



Jobs that make the world a worse place

Joel Garfinkle featured on:

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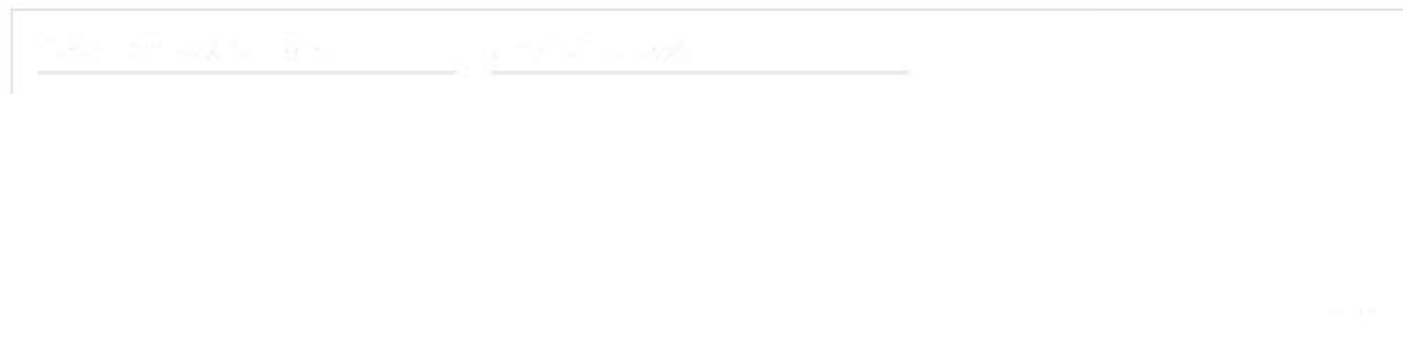
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Article Link: <http://money.cnn.com/gallery/pf/jobs/2012/10/18/worst-jobs/index.html>

NEXT: Fashion designer





Jobs that make the world a worse place

Fashion designer

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 4.9%

Does creating the latest fashions for the runway have a positive impact on the world? Some fashion designers say "no."

In fact, about 5% of designers say their job actually makes the world a worse place. Meanwhile, another 35% said their line of work isn't doing anything to improve the world either.

"A lot of people have issues with body image, and fashion designers can make that worse in a lot of ways," said PayScale's Bardaro. "[Some of them] are designing clothes for models that don't represent the typical woman's body ... so you have people with eating disorders and low confidence because they can't wear the clothes they see in a magazine."

Does your job make the world a worse place? Tell us about it by e-mailing blake.ellis@turner.com or tweeting [@CNNMoney](https://twitter.com/CNNMoney) using the hashtag [#worstjobs](https://twitter.com/worstjobs).



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

NEXT: Investment banking associate

Source: PayScale.com

Note: PayScale asked 32,000 employees whether their jobs make the world a better place. Respondents could answer "very much so," "yes," "a little," "no" or "my job makes the world a worse place."

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Jobs that make the world a worse place

Investment banking associate

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 4.6%

For some investment banking associates, the high pay that the career is known for isn't enough to make them feel good about what they're doing.

"A lot of [investment banking] is people making a lot of money from making a lot of money," said PayScale's Bardaro. "A small percentage of people involved see huge windfalls, but a lot of people [outside of the investment firm] don't see any benefit from it."

NEXT: Senior attorney

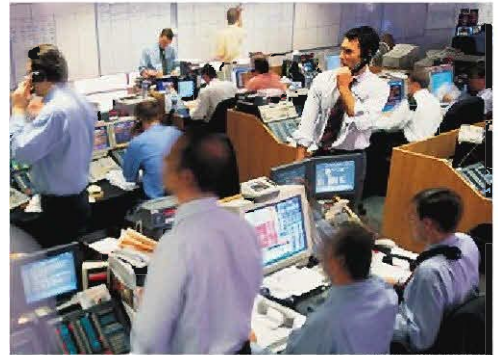


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Senior attorney

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 4.4%

While many lawyers have the opportunity to make the world a better place, there are always going to be some who fight for things they know are wrong.

"A defense attorney defending a wrongfully accused client has a noble cause to work toward, but what about when his client is guilty or when he has to defend his client company against consumers who have a rightful claim?" said career coach Garfinkle. "This sometimes moral gray area can lead to serious doubts about whether or not they are truly making the world a better place."

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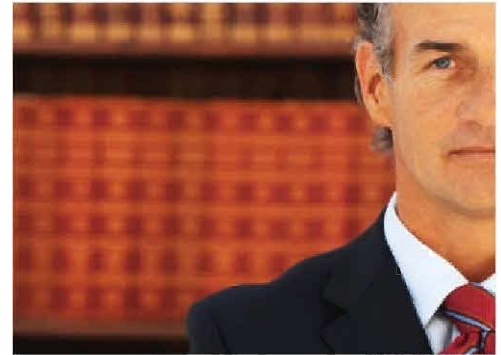


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NEXT: Credit/collections supervisor

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Jobs that make the world a worse place

Credit/collections supervisor

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 4.1%

Overseeing debt collectors is only a little less guilt-inducing than actually being the one who tracks down delinquent borrowers.

4.1% of supervisors say their jobs negatively affect the world around them, slightly lower than the 4.9% of collectors who felt that way about their job. Both professions had a higher response rate than the less than 1% of employees across all industries who believe they're making the world a worse place.

"In today's economy, [debt collectors] are dealing with a lot of people who can't make ends meet and going after them to get them to pay their bills," said PayScale's Bardaro. "Collections is just not a job that makes other people happy."



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

NEXT: Retail sales associate

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Jobs that make the world a worse place

Retail sales associate

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 3.7%

Whether it's selling the hottest new toys, electronic gadgets or furniture, some retail associates just don't think taking peoples' money all day long is doing much to improve the world around them.

And PayScale's Bardaro says she thinks those who work at clothing stores may have the hardest time seeing their contributions to the world.

"They're [often] trying to get people to spend a lot of money on really expensive clothes, and it's their job to tell them [the clothing] looks great and to try to get them to buy whatever they try on, even if meanwhile they think it looks crazy," said PayScale's Bardaro.

Nearly 4% of retail sales associates surveyed by PayScale believe their jobs are making the world a worse place, and 31% responded that their job isn't making the world better.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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NEXT: Legal assistant

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Legal assistant

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 3.4%

Just like lawyers who may be on the wrong side of a case, legal assistants can face moral dilemmas on their jobs as well.

"Some are assisting lawyers in cases either they know are not right or helping a lawyer defend a criminal they know is guilty," said PayScale's Bardaro. "There's a lot of opportunity to do good but also a fair amount of opportunity to do bad."

NEXT: Advertising account executive



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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Jobs that make the world a worse place

Advertising account executive

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 3.3%

The advertising industry is often criticized for distorting reality.

"There are a lot of images put out there in ads that aren't attainable," said PayScale's Bardaro. "[Advertisements] are putting things in peoples' minds like 'drink this drink and lose 10 pounds' and a lot of them are making promises that can't be kept."

As a result of this and other factors, 3.3% of ad executives feel their job makes the world a worse place. And a whopping 38.6% said they don't think they are making the world better. That's the second highest percentage of employees to respond this way, right behind fast food workers.

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NEXT: Claims adjuster

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Jobs that make the world a worse place

Claims adjuster

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 3.1%

Not only are claims adjusters constantly dealing with people in the aftermath of an accident, but sometimes they have to break the news to them that they owe money, too.

Their job is to evaluate insurance claims from customers who have been in a car accident or fire or who have experienced a theft and then determine how much of the bill the insurance company will cover -- if anything.

It can be a hard job, because when settling claims for customers, adjusters must also think of their own company's bottom line and try to minimize the amount their employer has to pay, said career coach Garfinkle.

"For those trying to walk that fine line between settlement dollar amount and their customer's needs, it can be a very stressful position," said Garfinkle.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

NEXT: Petroleum engineer

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Petroleum engineer

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Workers who say their job makes the world a worse place: 3.1%

Petroleum engineers rake in some of the biggest salaries in the country, with college grads averaging \$163,000 a year mid-career. But that doesn't make some of these workers feel any better about the detrimental impact their job may be having on the world.

"Most jobs [are considered to] make the world a worse place because of social factors, but petroleum engineering seems to get down to an environmental factor," said PayScale's Bardaro. "People in this career are trying to satisfy everyone's high demand for oil products, but at the same time they may think they're having a negative impact on the environment."

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