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Augusta Among Best Cities for Engineering Jobs in the Nation

Augusta has been named as one of the best places in the United States for engineers, according to a San Francisco based consumer and financial organization.

NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy website, recently conducted a study to identify the best places for engineers in the U.S. – and Augusta ranked #14 in the Top Twenty.

NerdWallet created this list by analyzing the concentrations and income levels of engineering industries in 350 metros across the United States. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the United States Census American Community Survey, NerdWallet crunched the numbers to assess three key factors, including (1) Engineers per 1,000 total jobs, (2) Annual mean wage for engineering jobs, and (3) Median gross rent.

The Augusta-Richmond County metropolitan statistical area was ranked the 14th best place for engineers nationwide as a result of its strong scores in affordability and

density of engineering talent. The city is home to 19.8 engineers per 1,000 employees – compared to the national average of 12 – and the median engineering salary here is \$91,317. The area’s median gross rent is \$774, making Augusta an affordable place for engineers to live.

NerdWallet considers income levels and industry size. Other metros that made the top 20 include Warner-Robins, GA and Greenville, SC.

Rank	Metro area	State	Engineers per 1,000 employees	Mean engineering salary	Median gross rent	Overall score
1	Huntsville	AL	60.771	\$102,766.07	\$725	85.06
2	Warner Robins	GA	38.947	\$86,386.73	\$805	60.36
3	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville	FL	33.874	\$93,725.15	\$876	56.57
4	Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills	MI	34.038	\$87,001.51	\$829	55.89
5	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara	CA	44.877	\$119,709.53	\$1,640	55.53
6	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	TX	21.859	\$122,970.20	\$886	54.60
7	Midland	TX	20.441	\$141,628.76	\$1,088	54.05
8	Decatur	AL	20.249	\$96,229.35	\$589	52.52
9	Kennewick-Pasco-Richland	WA	23.334	\$103,604.13	\$833	51.57
10	Dayton	OH	21.298	\$91,479.78	\$733	48.74
11	Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin	FL	27.435	\$91,842.71	\$966	48.60
12	Wichita	KS	20.264	\$88,884.22	\$705	47.78
13	Boulder	CO	27.49	\$103,956.35	\$1,168	47.42
14	Augusta-Richmond County	GA-SC	19.763	\$91,317.06	\$774	46.47
15	Greenville-Mauldin-Easley	SC	19.437	\$84,884.96	\$715	45.73
16	Fort Collins-Loveland	CO	22.946	\$95,661.27	\$986	45.47
17	Baton Rouge	LA	16.629	\$96,510.02	\$777	45.25
18	Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford	MA-NH	27.676	\$98,716.18	\$1,207	45.20
19	Bakersfield-Delano	CA	16.239	\$106,337.52	\$894	45.02
20	Beaumont-Port Arthur	TX	12.206	\$102,826.63	\$716	44.75

Methodology

The overall score for each of the metro areas was calculated using the following measures:

1. **Engineers per 1,000 total jobs (50% of each overall score).** Data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2013 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.
2. **Annual mean wage for engineering jobs (25% of each overall score).** Data is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2013 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.
3. **Median gross rent for each place (25% of each overall score).** Data is from the 2013 [U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey](#).

This study analyzed 350 of the largest metro areas in the U.S.

We considered the following engineering fields, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the data: aerospace, biomedical, chemical, civil, computer hardware, electrical, electronics, environmental, health and safety engineers, industrial, marine engineers and naval architects, materials, mechanical, mining and geological engineers and all other engineers.

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About NerdWallet

NerdWallet is a consumer-friendly financial literacy website that helps consumers make better financial decisions and save money on CD rates, checking accounts, credit cards and more. NerdWallet has been featured in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Reuters; our products have been recommended by consumer advocates Liz Weston, Clark Howard and Consumer Action.

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