that new systems, especially in construction and manufacturing, are installed and functioning correctly.

12. Venture Partners

Venture partners play a role in sourcing deals, supporting startups, and helping investment firms scale portfolios.

13. Field Marketing Representatives

Field marketers drive brand presence and customer engagement outside the traditional office or digital channels.

14. Fundraising Officers

Fundraisers develop and execute plans to secure financial support for nonprofit and organizational initiatives.

15. Background Investigators

These roles perform detailed checks and investigations, often for security, compliance, and hiring processes.

16. Business Development Executives

Responsible for expanding markets, partnerships, and revenue opportunities, these executives are key to organizational growth.

17. Data Center Technicians

As data needs swell, technicians maintaining physical infrastructure for computing and storage are in higher demand.

18. Travel Advisers

Despite digital tools, travel advisers are growing in importance for planning complex trips and experiences.

19. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners

Mental health care demand continues to outpace supply, boosting roles that provide advanced clinical services.

20. Quantitative Researchers and Analysts

These specialists use advanced quantitative methods to guide strategy, often in finance and research sectors.

21. Financial Advisers and Planners

As personal finance becomes more complex, advisers help individuals plan for retirement, investments, and wealth management.

22. Construction Project Leads

Leadership in construction projects is growing as infrastructure and building initiatives expand.

23. Legal Researchers

Legal researchers support law firms, corporate legal teams, and academic centers by digging into statutes, precedents, and case law.

24. Public Affairs Specialists

Public affairs roles manage communication between organizations and external audiences, shaping reputation and policy engagement.

25. Benefits Advisers

Advisers in benefits design and administration help companies attract and retain talent with competitive offerings.

What This List Tells Us

The fastest-growing roles span from hard technical expertise to strategic humans-first work. AI dominates the top of the list, but human judgment and relationship-based roles still matter. At the same time, growth in entrepreneurial and consulting titles points to a labor market where flexibility and independence are increasingly common.

These job trends signal where tomorrow's opportunities are likely to be. For professionals plotting career moves in 2026 and beyond, blending core strengths with emerging skills could be a competitive advantage in a fast-shifting market.

Methodology

LinkedIn builds its *Jobs on the Rise* list using real activity across its platform, not surveys or projections. The rankings are based on how quickly specific job titles have grown over the past three years, measured by the number of LinkedIn members who have started new roles with those titles. That data is then cross-checked against job posting volume, skill demand, industries hiring, and geographic concentration. By using a three-year lookback, LinkedIn filters out short-term spikes and highlights roles showing sustained momentum. The result is a snapshot of where hiring and career movement are actually happening across the U.S. economy right now, based on millions of real career transitions rather than forecasts.

Source: LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/linkedin-jobs-rise-2026-25-fastest-growing-roles-us-linkedin-news-dlb1c/>

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