

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Occupational Outlook Handbook > Healthcare >



Pharmacists

- [Summary](#)
- [What They Do](#)
- [Work Environment](#)
- [How to Become One](#)
- [Pay](#)
- [Job Outlook](#)**
- [State & Area Data](#)
- [Similar Occupations](#)
- [More Info](#)

Job Outlook

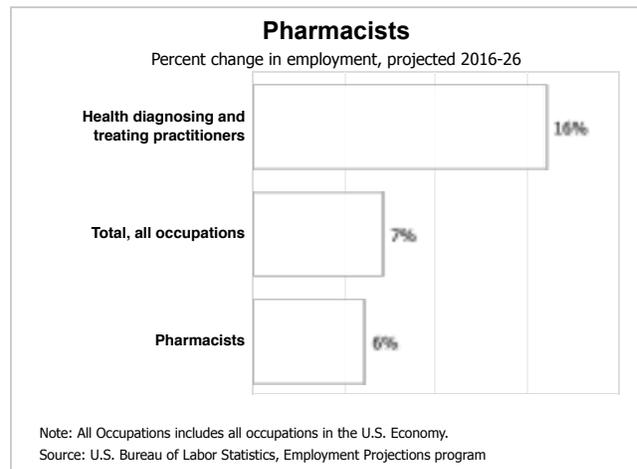
[About this section](#)

Employment of pharmacists is projected to grow 6 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Several factors are likely to contribute to this increase.

Demand is projected to increase for pharmacists in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals and clinics. These facilities will need more pharmacists to oversee the medications given to patients and to provide patient care, performing tasks such as testing a patient's blood sugar or cholesterol.

The large baby-boom generation is aging, and older people typically use more prescription medicines than younger people. Higher rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes among all age groups will also lead to demand for prescription medications. In addition, scientific advances will lead to new drug products.

Employment of pharmacists in some traditional retail settings, like grocery stores, is projected to decline slightly as mail order and online pharmacy sales increase.



Job Prospects

The number of pharmacy schools has grown in recent years, creating more pharmacy school graduates and therefore more competition for jobs. Students who choose to complete a residency program gain additional experience that may improve their job prospects. Certification from the [Board of Pharmacy Specialties](#) or as a [Certified Diabetes Educator](#) also may be viewed favorably by employers.

Employment projections data for pharmacists, 2016-26

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2016	Projected Employment, 2026	Change, 2016-26		Employment by Industry
				Percent	Numeric	
Pharmacists	29-1051	312,500	329,900	6	17,400	xlsx

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

[<- Pay](#)

[State & Area Data ->](#)

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