

**Jobs Rated**

ShareThis

The 10 Best Jobs of 2010

—by Andrew Strieber

[Jump to 10 Best List](#) [10 Best Jobs Slideshow](#)



Layoffs, bankruptcies and rising unemployment – the past 12 months have been an especially traumatic time to be looking for a new job. Yet when considering the best and worst jobs for 2010, the upheaval that spread across multiple industries last year hasn't altered the old adage: "the more things change, the more they stay the same." For the second year in a row, job hunters will want to brush up their math, science and computer skills if they want to land a top-ranked, highly rewarding position.

Actuary, a job that entails calculating the probability and financial impact of illness and property loss, ranks as the best job for 2010, based on research into 200 different positions in this year's exclusive CareerCast.com Jobs Rated report. Using five key measurement criteria – stress, working environment, physical demands, income and hiring outlook – the Jobs Rated report seeks to compare and contrast careers across a multitude of industries, skill levels and salary ranges, sorting them into a definitive list of jobs that can be called "worst" and "best."

So why is Actuary rated number one? For starters, the position ranks especially well for its low physical demands and stress levels, finishing 2nd and 3rd, respectively, out of all 200 jobs. But more importantly, it is actuary's consistently strong performance overall that helped the job rise to the top of the 2010 Jobs Rated list. While we may admire the exceptional – famous stars, successful billionaires and life-saving heroes, for example – top careers in the Jobs Rated report typically don't stand out as the most glamorous, highest paying or most noble. Instead, they are the jobs that offer the greatest chance of enjoying a combination of good health, low stress, a pleasant workplace, solid income and strong growth potential.

Category	Scoring Range
Physical Demands	3.95 – 43.23
Work Environment	89.520 – 3314.030
Income	\$300,118 – \$17,057
Stress	18.776 – 110.936
Hiring Outlook	45.39 – -39.67

In compiling the list of highly-ranked jobs for 2010, Jobs Rated researchers sought to find careers that are likely to provide a positive experience for a majority of employees, not just the uniquely talented. Fitting with this goal, Actuary ranks no worse than 10th in any measurement category, save one – median income, where it finishes 22nd. And even in this case, the job's average high-end income of \$161,000 is 11th among all surveyed jobs.

Moving down the list, math and science-related professions continue to rule, with Software Engineer ranking as the second-best job for 2010. Involving the design and maintenance of software and hardware systems, the job rates well across all categories, finishing 5th for work environment and inside the top 30 for stress, income and physical demands. But what truly helps Software Engineer stand out from other career choices is its hiring outlook. With low unemployment compared to the national average and projected job growth of nearly 45% through 2016, Software Engineer currently has the best hiring outlook of any available job in 2010.

If equations and programming languages aren't your strong suit, there are some other top-ranked jobs that rely on words instead of numbers. Despite ranking just 50th for stress and median income, Historian manages to finish as the 5th best job for 2010, thanks to good ratings for work environment (4th), physical demands (15th) and outlook (15th). And while it may seem surprising that a seemingly obscure job like Historian would rank so well, in fact the career has many applications beyond just the classroom. Apart from academic settings, there is a great demand for Historians in the defense industry and State Department. Considering that the federal government is expected to be a top source of employment in 2010, this demand helps give Historian projected job growth of 24% through 2016.

Rounding out the Jobs Rated of the 10 best jobs for 2010, all of these top-ranked positions have one key element in common. Each requires a high level of education, or at least highly-specialized training:

- 1. Actuary** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Interprets statistics to determine probabilities of accidents, sickness, and death, and loss of property from theft and natural disasters.
- 2. Software Engineer** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Researches, designs, develops and maintains software systems along with hardware development for medical, scientific, and industrial purposes.
- 3. Computer Systems Analyst** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Plans and develops computer systems for businesses and scientific institutions.
- 4. Biologist** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Studies the relationship of plants and animals to their environment.
- 5. Historian** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Analyzes and records historical information from a specific era or according to a particular area of expertise.
- 6. Mathematician** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Applies mathematical theories and formulas to teach or solve problems in a business, educational, or industrial climate.
- 7. Paralegal Assistant** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Assists attorneys in preparation of legal documents, collection of depositions and affidavits; and investigation, research and analysis of legal issues.
- 8. Statistician** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Tabulates, analyzes, and interprets the numeric results of experiments and surveys.
- 9. Accountant** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Prepares and analyzes financial reports to assist managers in business, industry and government.
- 10. Dental Hygienist** [View Ratings](#) [Find This Job](#)

Assists dentists in diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of a group or private dental practice.

**Latest Jobs on CareerCast**

- New Hospitalist opportunity  
Staff Care  
Oklahoma
- Receptionist FT Southeast  
Dental Clinic  
Neighborcare Health  
Seattle, WA
- Highway Construction  
Project Manager &  
Estimators  
DUIT

Whatever position you're interested in learning more about, CareerCast.com's Jobs Rated data will be a valuable aid to help ensure that your choice measures up to the standards you've set for yourself. In the coming months, job rankings by stress, hiring outlook, income and more will be released, giving you the best options in fields ranging from Agriculture to Zoology.

If Actuary is the best job of 2010, followed by Software Engineer and Computer Systems Analyst, which positions should you avoid? Read on to see the Jobs Rated list of the **10 WORST jobs for 2010 and beyond**.

**More 2010 Jobs Rated Rankings**

- [The 10 Best Jobs](#)
  - [The 10 Worst Jobs](#)
  - [The Top 200 Jobs](#)
  - [Jobs Rated Methodology](#)
- [Connect with CareerCast.com on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn](#)

ShareThis

**Article Comments**

Leave a comment

Echo 1 Items

Admin



**Guest**  
Not sure what is meant by "the job's average high-end income of \$161,000", is this the average among people surveyed, or the average over a top percentile such as 25%  
Today, 10:03:18 - [Like](#) - [Reply](#)

Social Networking by JS27

[Back to Jobs Rated Home Page](#)