# Job Pay and Prospects for Elizabethtown College Engineering & Physics Department Majors and Minors

Compiled 10/10/13
by J. Wundelich, PhD
Associate Professor of Engineering
Associate Chair, Department of Engineering & Physics

Source:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Type</th>
<th>2010 # of jobs</th>
<th>2020 # of jobs</th>
<th>%Change of # of jobs 2010-2020</th>
<th>2010 Median Pay Per year</th>
<th>Entry-Level Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All U.S. Occupations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All U.S. Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineer</td>
<td>243,200</td>
<td>264,600</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$78,160</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineer</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>164,700</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>$87,000</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Hardware Engineer</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>76,300</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$98,810</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developers</td>
<td>913,100</td>
<td>1,184,000</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$90,530</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>113,700</td>
<td>141,700</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$72,550</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Engineer</td>
<td>51,394</td>
<td>62,700</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$78,740</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Engineer</td>
<td>203,900</td>
<td>217,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$76,100</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicist</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>20,900</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$105,430</td>
<td>PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics Education (High School)</td>
<td>15% All HS Teachers</td>
<td>15% All HS Teachers</td>
<td>15% All HS Teachers</td>
<td>$53,230</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quick Facts: Mechanical Engineers

2010 Median Pay
$78,160 per year
$37.58 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Bachelor’s degree

Job Outlook

Employment of mechanical engineers is expected to grow 9 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Job prospects may be best for those who stay abreast of the most recent advances in technology. Mechanical engineers can work in many industries and on many types of projects. As a result, their growth rate will differ by the industries that employ them.

Mechanical engineers should experience demand in architectural, engineering, and related services as companies continue to hire temporary engineering services as a cost-cutting measure rather than keeping engineers on staff. Mechanical engineers will also be involved in various manufacturing industries—specifically, transportation equipment and machinery manufacturing. They will be needed to design the next generation of vehicles and vehicle systems, such as hybrid electric cars and clean diesel automobiles. Machinery will continue to be in demand as machines replace more expensive human labor in various industries. This phenomenon in turn should drive demand for mechanical engineers who design industrial machinery.

Mechanical engineers often work on the newest industrial pursuits. The fields of alternative energies, remanufacturing, and nanotechnology may offer new directions for occupational growth.

Alternative energy sources, such as solar panels, have become popular forms of clean energy, and mechanical engineers are instrumental in their design and manufacture.

Remanufacturing—rebuilding goods for use in a second life—holds promise because it reduces the cost of waste disposal for local governments. Training in remanufacturing may become common in mechanical engineering at colleges and universities.

Nanotechnology, which involves manipulating matter at the tiniest levels, may affect employment for mechanical engineers because they will be needed to design production projects based on this technology. Nanotechnology will be useful in areas such as designing more powerful computer chips.

Job Prospects

Although prospects for mechanical engineers overall are expected to be good, they will be best for those with training in the latest software tools, such as Advanced Visualization Process (AVP). AVP allows engineers and designers to take a project from the conceptual phase directly to a finished product, eliminating the need for prototypes.

Employment projections data for mechanical engineers, 2010–20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineers</td>
<td>17–2141</td>
<td>243,200</td>
<td>264,600</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment by Industry (NLS)

Pay

The median annual wage of mechanical engineers was $78,160 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $30,550, and the top 10 percent earned more than $119,480.

The median annual wages in selected industries employing mechanical engineers in May 2010 were as follows:

- Federal government, excluding postal service $91,910
- Research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences 88,190
- Aerospace product and parts manufacturing 83,870
- Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing 83,310
- Architectural, engineering, and related services 82,210

Mechanical Engineers

Median annual wages, May 2010

Engineers $83,340
Mechanical Engineers $78,160
Total, All Occupations $33,840

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Quick Facts: Electrical and Electronics Engineers

2010 Median Pay
$87,180 per year
$41.92 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Bachelor's degree

Job Outlook

Employment of electrical and electronics engineers is expected to grow 6 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Job growth is expected because of electrical and electronics engineers' versatility in developing and applying emerging technologies. On the other hand, employment growth will be tempered by the slow growth or decline of most manufacturing sectors in which they are employed.

Growth for electrical and electronics engineers will largely occur in engineering services firms, as more companies are expected to cut costs by contracting engineering services rather than directly employing engineers. These engineers will also experience job growth in computer systems design and wireless telecommunications as these industries continue to implement more powerful portable computing devices.

The rapid pace of technological innovation and development will likely drive demand for electrical and electronics engineers in research and development, where their expertise will be needed to develop distribution systems related to new technologies.

Pay

The median annual wage of electrical engineers was $84,540 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half of the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $54,030, and the top 10 percent earned more than $128,610.

The median annual wage of electronics engineers was $90,170 in May 2010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $57,860, and the top 10 percent earned more than $135,080.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of electrical engineers in May 2010 were as follows:

- Semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing: $92,070
- Scientific research and development services: $90,790
- Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing: $89,590
- Electric power generation, transmission, and distribution: $83,960
- Architectural, engineering, and related services: $83,750

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of electronics engineers, except computer, in May 2010 were as follows:

- Federal government, excluding postal service: $104,310
- Semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing: $93,610
- Architectural, engineering, and related services: $89,360
- Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing: $88,690
- Wired telecommunications carriers: $81,380
Elizabethtown College **BS Computer Engineering** is a mix of Computer Hardware Design, and Software Development

### Quick Facts: Computer Hardware Engineers

| 2010 Median Pay | $98,810 per year  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$47.50 per hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry-Level Education</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Job Outlook

Employment of computer hardware engineers is expected to increase 9 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. A limited number of engineers will be needed to meet the demand for new computer hardware because most of the innovation in computers now takes place with software rather than hardware. Although foreign competition in computer equipment will offset the growth of this occupation, this will be partially offset by the development of computer chips that are embedded in other electronics such as household appliances, medical devices, or automobiles.

Most job growth is expected to occur in computer consulting firms as manufacturers increasingly contract out the design of hardware. This will allow hardware engineers to work more closely with software developers when designing computer products.

### Job Prospects

Job applicants with a computer engineering degree from an ABET-accredited program will have better chances of finding a job. Engineers with a higher-level degree and knowledge or experience with computer software will have the best job prospects.

### Employment projections data for computer hardware engineers, 2010-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Hardware</td>
<td>17-2061</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>76,300</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Hardware</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**: All occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

**Source**: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

### Pay

The median annual wage of computer hardware engineers was $98,810 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $61,360, and the top 10 percent earned more than $147,890.

The following table shows the median annual wages of computer hardware engineers in the occupation’s top employing industries:

- **Federal government** $102,950
- **Computer and electronic product manufacturing** $101,320
- **Computer systems design and related services** $98,860
- **Scientific research and development services** $92,080

**Note**: All occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.


Most computer hardware engineers work full time. However, over a quarter work more than 40 hours per week.
Quick Facts: Software Developers

2010 Median Pay
$90,530 per year
$43.52 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Bachelor’s degree

Job Outlook

Employment of software developers is projected to grow 30 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment of applications developers is projected to grow 26 percent, and employment of systems developers is projected to grow 23 percent.

The main reason for the rapid growth is a large increase in the demand for computer software. Mobile technology requires new applications. Also, the healthcare industry is greatly increasing its use of computer systems and applications. Finally, concerns over cybersecurity should result in more investment in security software to protect computer networks and electronic infrastructure.

Systems developers should see new opportunities because of an increase in the number of products that use software. For example, computer systems are built into consumer electronics, such as cell phones, and into other products that are now computerized, such as appliances. An increase in software offered over the Internet should lower costs and allow more customization for businesses, also increasing demand for software developers.

Some outsourcing to foreign countries with lower wages may occur. However, because software developers should be close to their customers, the offshoring of this occupation is expected to be limited.

Job Prospects

Job prospects will be best for applicants with knowledge of the most up-to-date programming tools and languages. Consulting opportunities for software developers also should be good as businesses seek help to manage, upgrade, and customize their increasingly complicated computer systems.

Employment projections data for software developers, 2010-20

Pay

The median annual wage of applications developers was $87,790 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than the amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $54,360, and the top 10 percent earned more than $133,110. The median annual wage of systems developers was $94,180 in May 2010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $61,040, and the top 10 percent earned more than $143,330.

Most software developers work full time, and long hours are common. Nearly one-fourth worked more than 40 hours per week in 2010.
Elizabethtown College BS Engineering, Sustainable Design concentration is a mix of Architecture and Environmental Engineering.

### Quick Facts: Architects

| 2010 Median Pay | $72,550 per year  
|                 | $34.88 per hour  
| Entry-Level Education | Bachelor's degree |

### Job Outlook

Employment of architects is projected to grow 24 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations.

Current demographic trends will result in a greater need for architects. As campus buildings age, many school districts and universities will build new facilities or renovate existing ones. The population of sunbelt states continues to grow, and residents will need new places to live and work. As the population continues to live longer and baby boomers retire, there will be a need for more healthcare facilities, nursing homes, and retirement communities.

There should be demand for architects with knowledge of green design, also called sustainable design. Sustainable design emphasizes the efficient use of resources, such as energy and water conservation; waste and pollution reduction; and environmentally friendly design, specifications, and materials. Rising energy costs and increased concern about the environment have led to many new buildings being built green.

During the construction boom, some architecture firms outsourced the drafting of construction documents and basic design for large-scale commercial and residential projects to architecture firms overseas. Recently, however, this trend of outsourcing overseas has slowed considerably.

### Job Prospects

With a growing number of students graduating with architectural degrees, applicants will experience competition for jobs. Competition for jobs will be especially strong at the most prestigious architectural firms. Although those who have completed internships will have an advantage, the best job opportunities will be for candidates who can distinguish themselves with their creativity.

Employment of architects is strongly tied to the activity of the construction industry. Therefore, these workers, especially the self-employed, may experience periods of unemployment when the overall level of construction falls.

### Employment projections data for architects, 2010–20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architects, Except Landscape and Naval</td>
<td>17-1011</td>
<td>113,700</td>
<td>141,600</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27.900</td>
<td>[CLS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Pay

The median annual wage of architects was $72,550 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $42,860, and the top 10 percent earned more than $119,500.

Earnings of partners in established architectural firms may fluctuate because of changing business conditions. Some architects have difficulty establishing their own practice and may go through a period when their expenses are greater than their income, requiring substantial financial resources.

Many firms pay tuition and fees toward continuing education requirements for their employees.

Nearly all architects work full time. Many work more than 50 hours per week. Working evenings and weekends is often necessary to meet deadlines.
Quick Facts: Environmental Engineers

2010 Median Pay
$78,740 per year
$37.86 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Bachelor's degree

Job Outlook

Employment of environmental engineers is projected to grow 22 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations.

State and local governments’ concerns about water are leading to efforts to increase the efficiency of water use. This focus differs from that of wastewater treatment, for which this occupation is traditionally known.

The requirement by the federal government to clean up contaminated sites is expected to help sustain demand for these engineers’ services. Additionally, wastewater treatment is becoming a larger concern in areas of the country where new methods of drilling for shale gas require the use and disposal of massive volumes of water. Environmental engineers will continue to be needed to help utilities and water treatment plants comply with any new federal or state environmental regulations.

All levels of government must comply with environmental regulations, especially federal. Because of this, employment of environmental engineers within the government sector as a whole should remain relatively stable through the year 2020.

Employment projections data for environmental engineers, 2010–20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Engineers</td>
<td>17-2081</td>
<td>51,400</td>
<td>62,700</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Pay

The median annual wage of environmental engineers was $78,740 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $40,980, and the top 10 percent earned more than $119,060.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of environmental engineers in May 2010 were the following:

- Federal government, excluding postal service: $100,270
- Architectural, engineering, and related services: 78,450
- Local government, excluding education and hospitals: 75,280
- Management, scientific, and technical consulting services: 74,940
- State government, excluding education and hospitals: 69,050

Most environmental engineers work full time. Those who manage projects often work more than 40 hours per week.
Quick Facts: Industrial Engineers

2010 Median Pay
$76,100 per year
$36.59 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Bachelor’s degree

Job Outlook

Employment of industrial engineers is expected to grow 5 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. This occupation is versatile both in the nature of the work it does and in the industries in which its expertise can be put to use. In addition, because industrial engineers’ work can help with cost control by increasing efficiency, these engineers are attractive to employers in most industries, including nonprofits.

Because they are not as specialized as other engineers, industrial engineers are employed in a wide range of industries, including major manufacturing industries, hospitals, consulting and engineering services, and research and development firms. This versatility arises from the fact that these engineers’ expertise focuses on reducing internal costs, making their work valuable even for the fastest growing industries. However, growth will be tempered since many are employed in manufacturing industries that are projected to be declining or slow growing.

Their versatility allows industrial engineers to engage in activities that are useful to a variety of businesses, governments, and nonprofits. Industrial engineers engage in supply chain management to help businesses minimize inventory costs, in quality assurance to help businesses keep their customer bases satisfied, and in the growing field of project management as industries across the economy seek to control costs and maximize efficiencies.

Employment projections data for industrial engineers, 2010-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Engineers</td>
<td>17-2112</td>
<td>103,700</td>
<td>117,000</td>
<td>6,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Pay

The median annual wage of industrial engineers was $76,100 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half of the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $49,700, and the top 10 percent earned more than $112,830.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of industrial engineers in May 2010 were as follows:

- Semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing: $83,620
- Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments manufacturing: $81,850
- Architectural, engineering, and related services: $80,990
- Aerospace product and parts manufacturing: $80,940
- Motor vehicle parts manufacturing: $72,840

Industrial Engineers
Median annual wages, May 2010

- Engineers: $83,340
- Industrial Engineers: $76,100
- Total, All Occupations: $33,840

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Quick Facts: Physicists and Astronomers

2010 Median Pay
$105,430 per year
$50.69 per hour

Entry-Level Education
Doctoral or professional degree

Job Outlook

Employment of physicists and astronomers is expected to increase by 14 percent from 2010 to 2020, as fast as the average for all occupations.

Expected growth in federal government spending for physics and astronomy research should increase the need for physicists and astronomers, especially at colleges and universities and national laboratories.

Federal spending is the primary source of physics- and astronomy-related research funds, especially for basic research. Additional federal funding for energy and for advanced manufacturing research is expected to increase the need for physicists. Funding growth for astronomy research is expected to be smaller because of the limited applications of work in astronomy.

Declines in basic research are expected to be offset by growth in applied research in private industry. People with a physics background will continue to be in demand in medicine, information technology, communications technology, semiconductor technology, and other applied research-and-development fields.

Job Prospects

Competition for permanent research appointments, such as those at colleges and universities, is expected to be strong. Increasingly, those with a Ph.D. need to work through multiple postdoctoral appointments before finding a permanent position. In addition, the number of research proposals submitted for funding has been growing faster than the amount of funds available, causing more competition for research grants.

Despite competition for traditional research jobs, prospects should be good for physicists in applied research, development, and related technical fields. Graduates with any academic degree in physics or astronomy, from bachelor’s degree to doctorate, will find their knowledge of science and mathematics useful for entry into many other occupations.

A large part of physics and astronomy research depends on federal funds, so federal budgets have a large impact on job prospects from year to year. This is especially true for astronomers, who are more likely than physicists to depend on federal funding for their work.

Employment projections data for physicists and astronomers, 2010-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomers and Physicists</td>
<td>19-2010</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomers</td>
<td>19-2011</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicists</td>
<td>19-2012</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>20,900</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Pay

The median annual wage of physicists was $106,370 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $50,850, and the top 10 percent earned at least $166,400.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of physicists in May 2010 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
<td>$151,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, scientific, and technical services</td>
<td>132,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal government, excluding postal service</td>
<td>112,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences</td>
<td>102,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges, universities, and professional schools</td>
<td>80,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The median annual wage for astronomers was $87,260 in May 2010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $48,710, and the top 10 percent earned more than $155,480.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of astronomers in May 2010 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal government, excluding postal service</td>
<td>$137,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences</td>
<td>92,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges, universities, and professional schools; state, local, and private</td>
<td>64,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quick Facts: High School Teachers

**2010 Median Pay** $53,230 per year

**Entry-Level Education** Bachelor’s degree

---

**Job Outlook**

Employment of high school teachers is expected to grow by 7 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the average for all occupations. Overall growth is expected because of declines in student-to-teacher ratios and increases in enrollment. However, employment growth will vary by region.

From 2010 to 2020, the student-to-teacher ratio is expected to decline. The student-to-teacher ratio is the number of students for each teacher in school. When this ratio declines, each teacher is responsible for fewer students, so more teachers are required to instruct the same number of students. The expected decline in the student-to-teacher ratio will increase demand for high school teachers.

Over the projections period, the number of students in high schools is expected to increase, and the number of classes needed to accommodate these students will also rise. As a result, more teachers will be required to teach these additional classes of high school students.

However, enrollment growth in high school is expected to be slower than enrollment growth in other grades. Therefore, employment of high school teachers is expected to grow more slowly than that of other education occupations.

Although overall student enrollment is expected to grow, there will be variation by region. Enrollment is expected to grow fastest in the South and West. In the Midwest, enrollment is expected to hold steady, but the Northeast is projected to have declines. As a result, employment growth for high school teachers is expected to be faster in the South and West than in the Midwest and Northeast.

Despite expected increases in enrollment, however, employment growth for public high school teachers will depend on state and local government budgets. When state and local governments experience budget deficits, school boards may lay off employees, including teachers. As a result, employment growth of high school teachers may be reduced by state and local government budget deficits.

**Job Prospects**

From 2010 to 2020, a significant number of older teachers is expected to reach retirement age. These retirements will create job openings for new teachers.

In addition to overall openings, many schools report having difficulty filling teaching positions for certain subjects, including math, science (especially chemistry and physics), English as a second language, and special education. As a result, teachers with education or certifications to teach these specialties should have better job prospects. For more information about high school special education teachers, see the profile on special education teachers.

There is significant variation by region of the country and school setting. Opportunities should be better in the South and West, which are expected to experience rapid enrollment growth. Furthermore, opportunities should be better in urban and rural school districts than in suburban school districts.

**Employment Projections Data for High School Teachers, 2010-20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education</td>
<td>25-2031</td>
<td>1,037,600</td>
<td>1,109,500</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pay**

The median annual wage of high school teachers was $53,230 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $35,020, and the top 10 percent earned more than $83,230.

High school teachers generally work school hours, which vary somewhat. However, they often spend time in the evenings and on weekends grading papers and preparing lessons. In addition, they may meet with parents, students, and other teachers before and after school. Plus, teachers who coach sports or advise clubs generally do so before or after school.

Many work the traditional 10-month school year, with a 2-month break during the summer. Although most do not teach during the summer, some teach in summer programs. Teachers in districts with a year-round schedule typically work 6 weeks in a row, are on break for 1 week, and have a 3-week midwinter break.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Teachers</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage, May 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Teachers</td>
<td>$53,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Training, and Library Occupations</td>
<td>$45,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, All Occupations</td>
<td>$33,840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.**