

These are the jobs popular with older workers

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About 10,000 Baby Boomers retire every day, but for those who haven't reached that point, a new report identifies the occupations projected to see the biggest growth for older workers in the coming years.

About 40 percent of Americans 55 and older are working or seeking employment, according to March data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Jobs that have large numbers of workers 55 and older and are projected to see growth through 2026 include real estate appraisers and assessors, technical writers, tax preparers, property and association managers, construction and building inspectors, crossing guards and clergy, per the BLS.

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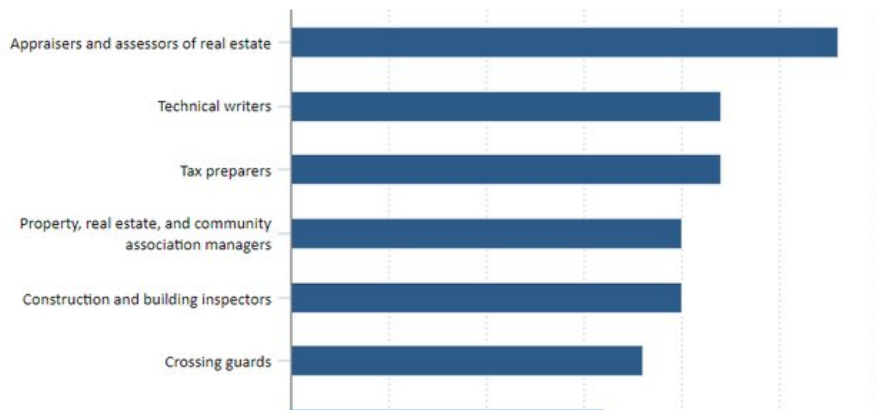
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There are more than 17 million women over 55 in the workforce.

Selected occupations with projected employment growth, 2016–26, that had large shares of workers ages 55 and older in 2018



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Workers 55 and older make up more than one-third of those in these occupations, per the BLS, and growth of these jobs is expected to be faster than average employment growth. Currently, the unemployment rate is less than 4 percent, and 263,000 jobs were added in April.

The property, real estate or community association manager sector is projected to add the most jobs through 2026, at about 32,600, per the BLS. The highest wage among those jobs? Technical writer, at \$71,850. The median wage for all jobs mentioned is \$38,640.

The BLS report notes the wage data doesn't include self-employment, which is common among the professions mentioned.

There are more than 17 million women over 55 in the workforce, reports USA Today, a figure that's risen 4.2 percent in the last year. The number is at an all-time high of 34.3 percent.

The Society for Human Resource Management has said there are far more older Americans in the workforce now than there were 30 years ago, and the number has jumped even in the last decade. Almost half of the close to 3 million jobs added last year were filled by those 55 and older, per the AARP.

While many are working longer because they're living longer, it also could be due to the expenses of elder care, and being financially unprepared for the costs that come with aging.

In the past year, seniors have pulled \$22 billion from savings to pay health care-related costs, reports the Washington Post. One recent study found one-third of U.S. workers fear they'll struggle financially in retirement, or they'll never be able to quit working, per HR Dive.

"The cost of living has a lot to do with the extra years people in the retirement age group are trying to put in," Melody Kasulis, project manager for SeniorLiving.org told SHRM.

The AARP has found more than a third of those between 65 and 74 who work or seek employment say money is the reason, while almost 20 percent say it's because they enjoy working, per SHRM.

Other factors are keeping older women at work longer, per USA Today, like playing financial catch-up after the recession, paying for their children's college costs, or living solo after divorce.

Per AARP, the employment outlook for older workers – who employers appreciate for their soft skills like positive attitudes and dependability – should remain promising.



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