



# PAYING AMERICAN MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

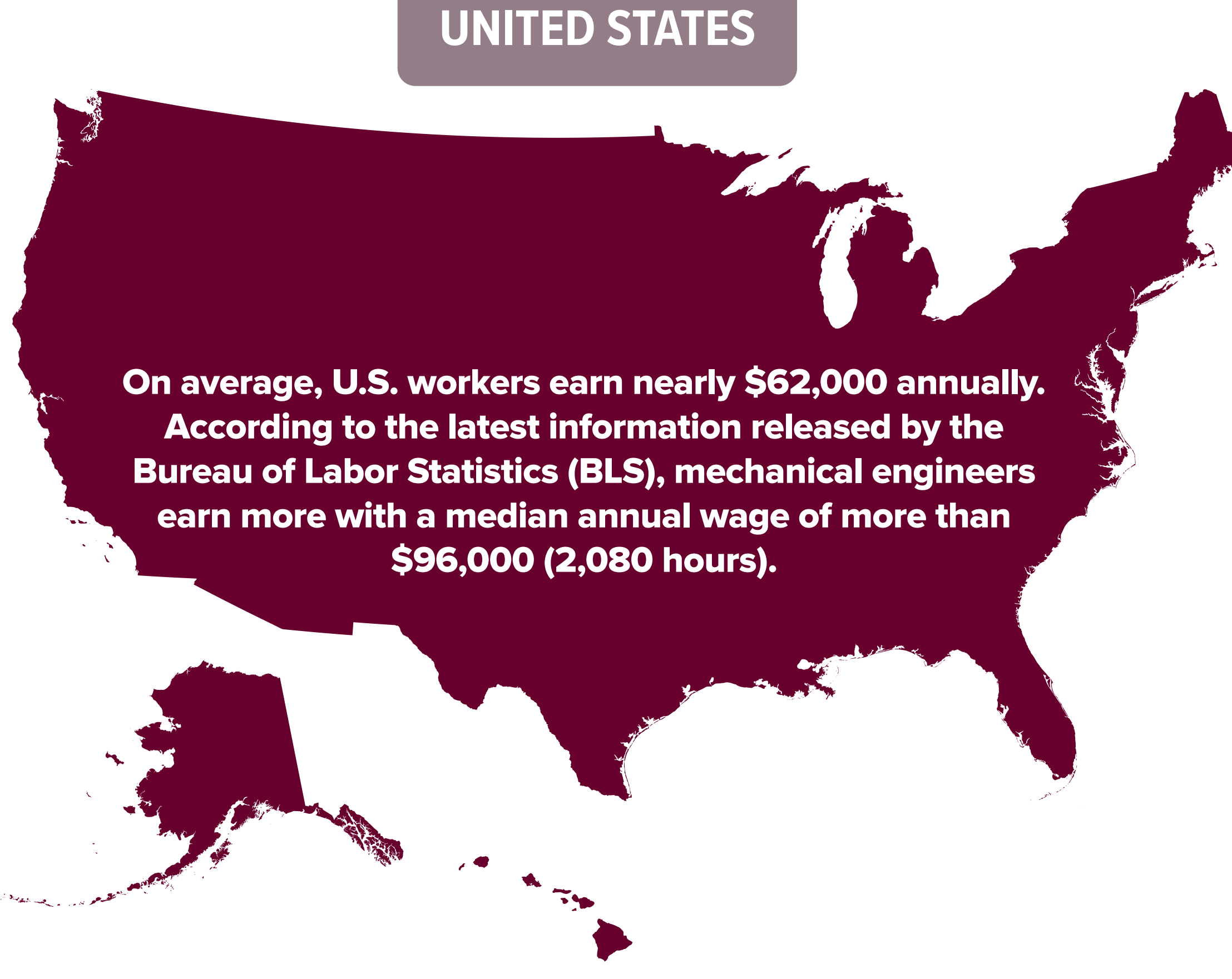
BY CATHY CECERE

How much mechanical engineers earn depends on the industry in which they work, their level of education and experience, as well as their responsibilities and talents. Where MEs work, however, may be the largest indicator of how much they receive in compensation.

Nearly 278,000 mechanical engineers are among the more than 119 million workers currently employed in the U.S. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the median yearly earnings of MEs stands above the national average. And more MEs work in federal, state, and local governments than any other industries.

Recent data from the BLS takes its numbers from the Current Population Survey, a national survey that asks about wages and salaries. Those in the oil and gas extraction industry earn more than in any other employing MEs. Yet, while looking at industry as an indicator of pay is helpful, where in the country an ME works is often a large contributor because of such conditions as a high cost of living and difficult recruitment.

## UNITED STATES



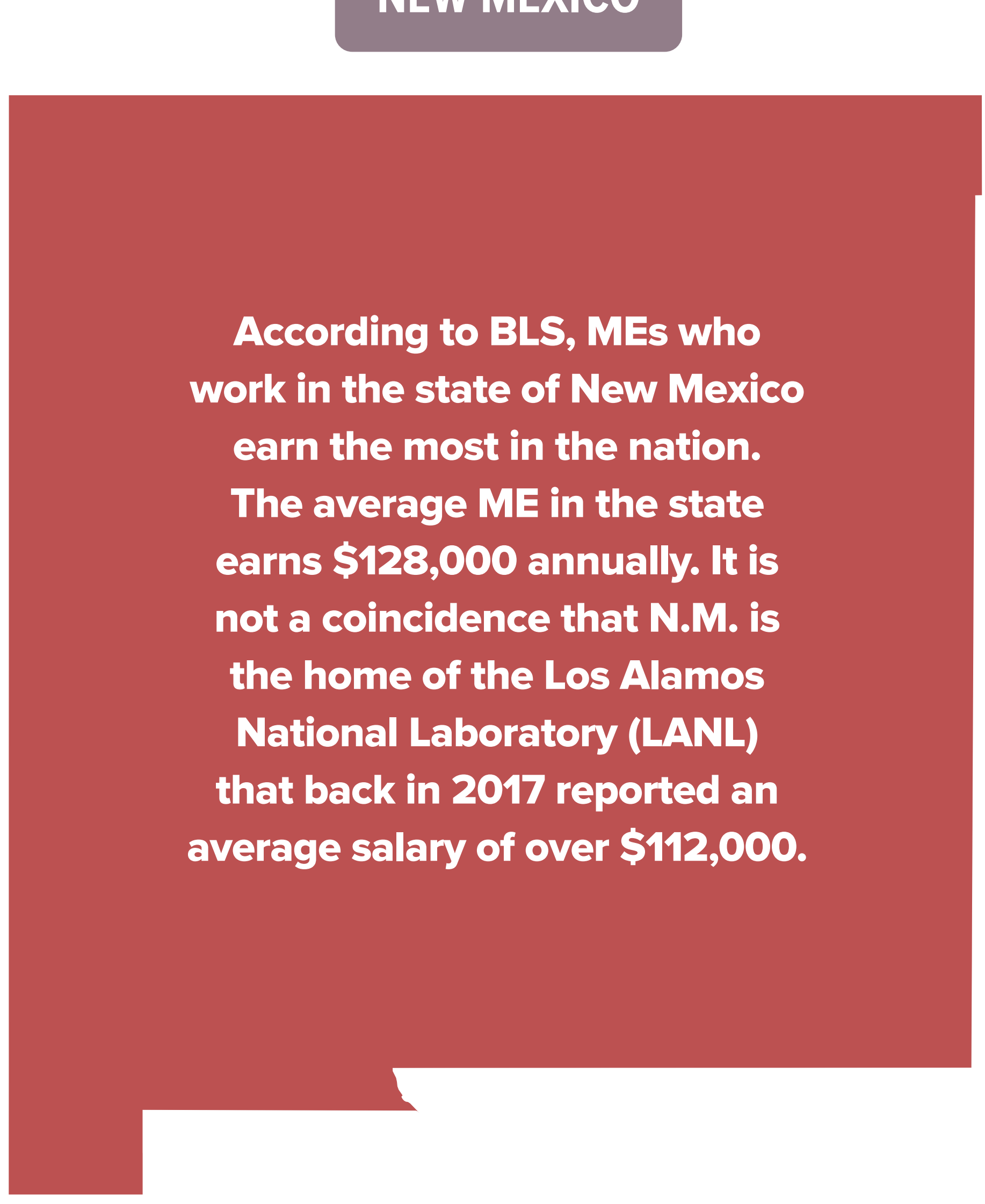
On average, U.S. workers earn nearly \$62,000 annually. According to the latest information released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), mechanical engineers earn more with a median annual wage of more than \$96,000 (2,080 hours).

## MICHIGAN




Michigan not only has the largest number of working mechanical engineers in the nation, but also tops the list of number of MEs per 1,000 people employed. Due in large part to Detroit's automotive industry, there are nearly 32,000 working MEs in the state.

## NEW MEXICO



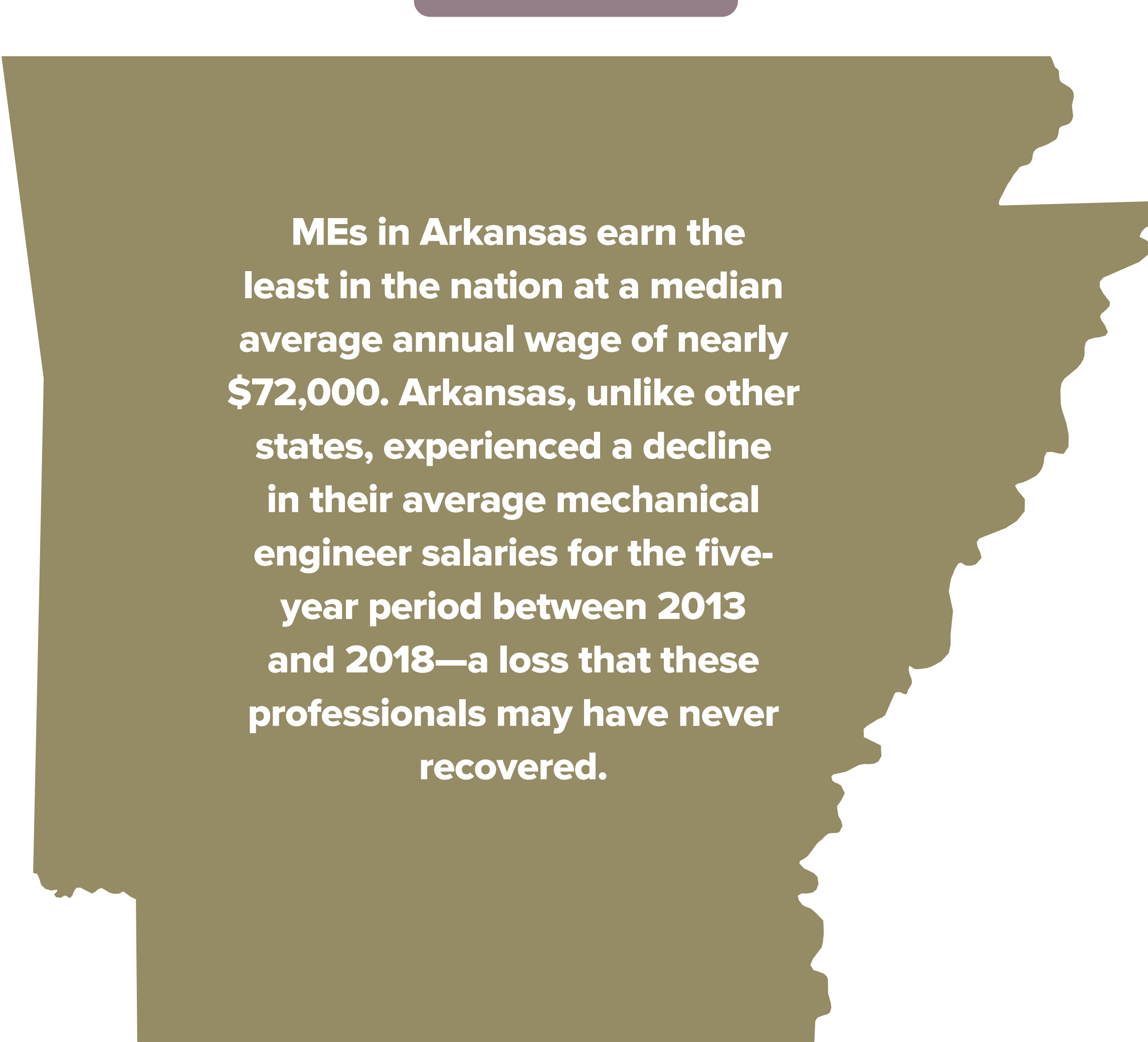
According to BLS, MEs who work in the state of New Mexico earn the most in the nation. The average ME in the state earns \$128,000 annually. It is not a coincidence that N.M. is the home of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) that back in 2017 reported an average salary of over \$112,000.

## ALASKA



It's Alaska that has the dubious distinction of having the least amount of MEs working within its borders. At last count, less than 300 MEs work in Alaska with engineering firms in Anchorage and Juneau proactively recruiting for onsite professionals.

## ARKANSAS



MEs in Arkansas earn the least in the nation at a median average annual wage of nearly \$72,000. Arkansas, unlike other states, experienced a decline in their average mechanical engineer salaries for the five-year period between 2013 and 2018—a loss that these professionals may have never recovered.

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