2010 Engineering Salaries: AAES Tallies Industry Survey Results

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What's an engineer worth these days? The easy answer: It depends. How long did this engineer go to school? Is he/she a supervisor? Can we specify a particular engineering discipline? The combination of variables could be endless, but in the annual engineering salary survey conducted by the Engineering Workforce Commission (EWC) of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES), the focus is limited to certain key factors: degree and supervisory status, engineering discipline, years in the profession, geographic location, and size of employer. To sum up the report, an engineer's best bet for the highest salary is to have 35+ years experience and be a supervisor with a Ph.D. working in a small company in the Chicago Metropolitan area.

In this excerpt from the most recent EWC report, *Engineers' Salaries: Special Industry Report 2010*, Table I shows median salaries by discipline; Table II, salaries based on experience, supervisory responsibility, and level of education; and Table III, salaries based on experience and employer.

The EWC has been gathering information about engineering compensation since 1953. The data is gleaned from employers that agree to participate in the survey, with a goal of providing estimates of the most current salaries for all employed engineers. This summary provides some highlights of the 2010 report which reflects base salaries effective February 1, 2010. Employers from industry and government participated, representing 35,938 engineers. For the full report or to participate in the 2011 salary survey, visit the AAES website at AAES.org.

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Table I. Median Annual Salaries for Engineers by Discipline (in Dollars)

Discipline	Number of Years after B.S.					
	0	5	9-10	13-16	21-25	35+
Aerospace Engineers	—	—	85,888	98,995	113,964	122,618
Computer Engineers	—	82,998	95,284	104,767	122,364	120,332
Chemical Engineers	—	68,399	82,570	88,049	101,394	114,372
Civil Engineers	54,358	62,899	70,126	80,159	88,522	96,884
Electrical Engineers	—	72,787	83,626	93,909	106,243	106,725
Environmental Engineers	—	—	67,740	83,300	100,791	104,346
General Engineers	—	78,373	94,417	99,090	106,039	107,879
Industrial Engineers	—	73,094	85,571	91,517	105,562	105,510
Materials Engineers	—	—	83,369	96,392	114,658	129,635
Mechanical Engineers	57,790	73,414	84,965	95,587	108,099	119,967
Nuclear Engineers	—	—	—	92,833	99,817	121,900

Table II. Median Annual Salaries for Engineers Based on Experience, Supervisory Responsibility, and Level of Education (in Dollars)

Employer	Number of Years after B.S.					
	0	5	9-10	13-16	21-25	35+
Nonsupervisory						
B.S.	60,898	71,374	78,620	84,901	93,899	95,561
M.S.	—	82,616	91,789	96,922	101,838	103,519
Ph.D.	—	—	86,791	90,399	97,243	116,464
Supervisory						
B.S.	—	—	86,223	92,902	106,111	116,749
M.S.	—	114,221	115,969	121,844	129,071	114,150
Ph.D.	—	—	—	119,680	133,424	152,961

Table III. Median Annual Salaries for Engineers Based on Experience and Employer (in Dollars)

Employer	Number of Years after B.S.					
	0	5	9-10	13-16	21-25	35+
Architecture, Engineering, and Related Services	57,562	71,076	85,061	97,644	103,914	105,564
Primary Metal Manufacturing	—	—	—	84,660	88,826	104,327
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	—	—	71,071	75,909	84,219	82,298
Public Administration	51,765	60,731	69,436	79,484	86,497	84,927
Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	60,980	75,954	90,041	100,864	114,249	124,668
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	53,497	72,316	81,400	92,158	104,647	128,232
R&D Organizations	—	68,961	79,624	90,306	105,970	134,414
Utilities	61,400	70,157	75,177	86,132	101,880	110,007
Electric Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution	—	70,423	72,641	82,335	103,838	112,005
Mining	—	74,627	84,008	95,928	111,883	123,899
All Nonmanufacturing	52,245	65,267	73,742	83,016	90,437	99,471
All Manufacturing	63,365	75,849	88,595	98,958	109,767	112,374