



Finding an Estimate of **Annual Openings**:

Annual openings are often an estimate generated through local and state statistics as well as listed opening across several job seeker sites. Let's explore the resources we have to get a good idea of how common a specific occupation is in your area.

1. Go to the website, www.MyNextMove.org
2. Using the home screen of **MyNextMove**, (picture 1) enter your occupation in the green “**Search careers with key words**” feature. You may enter an occupation title or the occupation code.

(Picture 1)

MY NEXT MOVE

o-net in-IT

HOME SEARCH INDUSTRIES INTERESTS

What do you want to do for a living?

"I want to be a..."

Search careers with key words.

Describe your dream career in a few words:

Examples: doctor, build houses

Search

"I'll know it when I see it."

Browse careers by industry.

There are over 900 career options for you to look at. Find yours in one of these industries:

Administration & Support Services

Browse

"I'm not really sure."

Tell us what you like to do.

Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We'll suggest careers that match your interests and training.

Start

Still not sure? Check out careers in these groups:

BrightOutlook

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

Interests

Job Prep

*** FOR * VETERANS**

Are you a veteran looking for work?
My Next Move for Veterans helps you find a civilian career similar to your military job.

3. Click on the **“Search”** button.
4. A new screen displaying the occupation previously entered should appear at the top of the page following by a detailed description of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to be successful in this occupation. In the sample, (picture 2) the code 17-3027 for Mechanical Engineering Technician has been entered.

(Picture 2)

MY NEXT MOVE o-net In-It HOME SEARCH INDUSTRIES INTERESTS

Print Share

Mechanical Engineering Technicians

Also called: Engineering Lab Technician, Engineering Technician, Mechanical Designer, Research and Development Technician

What they do: Apply theory and principles of mechanical engineering to modify, develop, test, or calibrate machinery and equipment under direction of engineering staff or physical scientists.

On the job, you would:

- Read dials and meters to determine amperage, voltage, electrical output and input at specific operating temperature to analyze parts performance.
- Analyze test results in relation to design or rated specifications and test objectives, and modify or adjust equipment to meet specifications.
- Evaluate tool drawing designs by measuring drawing dimensions and comparing with original specifications for form and function using engineering skills.

KNOWLEDGE

Engineering and Technology

- mechanical
- product and service development

Math and Science

- arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, or statistics
- physics

Manufactured or Agricultural Goods

- manufacture and distribution of products

Arts and Humanities

- English language

SKILLS

Basic Skills

- listening to others, not interrupting, and asking good questions
- reading work related information

Problem Solving

- noticing a problem and figuring out the best way to solve it

ABILITIES

Verbal

- listen and understand what people say
- communicate by speaking

Ideas and Logic

- notice when problems happen
- use rules to solve problems

Hand and Finger Use

- put together small parts with your fingers
- keep your arm or hand steady

Math

- add, subtract, multiply, or divide

PERSONALITY

People interested in this work like activities that include **practical, hands-on** problems and solutions.

They do well at jobs that need:

- **Dependability**
- **Attention to Detail**
- **Cooperation**
- **Adaptability/Flexibility**
- **Analytical Thinking**
- **Stress Tolerance**

TECHNOLOGY

You might use software like this on the job:

Computer aided design CAD software 🔥

- Bentley MicroStation 🔥
- PTC Creo Parametric 🔥

Analytical or scientific software

- MSC Software Adams
- The MathWorks MATLAB 🔥

Industrial control software

- Computerized numerical control CNC programming software
- Robotic control software

EDUCATION

Get started on your career:

Find Training Find Certifications

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

JOB OUTLOOK

Below Average

New job opportunities are **less likely** in the future.

SALARY: \$54,480
per year, on average

Check out my state Local Salary Info Find Jobs

EXPLORE MORE

- Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, Including Health
- Non-Destructive Testing Specialists
- Precision Agriculture Technicians
- Radio Mechanics
- Surveying Technicians

You might like a career in one of these industries:

- Manufacturing
- Professional, Science, & Technical

5. Read the occupation description completely. Highlight or note any mastered areas due to past training or experience. Give to your Navigator.
6. Locate the “**Job Outlook**” feature (picture 3) in the bottom center of the window.

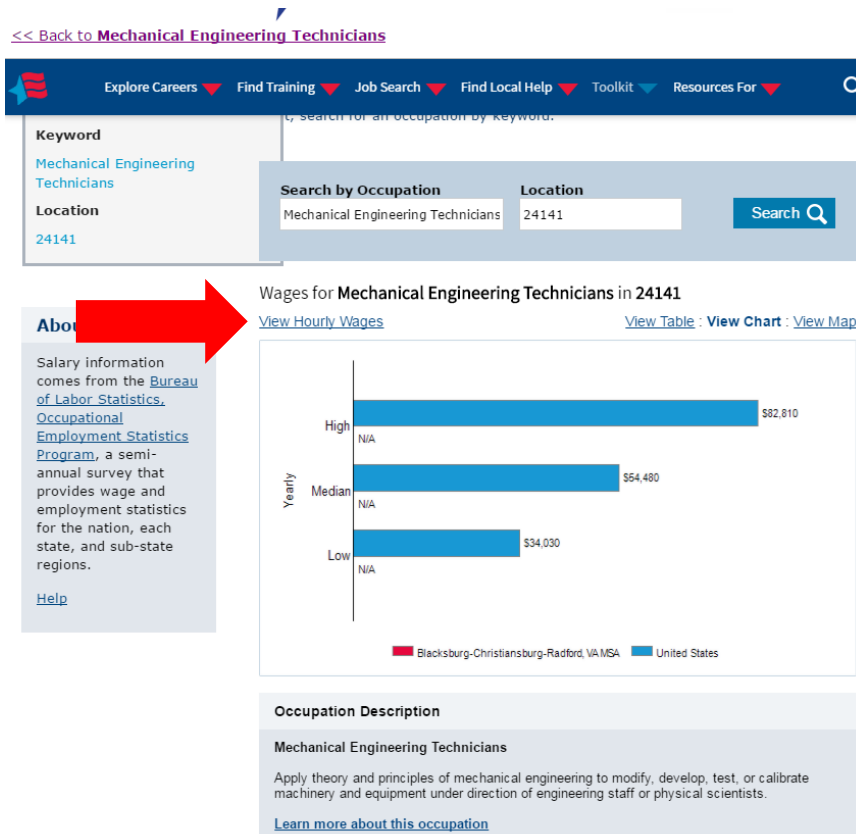
(Picture 3)



This feature shows, at a glance, the occupation’s expected growth or decline nationwide. This is represented through a sunshine icon meaning growth is anticipated, a partly cloudy icon meaning job frequency is expected to remain the same, and grey cloud icon meaning job frequency is expected to decline. The average annual national salary is also displayed. On most—but not all—occupations, users may search local and state salary information.

7. When available, select the “**Local Salary Info**” button in the “Job Outlook” feature. This selection will prompt you to enter a zip code. Enter your zip code. *(It is not necessary to also enter the state. If you enter a zip code, the system will accurately identify the state.)*
8. A wage table will populate the screen. You may select annual or hourly wage rates.

(Picture 4)



Blue bars always represent national averages, while red bars represent local salary information. If no red bar is displayed, that is an indication that no known jobs in this occupation are located within the provided zip code. Consider how far you are willing to travel and repeat your search with zip codes representing those areas.

Sometimes, more information is needed beyond the tool, MyNextMove. To continue your research of a specific occupation, use the **Bureau of Labor Statistics** website.

1. Go to <https://www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm>

----Or----

If you are still on the MyNextMove site, (picture 5) you may click on the hyperlink located in the left side bar of the wage graph, in the “About this data” box.

(Picture 5)

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options like 'Explore Careers', 'Find Training', 'Job Search', 'Find Local Help', 'Toolkit', and 'Resources For'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search for an occupation by keyword.' and a search button. The search results show 'Mechanical Engineering Technicians' with the location '24141'. Below the search results, there is a section titled 'Wages for Mechanical Engineering Technicians in 24141'. This section includes a bar chart showing wages for 'High', 'Median', and 'Low' categories. The 'High' category has a wage of \$82,810, the 'Median' category has a wage of \$54,480, and the 'Low' category has a wage of \$34,030. A red arrow points to the 'About this data' box on the left side of the chart, which contains text about the source of the salary information and a link to the 'Help' page.

| Category | Wage |
|----------|----------|
| High | \$82,810 |
| Median | \$54,480 |
| Low | \$34,030 |

2. Clicking on the MyNextMove hyperlink, or visiting the Bureau of Labor Statistics site should take you to the “**Occupational Employment Statistics**” page.
3. Locate the “**OES Data**” tab.
4. Click on the hyperlink, “**Occupational Profiles.**” (picture 6)
5. This will load a page that has a list of major groups. *It is useful to have the occupational code associated with the occupation you are searching. If you do not know the code, ask your Navigator to provide it OR return to MyNextMove, navigate to the knowledge, skills and abilities description page for your chosen occupation, and locate the hyperlink, “See more details at O’Net Online” at the very bottom of the description. This will load a summary page that provides the corresponding code immediately in front of the occupation title.*

(Picture 6)

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'A to Z Index', 'FAQs', 'About BLS', 'Contact Us', and 'Subs'. Below this is the 'BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS' logo and a search bar for 'Search BLS.gov'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Subjects', 'Data Tools', 'Publications', 'Economic Releases', 'Students', and 'Beta'. The main heading is 'Occupational Employment Statistics' with social media share icons. On the left, there is a 'BROWSE OES' menu with options like 'OES HOME', 'OES OVERVIEW', 'OES NEWS RELEASES', 'OES DATA', 'OES CHARTS', 'OES MAPS', 'OES PUBLICATIONS', 'OES DATABASES', 'OES FAQs', and 'CONTACT OES'. Below this is a 'SEARCH OES' box and 'OES TOPICS' including 'RESPONDENTS', 'DOCUMENTATION', 'SPECIAL NOTICES', and 'RELATED LINKS'. A 'NEW' badge is present above a 'Subscribe to the OES' button. The main content area is titled 'May 2016 Occupation Profiles' and lists 'Major groups' with a bulleted list of occupation codes and their corresponding hyperlinks, such as '00-0000 All Occupations', '11-0000 Management Occupations', and '17-0000 Architecture and Engineering Occupations'.

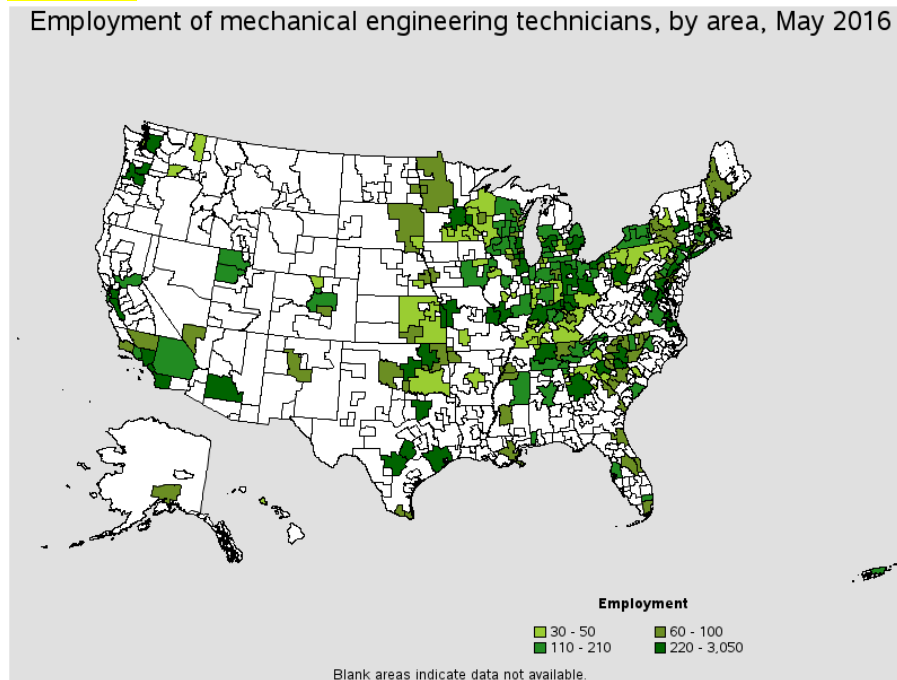
6. Use the first two numerals of your occupation code to select the major group. Click on the hyperlink.
7. The next page guides you to locate the specific occupation using the remaining 4-numerals in occupation code.

(Picture 7)

- 17-3019 [Drafters, All Other](#)
- 17-3020 Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters
 - 17-3021 [Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians](#)
 - 17-3022 [Civil Engineering Technicians](#)
 - 17-3023 [Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians](#)
 - 17-3024 [Electro-Mechanical Technicians](#)
 - 17-3025 [Environmental Engineering Technicians](#)
 - 17-3026 [Industrial Engineering Technicians](#)
 - 17-3027 [Mechanical Engineering Technicians](#)
 - 17-3029 [Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other](#)
- 17-3030 Surveying and Mapping Technicians
 - 17-3031 [Surveying and Mapping Technicians](#)

8. The page that loads should indicate that you are on the “**Occupational Employment and Wages**” page. Note key information at the top of this page which includes a date indicating the last time the information was updated, the occupation code, and the title of the occupation. Confirm that you have navigated to the correct occupation.
9. Scroll through the information until you locate a series of maps (picture 8). Each map is interactive and will provide additional statistics when you use the mouse to hover over a color-coded area.

(Picture 8)



Several maps provide state wide information, however there are **three maps** which represent areas within each state regarding: (1) employment of x by area, (2) location quotient by area [which is a ratio of the number of total employed individuals divided by the total of individuals employed in x occupation], and the (3) annual mean wage of x occupation by area. Hover over a colored area on each map and specific data (i.e. employment total, annual wage, number per 1000 employed in x occupation) will pop up in a side box.

10. Use this information to determine the availability of an occupation in a given area.

While neither of these search options provide a specific number of annual openings in a given area, both do provide an idea of the typical wage and frequency of x occupation in an area. Use this information to determine if a specific occupation is a good fit for your needs!

Overall goal of the Pathways’ Career Exploration Activity: To develop ownership of a career selection through informed decisions based on facts using knowledge of available occupations and businesses in areas. Plan your reasonable travel distances, be aware of typical wage rates, and anticipate competition for occupational opportunities.