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## Best and Worst Jobs Overall

The listings below shows the 10 best and worst jobs overall, according to *The 2002 Jobs Rated Almanac*, by Les Krantz (St. Martin's Griffin, 2002)

### Low Stress, Autonomy, High Demand Boost Job Ratings, Author Says

"Biologist" is rated the nation's single best job in terms of low stress, high compensation, lots of autonomy, and tremendous hiring demand. Lumberjack was rated the worst job, according to The 2002 Jobs Rated Almanac by Les Krantz.

Biologist displaces financial planner, which was ranked as the nation's best-rated job in 2001, but still makes a strong showing in the No. 3 spot this year. Actuaries, who work autonomously and with little stress helping insurance providers and others determine risk, rose to No. 2. Computer systems analysts and accountants round out the top five.

### Best Jobs

- Biologist
- Actuary
- Financial planner
- Computer-systems analyst
- Accountant
- Software engineer
- Meteorologist
- Paralegal assistant
- Statistician
- Astronomer

### Worst Jobs

- Lumberjack
- Commercial fisherman
- Cowboy
- Ironworker
- Seaman
- Taxi driver
- Construction worker
- Farmer
- Roofer
- Stevedore

Although the Monty Python comedy troupe made famous the song, "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm O.K.," the life of professional lumberjacks couldn't be much rougher. In terms of work instability, poor pay and pure danger, lumberjack ranks as one of the nation's worst job. Prospects aren't much better for commercial fishermen, cowboys, ironworks and seamen, who labor aboard commercial ships among pirates and hurricanes.

The criteria to determine the most and least appealing career opportunities include environment, income, employment outlook, physical demands, security and stress. Each occupation is ranked using data from such sources as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as studies conducted by a wide range of trade associations and industry

groups.

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