Ten jobs that pay $80,000 a year

- Story Highlights
- National median annual income is $40,690
- Here's a list of 10 jobs paying twice that salary
- Compensation and benefits manager has annual mean income of $80,011
- Risk management supervisors expect 13 percent increase in employment by 2016

By Anthony Balderrama
CareerBuilder.com writer

Who hasn't looked at his or her paycheck and imagined how much better life would be with a lot more numbers after that dollar sign? Inevitably, a wise soul -- usually a parent -- tells you that no amount of money will solve your problems.

Of course, you respond, "Let me find out for myself."

If your annual income hovers around the national median of $40,690, you're in the company of millions of Americans. As gas prices, housing costs and other everyday expenses continue to creep up, earning more money isn't just some daydream you harbor in vain. It's a reasonable solution to financial woes and a good way to plan for your future.

To assist your search for financial bliss, we've put together the following list of jobs that earn twice as much as the national median income.

With salaries that fall anywhere between $80,000 and $89,999, here are some possible career opportunities for you as well as their expected growth rate.

1. Associate actuary

What they do: Most often employed by insurance agencies, actuaries use data to calculate the likelihood and expense of an event, such as death or illness, and help formulate an insurance policy based on their findings.
Annual mean income: $81,924*
Projected employment in 2016: 22,000**
Increase between 2006 and 2016: 24 percent

2. Attorney

What they do: Attorneys can choose to concentrate on a variety of specializations, which include tax law, criminal law, civil law, bankruptcy, environmental law and more.
Annual mean income: $88,235
Projected employment in 2016: 844,000
Increase between 2006 and 2016: 11 percent

3. Compensation and benefits manager

What they do: Compensation and benefits managers are human resources specialists who oversee compensation, insurance programs, performance reviews and hiring for their employers.
Annual mean income: $80,011
Projected employment in 2016: 55,000
Increase between 2006 and 2016: 12 percent
4. Economist

**What they do:** Economists study, analyze and project how individual people, firms, industries and governments spend money and use resources.

**Annual mean income:** $80,817

**Projected employment in 2016:** 16,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 7 percent

5. Floor broker

**What they do:** Floor brokers bargain with other brokers over the price of stocks. A sales agent then sells the securities or commodities to an investor for the negotiated price.

**Annual mean income:** $83,608

**Projected employment in 2016:** 399,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 25 percent

6. Marketing manager

**What they do:** Marketing managers calculate a need for their company's services in order to stay competitive with other businesses and satisfy customer demand.

**Annual mean income:** $86,283

**Projected employment in 2016:** 192,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 14 percent

7. Petroleum engineer

**What they do:** Petroleum engineers work with scientists and other specialists to drill for oil and natural gas using the most efficient methods possible. Their research helps them develop new procedures for drilling and find new locations of oil and gas reservoirs.

**Annual mean income:** $86,899

**Projected employment in 2016:** 18,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 5 percent

8. Pharmacist

**What they do:** Based on a doctor's prescription or a patient's needs, pharmacists dispense medication. Physicians and patients rely on pharmacists to answer questions about the necessary dosages and side effects of a medication.

**Annual mean income:** $88,786

**Projected employment in 2016:** 296,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 22 percent

9. Risk management supervisor

**What they do:** Organizations employ risk management supervisors to create and monitor insurance programs that address potential financial loss, property damage and legal issues that could arise.

**Annual mean income:** $85,655

**Projected employment in 2016:** 570,000***

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 13 percent

10. Veterinarian

**What they do:** Veterinarians provide health care for family pets, livestock and zoo animals. They provide check-ups, treat diseases and advise caretakers on how to best raise their animals.

**Annual mean income:** $80,069

**Projected employment in 2016:** 84,000

**Increase between 2006 and 2016:** 35 percent

---

* Annual mean income from CBSalary.com.
** Employment projections based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
***Based on BLS projections for all financial managers.

**COPYRIGHT CAREERBUILDER.COM 2009. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED, BROADCAST OR OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORITY**