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 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. 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.

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.

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

According to BLS, MEs who work in the state of Maine earn the most in the nation. The average ME in Maine earns $68,000 annually. It is in Maine where the average ME in the state of Maine earns the most in the nation of all the states. That fact, which was first reported in 2017, has remained an average salary of over $114,000.

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