

JOB MARKET TRENDS

The 10 Best Jobs of 2010

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CareerCast.com

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 changed, 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.

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.

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. 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

Interprets statistics to determine probabilities of accidents, sickness, and death, and loss of property from theft and natural disasters.

2. Software Engineer

Researches, designs, develops and maintains software systems along with hardware development for medical, scientific, and industrial purposes.

3. Computer Systems Analyst

Plans and develops computer systems for businesses and scientific institutions.

4. Biologist

Studies the relationship of plants and animals to their environment.

5. Historian

Analyzes and records historical information from a specific era or according to a particular area of expertise.

6. Mathematician

Applies mathematical theories and formulas to teach or solve problems in a business, educational, or industrial climate.

7. Paralegal Assistant

Assists attorneys in preparation of legal documents; collection of depositions and affidavits; and investigation, research and analysis of legal issues.

8. Statistician

Tabulates, analyzes, and interprets the numeric results of experiments and surveys.

9. Accountant

Prepares and analyzes financial reports to assist managers in business, industry and government.

10. Dental Hygienist

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

(This article first appeared at CareerCast.com as part of the site's exclusive Jobs Rated report.)