The engineering profession has always been a stable one. Society will always need engineers. Engineering is also still one of the most profitable professions and offers a quick return on your educational investment.

Some of the highest paying salaries straight out of college are in engineering or STEM-related fields. Research numbers from the past few years highlight how an engineering degree can propel a young person's future career.

BY CARLOS M. GONZÁLEZ

College Majors: The Highest Starting Wages

Median annual wages of college-educated workers by major group

\$50,000

Architecture and Engineering Computers, Statistics and Mathematics

Health Business Social Sciences

All Majors **Physical Sciences** Education

Law and Public Policy Communications and Journalism **Humanities and Liberal Arts** Agriculture and Natural Resources Biology and Life Sciences Psychology and Social Work Arts

and Recreation High School Graduate

Industrial Arts, Consumer Services

\$43,000 \$41,000 \$37,000 \$33,000 \$33,000 \$32,000 \$32,000 \$31,000 \$30,000 \$30,000

\$29,000 \$28,000 \$28,000 \$27,000

\$30,000

\$22,000

Source: Georgetown University

Starting Salaries for Engineering Majors

College Engineering Majors Median Starting Salary

\$96,544 Petroleum Engineering \$74,026 **Computer Engineering**

Chemical Engineering \$73,627

\$73,175 **Nuclear Engineering** \$71,659 **Electrical Engineering**

\$71,510 **Systems Engineering**

\$70,780 Aerospace & Aeronautical **Engineering**

\$69,587 **Materials Engineering**

Industrial Engineering \$67,547 \$67,385 **Mechanical Engineering**

Source: PayScale, 2019

The American Bachelor Degrees that Really Pay Off

Mid-career median pay by bachelor degree in 2019* **Petroleum Engineering** \$176,900

Electrical Engineering and \$142,200

Computer Science

Applied Economics and

\$140,000 Management

Operations Research \$137,100 Political Economy \$136,200

\$135,100 **Actuarial Mathematics Electrical Power Engineering** \$134,700

Business Analysis \$133,200 \$132,500 Pharmacy

\$131,600 **Aeronautics & Astronautics**

*Alumni with 10+ years of experience | Source: PayScale

U.S. Cities with the Most STEM Jobs

U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of STEM jobs in 2017 California-Lexington Park 24.8%

Maryland San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara

California Huntsville

15.7%

20.1%

Alabama Boulder

15.7%

Colorado

12.3%

Durham-Chapel Hill

North Carolina Washington-Arlington-Alexandria

11.7%

District of Columbia Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Washington

11.0%

Raleigh North Carolina Austin-Round Rock

10.8%

Texas Boston-Cambridge-Newton Massachusetts 10.6%

10.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 24/7 Wall Street