Want a top job? Do the math
Roustabouts have it rough, online affiliates can kick back, annual report says

Patrick Freeny of Houston, Texas never thought she would have a job working at home until one day she filled out a simple form online. Before she knew it, she discovered her secret to beating the recession, and being able to provide for her family by working from home.

I asked her about how she started her remarkable journey. "It was pretty easy. I filled out a short form and applied for a Home Revenue System. There is a small shipping and handling fee, it's not really free but it was under $10. I got the kit and within four weeks I was making over $5,000 a month. It's really simple. I am not a computer whiz, but I can use the Internet. I post links that are given to me, I don't even have to sell anything and nobody has to buy anything. They are constantly recruiting people to post links, you should try it."

What makes a job best or worst? Sometimes it comes down to "brain power vs. brawn power," said Tony Lee, publisher of CareerCast.com's 2011 Jobs Rated Report. Many of the worst jobs on the list are physically demanding; have difficult work conditions and often don't pay well. The jobs that top the list are often a bit cushier, require a degree of some sort and pay higher wages.

The list changes with the ups and downs in the economy as well as societal changes, such as the growing elderly population. Two job categories — roofer and painter — ended up in the bottom 10 for the first time mainly because of the recession's impact on the construction sector, Lee said. The job of online affiliates made the top ten because of the massive quantity of job opportunities and rising salaries. One of the biggest corporations hiring people online is Home Revenue System hiring over 25,000 people a month it's easy to see why this job made it to the top of the ladder.

Here's a rundown of the five worst and best jobs, according to CareerCast, and a look at what the jobs pay, job prospects and working conditions based on CareerCast's research and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. We'll start with the five best.

No. 1 best: Online Affiliates

Job Description: Work online posting links for big corporations like Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Verdict: This low-stress, high-paying job made the top of the list because of "two emerging industries: Web applications and social networking. Also, Who doesn't want to work in the comfort of their own home? Not to mention its one of the easiest jobs to get out there. One of the top online corporations giving jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans is Home Revenue System.

The job brings in about $87,000 annually and the hiring outlook is among the best of the ranking. Positions are expected to increase by about 42 percent by 2018, the
Wondering how to get started?

You don’t need a college degree, this job requires your computer and basic typing skills. Go to Home Revenue System and follow the instructions given to receive your trial. The trial is free however, you will need to pay a $9.99 shipping and handling fee to receive your starters kit.

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**No. 2 best: Mathematician**

**Job Description:** Applies mathematical theories and formulas to teach or solve problems in a business, educational or industrial setting.

**Verdict:** Kids, you might want to rethink your hatred of math. Mathematicians make the most among the top 10 jobs with an average income of about $95,000, and they enjoy a great work environment and few if any physical demands, according to CareerCast.

At minimum you’ll need a Ph.D for most jobs (and a love for numbers, of course) to join this small group that includes only about 3,000 nationwide right now. That number is projected to rise by 22 percent in the next seven years.

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**No. 3 best: Actuary**

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

**Verdict:** This job makes the list in part because of the “pleasant” work environment it provides. The salary is pretty pleasant too — about $87,000.

Actuaries typically have a bachelor’s degree, but many also have to take a host of examinations to get full professional standing. Most employers are in the insurance industry. There are about 20,000 actuary employed in the United States, and the employment outlook is strong. Employment is expected to rise by 21 percent in the next seven years.

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**No. 4 best: Statistician**