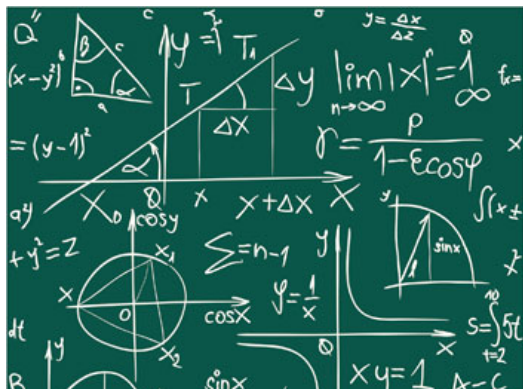




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The Best Jobs of 2014



By: CareerCast.com

For a mathematician like Jessica Sobanski of San Diego, numbers unlock a world of career possibilities.

"There's a huge, huge range of opportunities for mathematicians," says Sobanski. "Some can go the education route, but there's much more."

Hiring demand also is very high among corporations, government agencies and the non-profit world, she says.

In fact, the field's versatility is a primary reason it outscored the competition and ranks No. 1 in our 2014 Jobs Rated report.

Sobanski founded KidCourses.com and MathLibs in the 1990s after working as a content reviewer for The Princeton Review and as an MCAT teacher. Focusing her attention on educating children in math has been especially rewarding, she says.

And the value of education is evident at the top of our Jobs Rated report.

Checking in at No. 2 just behind mathematician is tenured university professor. The top-ranked environment, high income-earning potential and lower stress than many other fields makes tenured professor a desirable career.

Of perhaps even greater value is the reward of teaching, which Sobanski touts in her mathematic work—particularly with girls. Guiding women into careers in science and math is a hot-button issue, one that First Lady Michelle Obama addresses regularly.

"Supporting women STEM students and researchers is not only an essential part of America's strategy to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world; it is also important to women themselves," she said in a statement.

The outlook for STEM careers, including in math, is very positive. Math is experiencing something of a renaissance period, and analytics are the driving force. Mathematical analyses of trends are used to gauge many activities, ranging from internet-user tendencies to airport traffic control.

"Conversion rate optimization: everything going on in that space is huge. Whether it's new product sales, a start-up [business model] or an established TV station, everything is based on numbers," Sobanski explains.

Companies contract mathematicians who can spot these trends, and Sobanski says it has made for lucrative possibilities. Indeed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that in 2013, the median annual pay scale for mathematicians was \$101,360. And at a projected growth rate of 23% by 2022, the field's outlook is bright.

The exponentially growing popularity of mathematics may not be any more noticeable than in sports, where statistical analysis shapes how fans view their favorite games and how general managers build teams. To that end, ESPN.com recently launched FiveThirtyEight.com, a former *New York Times* website that accurately predicted election results based on statistical polling data.

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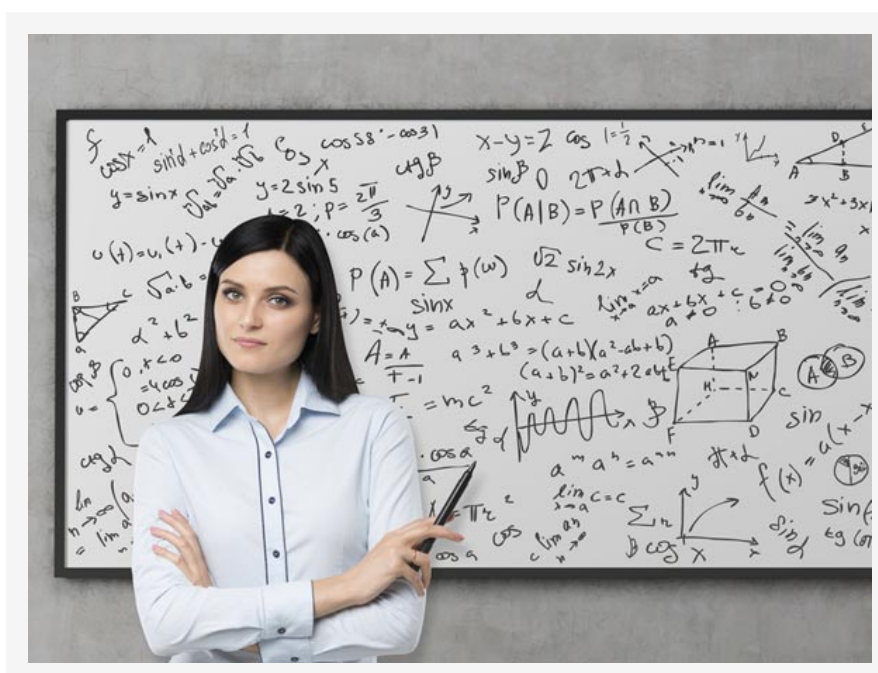
The site's new incarnation tracks statistical trends in sports as well as politics, and provides more evidence that the mathematic boom is real. Of course, our Jobs Rated report also makes that point, as statistician and actuary are both in this year's top 10.

Healthcare and information technology also are two of the strongest sectors despite economic turbulence, and their stability are reflected in the Jobs Rated report. The BLS estimates the unemployment rate in healthcare was 4.1% at the end of 2013, 2.6% lower than the general workforce rate.

In the coming decade, the BLS projects five million new healthcare jobs added to the economy. Dental hygienist and audiologist are two fields with particularly strong outlooks, and both rank in the Jobs Rated top 10, as do occupational therapist and speech pathologist.

In information technology, the unemployment rate was 4.8%, and two IT jobs rank among the 10 best: software engineer and computer systems analyst.

Indeed, 2014 is a great time for careers in technology, education and the sciences, as our top 10 jobs illustrate.



1. Mathematician

Overall Rating: 63

Median Salary: \$101,360

Projected Growth: 181.00%

Careers in mathematics are diverse and rewarding. Mathematicians rank among the more well-compensated in the 2014 Jobs Rated report. The field also has a positive outlook for continued future growth.

Mathematics Adjunct

Tidewater Community College
Chesapeake, VA

Visiting Professor I - Mathematics

Devry University
Raleigh, NC

Mathematics Instructional Coach

Albany Community Charter
School
Albany, NY

Mathematics Adjunct

Tidewater Community College
Norfolk, VA

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Name

**Anonymous** • a year ago

b000000000

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**Anonymous** • 3 years ago

This job has often found itself on the top job's, but rarely had a good description to go a long with it. This is one of the few times the exams were even mentioned. It is important--i think--to appropriately convey the barrier to entry; because some people, like it or not, take this information into account when choosing a major. Being an Actuary, typically involves passing exams to achieve associateship (6-7), or, the more rigorous definition, fellowship (9-10). The exams are designed to be difficult and test at a high level of cognitive functioning. Most fully credentialed actuaries are well above average intelligence. It is also important--I think-- to convey the size of the field. The field is very small. Roughly the size of nurse anesthesia and 1/5 the size of mechanical engineering. It is made up of 6 specialized areas that are even more restrictive in practice (property casualty, health, life, pensions, finance, ERM). Although, the barrier to being an Actuary is high, there is little required of you to fill an actuarial role. This, paired with the economic condition, has caused great interest in entry level actuarial roles. It is no longer the case that 2 exams and a bachelor's degree is sufficient to find a position. It is necessary, but not sufficient. It is also important to note, that for an Actuary (associate or fellowship status) the pay is much higher than expressed above. BLS takes into account all those in actuarial roles, which far exceed those who are able to successfully complete the exam process. This is as inaccurate as including resident pay in physician salary averages.

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**Anonymous** [➔](#) Anonymous • 3 years ago

I'm a Chinese actuarial learner and will go to America to continue my graduate study. I wanna get a actuarial job in America. My teacher told me that if I want to work in America as a actuary, I should not pass more than 2 exams because American companies may reject me due to salary. But you said "It is no longer the case that 2 exams and a bachelor's degree is sufficient to find a position." So do I need to passed more exams to find a job in America. (I have passed 2 exams)

[^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)
**Anonymous** • 4 years ago

right now schools are pumping out college degrees 4 to 1 for what they have slots for in the masters programs. beyond that is yet another 6 months of certification that is hard to get as well. the program is good but realize it is now flooded and there are few jobs. I have had several people come to me and ask why they cant find a masters program that will accept them. I cant understand why schools are accepting so many for a program that is usually small. its a good career but understand completely the steps it will take and the colleges in your area that provide service


[^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)
**Anonymous** • 4 years ago

move if you can't find a job! I just moved to NYC and was offered every position I interviewed for (as a brand new grad) and if you can make it here you can make it anywhere, right? ;)

[^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)
**Anonymous** • 4 years ago


Hmm maybe you live in a rural area...even then they are hiring traveling OTs. First week of looking for a job as a new grad got offered 2 job. The job market is good :)

[^](#) | [v](#) • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)

- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

I'm a PT and love what I do. The field is very rewarding and salary depending on the setting can be very good!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

I am not sure where you live or where you are looking but in PA the OT job market is good. I also get phone calls from recruiters 1-2 times a week

^ | v • Reply • Share >
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Anonymous • 4 years ago

Math is the basis for almost every well-paying job: accountant, stockbroker, engineer, scientist...and having more Math majors will make us more competitive with other countries.

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

and I'm sure this would be a great job, IF THERE WERE ANY JOBS IN THIS FIELD. Go into this profession if you enjoy unemployment.

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

I am a new grad and have multiple job offers in a variety of settings. All of my classmates are in the same boat. The job market is open and quite abundant!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
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Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

There are an abundant supply of jobs in this field. I currently work at two different facilities and regularly receive calls from recruiters with job openings. I also know a large number of my OT coworkers who work more than one job and get contacted regarding jobs regularly.

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

Try 15 in the UK!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

I am a Physical Therapist (PT) & love my colleagues, but feel that PTs should be in top 10!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

I would guess that is because physical therapy can be a more physically demanding job than the others on that list which could add some level of stress and raise the score a little bit. Still a great profession though!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

I agree! PT should be listed . It's a great field ans salary can be very good depending on the setting.

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous → Anonymous • 3 years ago

Agreed!! Being a PT I've never"worked" a day i love what i d

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 


Anonymous • 4 years ago

As a tenured university professor in New Hampshire now on sabbatical, I agree that I have a great job!

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 

Anonymous • 4 years ago

Stat ♥

^ | v • Reply • Share >
- 

Anonymous • 4 years ago

The MBA is a great degree. The MBA is a great degree. The MBA is a great degree.



I ne MBA got you the job. I ne nistory major got the degree.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous • 4 years ago

My son is finishing his second year as a math major. He has second guessed this decision recently. I hope this article will encourage him to continue in the math field. He's unsure of what jobs are available to a math graduate. He is also persuing a double major in business finance. Is this a good combination?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous ➔ Anonymous • 4 years ago

Search information on Maths Assotiations on your country, there'll appear wich percentage of mathematician works on each type of jobs but think that in spain (the only place I have information now), only 30% of mathematicians are teachers (schools and universities), the rest work in banks, investigation, etc

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous ➔ Anonymous • 4 years ago

That is a great decision. Most jobs are in business analysis. Those skills will be a tremendous asset regardless of industry.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous • 4 years ago

The growth figure is for ALL postsecondary teaching jobs. There is currently very negative growth in the number of tenured slots available, and if you include the huge numbers of adjunct and non-tenured profs, the scene is *much* bleaker.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous ➔ Anonymous • 4 years ago

Absolutely! It takes years of education (when one earns at or slightly above poverty levels) to get to a position when one searches for a college teaching job. Then, the number of tenure-track openings at any given university is rarely more than 5% of all teaching jobs available at that university (with some exceptions). Getting tenure, after attaing a tenure-track position, can mean shooting for unrealistic goals and dealing with petty politics more than true merit. With "adjunt faculty" being higher eds dirty little secret.. seeing "tenured professor" on the list just seems so ridiculous!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous • 4 years ago

Three exams to become an actuary? Try ten...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous ➔ Anonymous • 4 years ago

The exams are really tough, you will have to suceed around 8 to 10 exams. The process will take 5 to 10 years to succeed all these exams

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous • 4 years ago

Please get her to turn to mathask her why would she spend 40-60 thousand dollar on an education where she only makes 18-25 thousand a year maybe!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous • 4 years ago

Hey I'm a history major, with a degree from U WA and right now I'm working with JP Morgan and I make ~\$100 K a year. Sure, education is important but what people study at an undergraduate level does not necessarily reflect how much money they will be making in the future. For me, it's all about my MBA I got from U Penn

^ | v • Reply • Share ›




Anonymous • 4 years ago

I keep telling my daughter, who's a freshman in college, that she should focus on math or science, which she is good at. But she likes the liberal arts. Hopefully she'll listen to me after I show her this study!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous ➔ Anonymous • 4 years ago

 We spend the majority of our waking hours at work, so it's important to love what we do. If she can study what she is interested in, she will be happier and more passionate about her work... more than anything, people need to learn to follow their heart, not the almighty dollar. p.s. My undergrad is in social work, and I'm now making over \$100,000/year in a different, but related, field. More importantly, I'm passionate about my job and wouldn't be here had I not started out in the low paying but worthy field of social work - because my heart is in the social sciences and at the end of the day, I want to know I'm making a difference in the world. My paycheck is just a bonus.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

— | 🚩

Tell her you'll only pay for the math oriented major, and if she wants to study liberal arts, she's on her own.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

— | 🚩

Why would you want your child to be miserable by denying to pay for an education in a field she loves? No quicker way to kill her enthusiasm for education and set her up for failure.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Anonymous → Anonymous • 4 years ago

— | 🚩

Maybe try convincing her to minor in what she wants but major in a math or science field. Or maybe work an internship in what it is she's interested in to get a feel if it's a job she could do long term.

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