

Keywords

Location

[Find Jobs](#)

[Share](#) 387
 [Tweet](#) 346
 [Like](#) 3.3k
 [+1](#) 29

## Jobs Rated Report 2015: Ranking The Top 200 Jobs

By Tony Lee



It's been more than 20 years since I first started working on the Jobs Rated Almanac, and we've produced many Jobs Rated reports since then. Over that time, the question I'm asked most often by readers and the media is: What motivates us to tackle this immense project every year? It's obviously a lot of work to compile the massive amount of data needed for each new report, not to mention the interviews and anecdotes we collect and include. Yet the answer for me is easy, thanks to the wonderful feedback we receive each year: to help high school and middle school kids turn their career dreams into the most realistic path possible, and to help those in a mid-career transition make a smart choice about their future.

After each report is published, many of the comments we receive are from teachers, typically those who work with students ranging from 7th graders to high school seniors. Their feedback and questions cover a gamut of topics, but inevitably focus on how our reports help them assist their students by viewing career options in a new way.

Prior to 7th grade, when you ask a student what they want to do when they grow up, teachers say the answer typically falls into one of two buckets:

1. they want to do what their Mom or Dad (or Uncle or Aunt or sibling) does; or
2. they want a career they view as glamorous (and probably unattainable), such as becoming a professional actor, dancer, athlete or astronaut.

To be sure, there's nothing wrong with having big career goals, and the truly gifted may attain them. But for everyone else, teachers say it's very helpful to have a guide that gives their students the ability to evaluate which careers may suit their skills and interests best, both after graduation and for years to come. That's where our Jobs Rated Reports seem to strike a chord.

For the 9th grader who loves crunching numbers to win his fantasy baseball league, learning about the career path of an actuary or data scientist may spark a career interest that simply didn't exist before. For the 10th grader who excels at solving number puzzles and equations, she likely has the skill set needed to thrive as a computer programmer or analyst. And for those students who have great empathy and a willingness to help others before themselves, careers in teaching, counseling and medicine, among many others, suddenly seem appealing.

In each case, our reports reflect very bright futures for these professions. That's the information many teachers leverage in their classrooms to prompt students to think realistically about which careers they might be good at. It doesn't hurt that the careers at the top of our rankings also will reward them with years of hiring and salary growth, often in a less stressful, more rewarding work environment.

"It's great to show my students how the skills they enjoy using can relate to real-life careers, and what those careers might be like for them in 10 or 20 years," says Beth, a 9th-grade teacher in central New Jersey. "What's most interesting is that my kids often change their minds about the jobs they think they'll like after just a few minutes of investigation. And for others, the rankings confirm for them that they know exactly what they want to do now and forever."

Beth gives the example of one student who she says was determined to become a firefighter, even though no one in his family has ever worked in that profession.

"I gave him the Jobs Rated report showing that firefighter is one of lowest-ranked jobs due to high stress, low pay and long hours. He said that none of that matters, and that the report only motivates him more because he knows how important firefighters are to their communities, and that he better follow that path since others may not due to the report's negative findings. Now that's dedication!"

We've also hear each year from a range of other readers who have used our findings to help direct them into a new path

### Jobs Rated Links

- [The Worst Jobs of 2015](#)
- [The 10 Best Jobs of 2015](#)
- [Our Methodology](#)
- [Infographic](#)
- [Sign-Up For Jobs Rated Alerts](#)

[Post Your Resume](#)

### Connect With Us



[Get Our Newsletter](#)

[Get jobs targeted to you in your Twitter stream](#)

[Follow CareerCast Job Channels](#)

### Latest Jobs

[RN \(Registered Nurse\) InterMedical Hospital Of SC Columbia, South Carolina](#)

[REGISTERED NURSE I-Vacancies Available Statewide SC Department Of Corrections Columbia, South Carolina](#)

[CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS-Vacancies Available Statewide SC Department Of Corrections \(Statewide\) South Carolina](#)

### CareerCast Niche Job Networks

CareerCast Niche Job Networks are faster more effective at connecting you with the job opportunity.

[Diversity Jobs](#)

[Disability Jobs](#)

[Veterans Jobs](#)

[Finance & Legal Jobs](#)

[IT & Engineering Jobs](#)

[Healthcare Jobs](#)

[Nursing Jobs](#)

[Temporary & Part-Time Jobs](#)

[Construction Jobs](#)

[Energy Jobs](#)

[Green Jobs](#)

[Sales & Marketing Jobs](#)

at mid-career. I'll never forget the military soldier who studied to become a financial planner after leaving the service because, he said, it seemed like a great match for his skills after he saw the job ranked highly in our report.

Making a career change in mid-life is never an easy task, especially if the change is being forced by a layoff or another economic necessity. But by identifying your skills that are most transferable, you can target new industries that will value both your skills and your experience and will allow you to tap into them in new ways.

This Jobs Rated Almanac, and the many related reports we issue through the year on [CareerCast.com](http://CareerCast.com), are designed to help you find your best career path. I hope it helps you achieve your goals. And please don't forget to send me your feedback and success stories so that we can share it with other readers.

**GET THAT JOB NOW!** The new *Jobs Rated Almanac*, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, rates 200 jobs from best to worst. Now that you know them, the Almanac will help you GET one. [Click here for more.](#)

### 1. Actuary

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

Overall Score: 80.00

Income: \$94,209.00

Work Environment:  
41.500

Stress:  
16.300

Hiring Outlook:  
25.09

### 2. Audiologist

Diagnoses and treats hearing problems by attempting to discover the range, nature, and degree of hearing function.

Overall Score: 88.00

Income: \$71,133.00

Work Environment:  
45.000

Stress:  
6.300

Hiring Outlook:  
33.33

### 3. Mathematician

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

Overall Score: 92.00

Income: \$102,182.00

Work Environment:  
42.900

Stress:  
12.730

Hiring Outlook:  
22.82

### 4. Statistician

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

Overall Score: 96.00

Income: \$79,191.00

Work Environment:  
41.900

Stress:  
13.900

Hiring Outlook:  
25.91

### 5. Biomedical Engineer

Analyzes and design solutions to problems in biology and medicine, with the goal of improving the quality and effectiveness of patient care.

Overall Score: 117.00

Income: \$89,165.00

Work Environment:  
44.900

Stress:  
16.620

Hiring Outlook:  
26.65

### 6. Data Scientist

Combines information technology, statistical analysis and other disciplines to interpret trends from data.

Overall Score: 121.00

Income: \$124,149.00

Work Environment:  
45.300

Stress:  
13.500

Hiring Outlook:  
14.97

### 7. Dental Hygienist



Retail Jobs



Trucking Jobs



Hospitality Jobs



HR & Recruiter Jobs

### Top Jobs

[Local And Regional Class A/B CDL Drivers](#)

[Trillium Drivers](#)  
Atlanta, Georgia

[CDL Driver - Mobile Food Bank](#)  
[The Food Bank Of Western Massachusetts](#)  
Hatfield, Massachusetts

[Fleet Maintenance Supervisor](#)  
[C-Tran](#)  
Vancouver, Washington

### Career Resources



[CareerCast Networks](#)

Thousands of jobs in a variety of niches



[The Best Jobs How to Get Them](#)

The cutting-edge guide that finds you the best jobs & highest pay



[Resume Writing Services](#)

Improve your resume today!



[Free Career Folders & Advice](#)

Directories of associations, e-books, articles & more

### Search All Career Advice

S

Cleans teeth, examines patients for oral diseases such as gingivitis, and provides other preventative dental care. A dental hygienist also educates patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health.

Overall Score: 125.00

Income: \$71,102.00

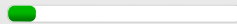
Work Environment:

47.200



Stress:

12.040



Hiring Outlook:

31.02



## 8. Software Engineer

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

Overall Score: 129.00

Income: \$93,113.00

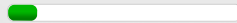
Work Environment:

48.800



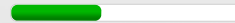
Stress:

12.530



Hiring Outlook:

21.13



## 9. Occupational Therapist

Develops individualized programs of activity for mentally, physically, developmentally and emotionally impaired persons, to aid them in achieving self-reliance.

Overall Score: 134.00

Income: \$77,114.00

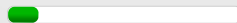
Work Environment:

47.800



Stress:

13.100



Hiring Outlook:

29.14



## 10. Computer Systems Analyst

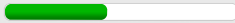
Develops computer systems for businesses and scientific institutions.

Overall Score: 135.00

Income: \$81,150.00

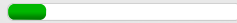
Work Environment:

44.100



Stress:

16.440



Hiring Outlook:

23.50



## 11. Speech Pathologist

Assesses hearing, speech, and language disabilities and provides treatment. Assists individuals with communication disorders through diagnostic techniques.

Overall Score: 152.00

Income: \$71,144.00

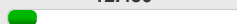
Work Environment:

47.300



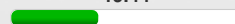
Stress:

12.450



Hiring Outlook:

19.44



## 12. Dietitian

Assesses patients' dietary needs, plans menus, and instructs patients and their families about proper nutritional care.

Overall Score: 157.00

Income: \$56,132.00

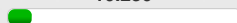
Work Environment:

45.500



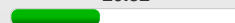
Stress:

10.230



Hiring Outlook:

20.32



## 13. Network And Computer Systems Administrator

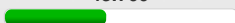
Responsible for the day-to-day operation of these networks.

Overall Score: 164.00

Income: \$74,160.00

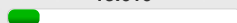
Work Environment:

43.700



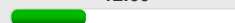
Stress:

13.610



Hiring Outlook:

12.60



## 14. Human Resources Manager

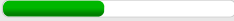
Plans, directs, and/or coordinates all human resource activities and staff of an organization.

Overall Score: 173.00

Income: \$101,200.00

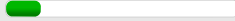
Work Environment:

43.700



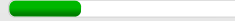
Stress:

15.000



Hiring Outlook:

11.00



## 15. Economist

Studies and analyzes the effects of resources such as land, labor, and raw materials, on costs and their relation to industry and government.

Overall Score: 183.00

Income: \$93,216.00

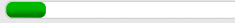
Work Environment:

46.000



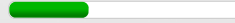
Stress:

17.160



Hiring Outlook:

15.16



## 16. Optometrist

Diagnoses visual disorders and prescribes and administers corrective and rehabilitative treatments.

Overall Score: 185.00

Income: \$101,256.00

Work Environment:

50.700



Stress:

17.560



Hiring Outlook:

25.56



## 17. Physical Therapist

Plans and directs treatment to improve mobility and alleviate pain in persons disabled by injury or disease.

Overall Score: 195.00

Income: \$81,102.00

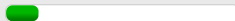
Work Environment:

55.600



Stress:

14.020



Hiring Outlook:

36.02



## 18. Meteorologist

Studies the physical characteristics, motions and processes of the earth's atmosphere.

Overall Score: 204.00

Income: \$87,165.00

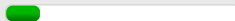
Work Environment:

44.100



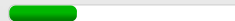
Stress:

14.650



Hiring Outlook:

8.65



## 19. Petroleum Engineer

Plans drilling locations and effective production methods for optimal access to oil and natural gas.

Overall Score: 207.00

Income: \$132,258.00

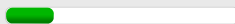
Work Environment:

53.100



Stress:

20.580



Hiring Outlook:

27.58



## 19. Medical Records Technician

Maintains complete, accurate, and up-to-date medical records for use in treatment, billing, and statistical surveys.

Overall Score: 207.00

Income: \$35,148.00

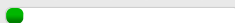
Work Environment:

44.400



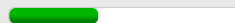
Stress:

7.480



Hiring Outlook:

20.48



NEXT PAGE



Join the Discussion