**Mechanical Engineers Summary**

**What Mechanical Engineers do**

Mechanical engineers design, develop, build, and test mechanical and thermal sensors and devices, including tools, engines, and machines.

[**Work Environment**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-3)

Mechanical engineers generally work in offices. They may occasionally visit worksites where a problem or piece of equipment needs their personal attention. Mechanical engineers work mostly in engineering services, research and development, and manufacturing.

[**How to Become a Mechanical Engineer**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-4)

Mechanical engineers typically need a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technology. All states and the District of Columbia require mechanical engineers who sell services to the public to be licensed.

[**Pay**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-5)

The median annual wage for mechanical engineers was $85,880 in May 2017.

[**Job Outlook**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-6)

Employment of mechanical engineers is projected to grow 9 percent from 2016 to 2026, as fast as the average for all occupations. Job prospects may be best for those who stay abreast of the most recent advances in technology.

[**State & Area Data**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-7)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for mechanical engineers.

[**Similar Occupations**](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm#tab-8)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of mechanical engineers with similar occupations