

The Workplace

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A Fact Sheet

Highlights

- Teens need parents' input and assistance when choosing a career.
- Nontraditional workers include those who are on-call workers, independent contractors, temporary help or leasing agency workers, or contingent workers.

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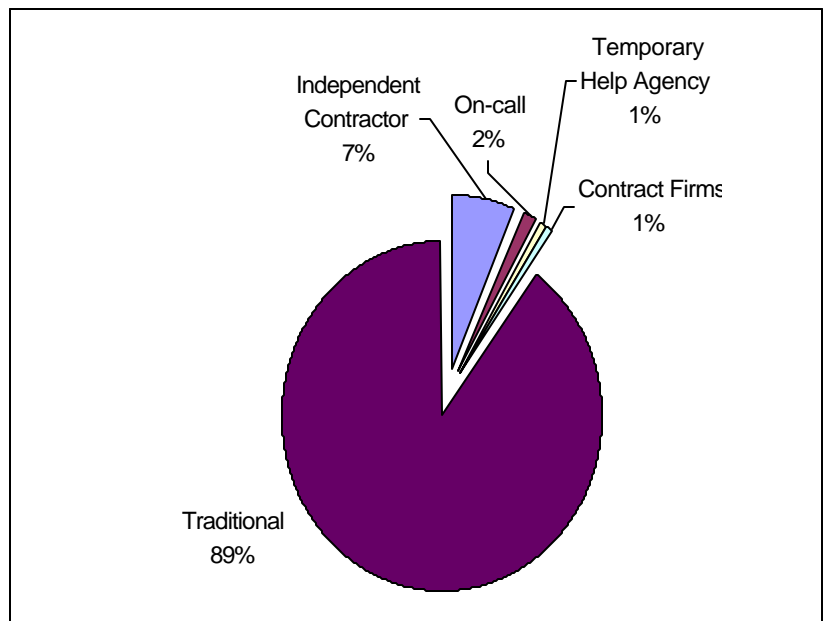
Parents' Guide to New Century Careers

The structure of the workplace has been changing rapidly for several decades and is expected to continue. Labor market analysts predict that by the year 2010, half or more of all employees in the United States will hold new century jobs.

What are new century jobs? New century jobs are those created by the employee either by starting his or her own company or by piecing together several positions.

Many of these jobs are high tech and allow

for tremendous flexibility, creativity and mobility between jobs and companies. While some of these jobs may require only a high school diploma, most require at least a two-year degree and the higher paying careers require a college education. Nontraditional workers, such as are on-call workers, independent contractors, temporary help or contingent workers, make up about 10 percent of the job force, but are predicted to increase five times the current level by the end of this decade. Career



Percentage of today's workers with nontraditional work arrangements.

fields of 2010 may not have even been thought of today.

Career Trends for the Coming Decade:

- Fewer full-time jobs
- Fewer permanent jobs.
- Temporary, contract or consultant positions replacing traditional 40-hour-a-week jobs
- Increasing number of jobs being done by specialized outsiders or by machines.
- Greater demand for specialists.

Helping middle or high school aged students prepare for a career is harder than ever. Instead of helping students prepare for a career, parents and counselors need to encourage teens to think about their future careers in terms of preparing for life.

How can parents help their teens choose a career wisely?

1. Talk to your teens about jobs or careers that are interesting to them; go with them to interview persons in each job or career on the list.
2. Arrange an opportunity for them to job shadow someone in each field of interest.
3. Get a copy the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* for descriptions of careers and

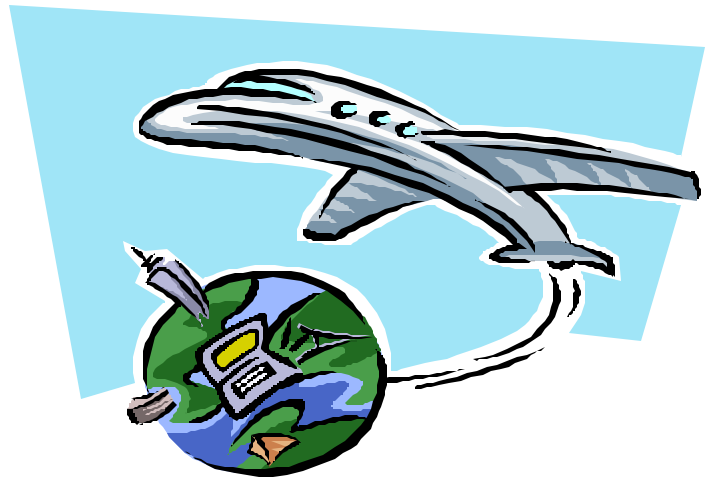
the qualifications.

4. Research each field; find out the salary structure and the amount and kind of education needed.

5. Ask your school counselor to help your teens learn about their particular skills and abilities.

6. Encourage your teens to explore different areas of study to help them find their special talents and interests.

7. Help them find ways to experience success and build confidence in their abilities.



Job location will not be a deciding factor when choosing a place to live.

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Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics
 Northeast Tech Prep Consortium, Bellevue, Wa
 United States Department of Labor



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