

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

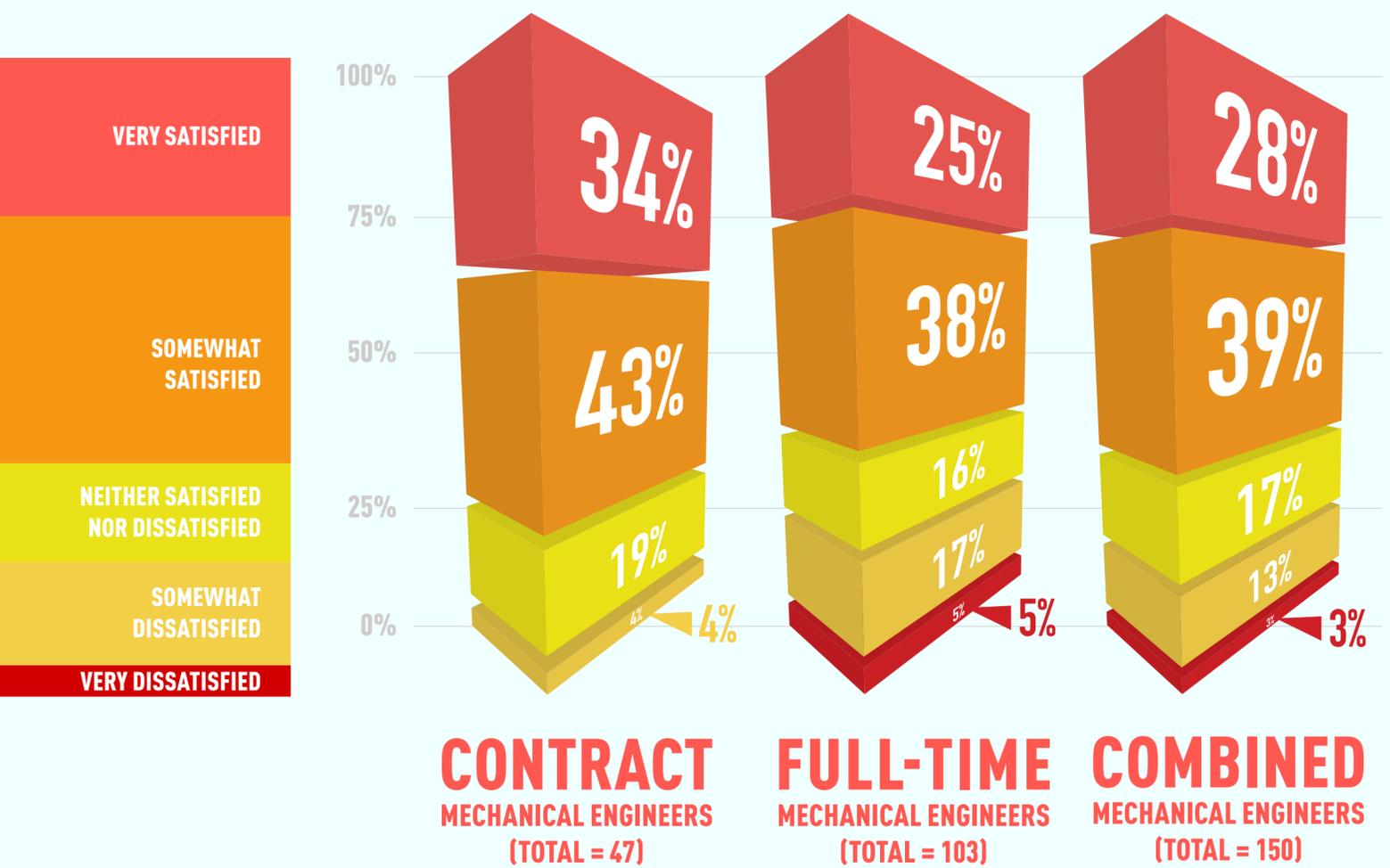
# HOW HAPPY ARE MECHANICAL ENGINEERS AT WORK?

Mechanical engineers are not struggling to find work but they also seem to be not very happy with their jobs and careers. A recent survey of mechanical engineers by recruiting firm Aerotek found large gaps in what they expect and what their managers provide. Six of the seven top factors MEs ranked as most important were those with the largest gaps between what they want and what they actually experience. Three conclusions stand out: MEs do not expect their manager to care about their career and most managers generally do not; They expect appropriate compensation and reasonable work hours, but that had little impact on satisfaction; Communication really does matter. Respondents want more transparency about performance, a manager's expectations and how the firm performs. Still, the survey found most MEs "somewhat satisfied" with their current jobs. Contract workers, however, reported a higher job satisfaction than full-time workers.

Based on the survey's results, Aerotek drilled further into 15 areas that respondents found most important, such as compensation, clear work expectations, reliable peers, and growth opportunities. It also drilled down into 13 industries to look for work. According to the firm, aerospace, aviation and automotive are the most popular industries for MEs. But opportunities abound in others. Heavy equipment manufacturing, for instance, has a median income for mechanical engineers of \$80,200. The research for each of the industries illustrates compensation, needs, and areas for growth. Aerotek compiled its research into an interactive micro website, [Overcoming Inertia, Propelling Mechanical Engineering Careers Forward](#).

By John Kosowatz

## OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT EMPLOYMENT



## A SIGNIFICANT GAP EXISTS BETWEEN WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO WORKERS AND WHAT THEY'RE RECEIVING

