

BY THE NUMBERS: SUPERSTAR CITIES AND ME JOBS

Government statistics show where U.S. mechanical engineers work, and how much they earn.

While mechanical engineers can be found working in 435 metropolitan areas in the United States, more than one-quarter of all U.S. mechanical engineering jobs are found in just six metros: Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles-Anaheim, Boston, New York, and Houston.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks the location and wages earned by every job in the U.S., which it publishes online as part of the Occupational Employment Statistics dataset.

The statistics point to a “superstar cities” effect for engineering employment, with the top six and next 17 metro areas accounting for half of mechanical engineering jobs. MEs in those cities also earn higher wages, on average, than engineers in smaller places.

It’s true that the Anchorage, Alaska, metro area has the highest average wages—more than \$147,000 per year—but only around 250 mechanical engineers work there. According to the data, you’ll have better luck finding a job and getting a good salary in places where there are already a lot of other engineers.

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Metro Area Mechanical Engineering Salaries Compared to Concentration of Mechanical Engineering Jobs

