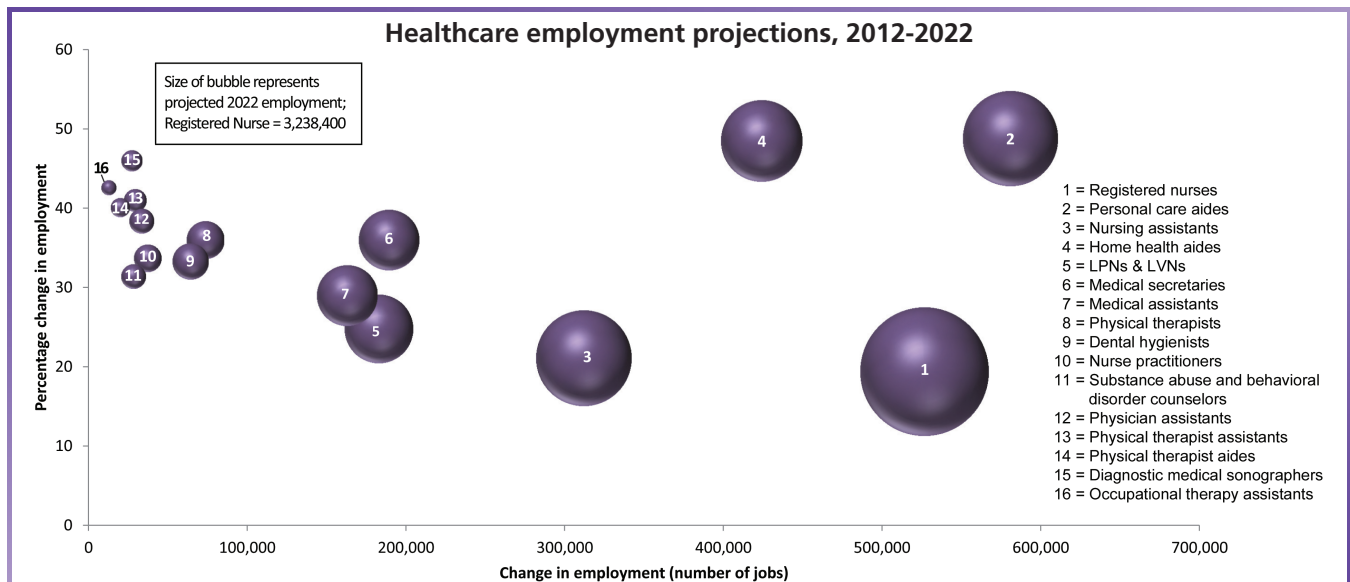


## Five of 30 fastest-growing professions are in healthcare

According to recent data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), almost half of all the new jobs that will be added by 2022 will come from growth in 30 specific occupations. And five of those 30 jobs are in the healthcare arena, notably nursing assistants and registered nurses. Together, those five professions could produce as many as 1.6 million jobs by the end of 2022.

The home health aide category is one of two forecasted to have the most growth: BLS predicts a 49% rise, or 424,000 jobs. Registered nurses also have good news; the number of RNs is predicted to grow by 19%, or 526,800 jobs.

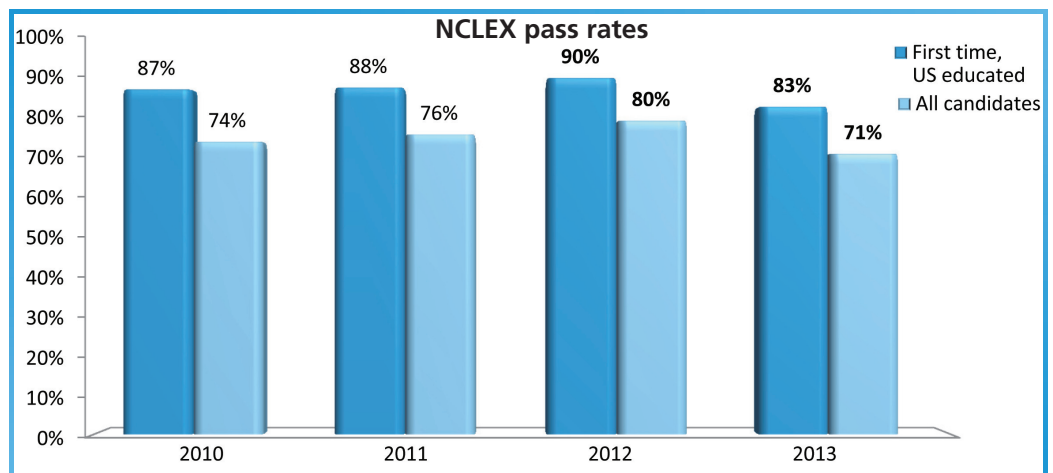
Other healthcare professions seem to also have good job growth prospects, too. BLS data shows that fast-growing occupations include physical therapists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nursing instructors and occupational therapy assistants.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Annual NCLEX pass rates dipped in 2013

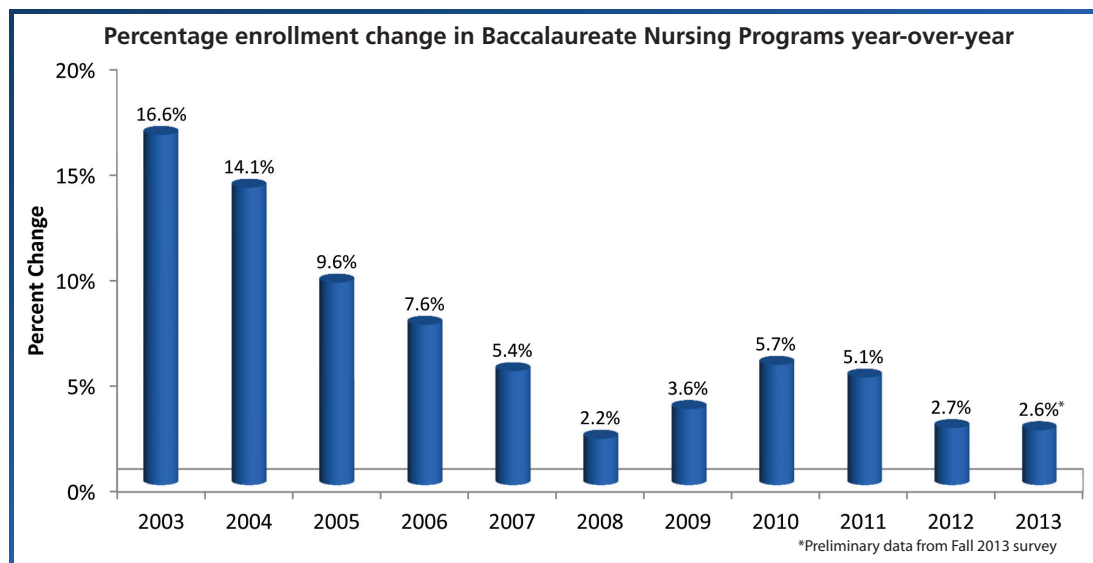
From 2012 to 2013, the percentage of new nurses passing the NCLEX exam dipped noticeably. A newly graduated nurse must pass the national nurse licensure exam, called the NCLEX, before starting to work. In 2013, 83% passed among US educated registered nurses who took the national licensing exam for the first time. A total of 71% of all candidates who took the exam in 2013 passed. By contrast, the total percent of US educated RNs who passed the exam for the first time in 2012 was 90%, while 80% passed among all candidates who took the exam that year.



Source: National Council of State Boards of Nursing

## Latest research: Nursing school enrollment growth slows

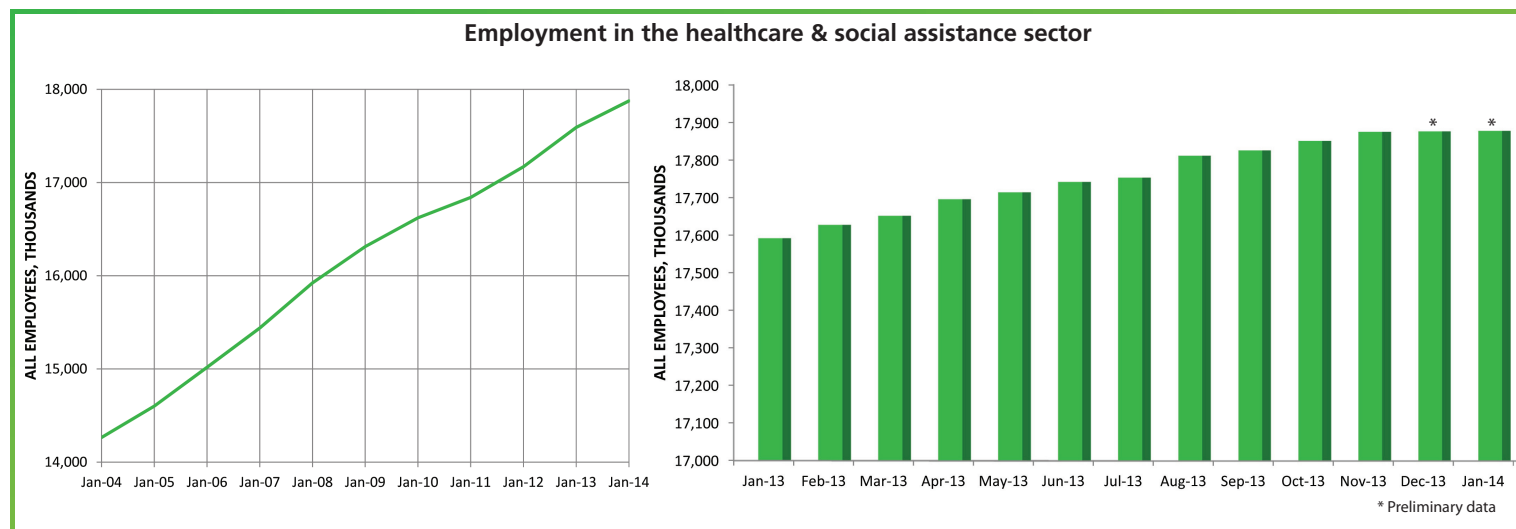
Workforce experts often emphasize the importance of maintaining the pipeline of future healthcare professionals. So it may be of concern that nursing school enrollment is slowing. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing reported in January that the enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by 2.6% from 2012 to 2013. Although it's good news that enrollment continues to grow, that's the lowest increase in enrollment in five years. And it comes at a time when healthcare leaders are calling for more nurses to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing, per the Institute of Medicine's call for 80% of the nursing workforce to get a BSN by 2020.



Source: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Research and Data Center

## Snapshot from January's job situation: Healthcare stays the same

Overall job numbers were up in January by a total of 113,000, according to the latest data released by the BLS. But healthcare employment didn't change very much at all. For the second consecutive month – December and January – healthcare employment remained flat. During 2013, the BLS reports that healthcare added an average of about 18,000 jobs each month from January through November.



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics