

# 2024 Civil Engineering Salary Report

The 2024 Civil Engineering Salary Report provides a comprehensive analysis of projected salaries for civil engineers across the United States. Building on data collected in 2023 and 2024, this report offers insights into how factors such as education, experience, specialization, and location impact earning potential in the field. With a 5% overall increase, the smallest growth in three years, the report indicates potential market stabilization while highlighting the continued value of advanced degrees, experience, and professional certification in maximizing earnings.



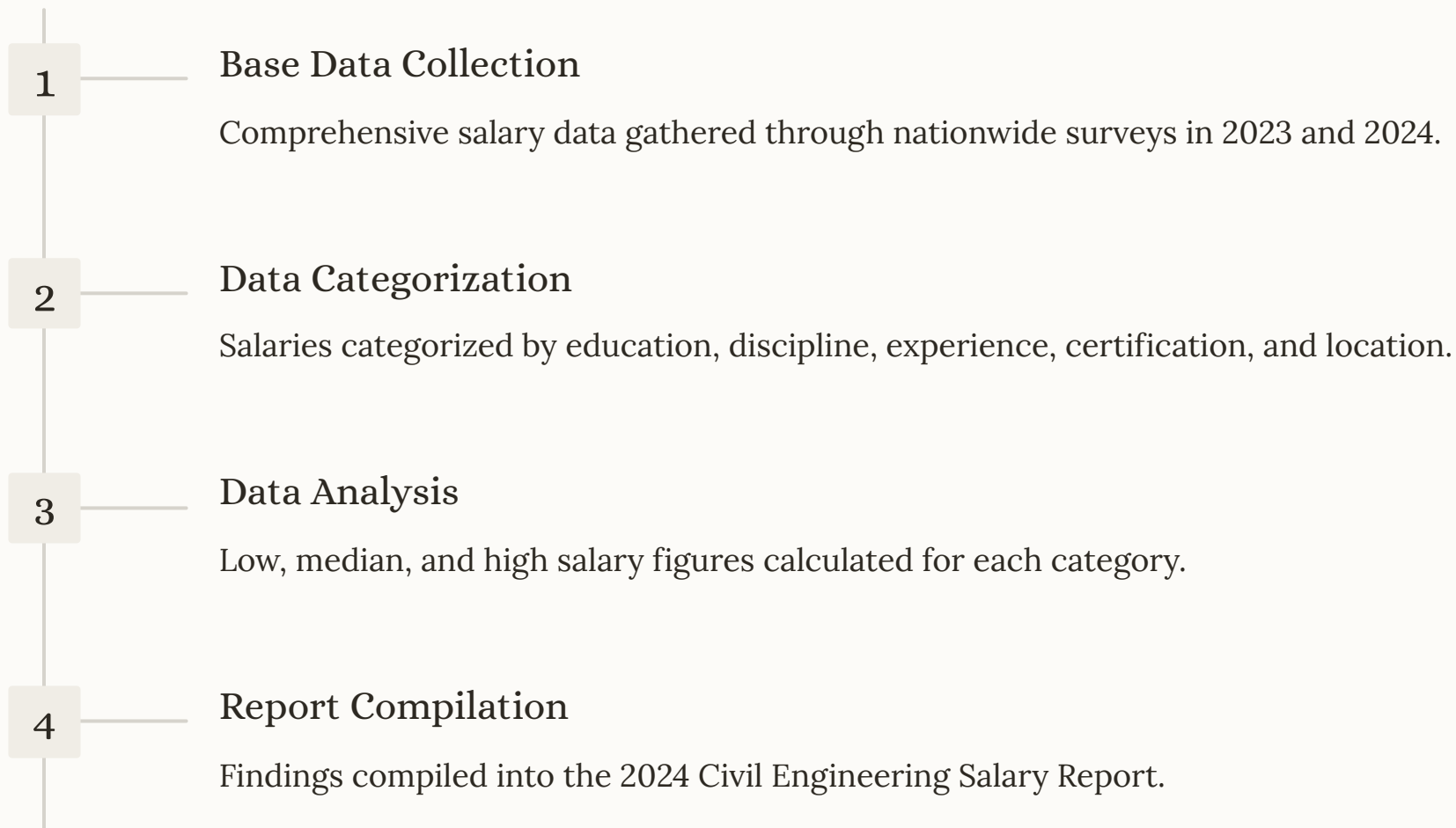
by Jake Webb



# Introduction and Methodology

The 2024 Civil Engineering Salary Report is based on comprehensive salary data collected through nationwide surveys in 2023 and 2024. Salaries are categorized by education level, discipline, years of experience, professional certification, and geographic location, presenting low, median, and high figures for each category.

Key considerations include the 5% increase representing the smallest growth in three years, potentially indicating market stabilization. While providing general trends, individual salaries may vary based on specific job responsibilities, company size, and individual performance. Users should consider this report as a general guide rather than an absolute benchmark.



# Salary by Education Level

Education plays a crucial role in determining earning potential within civil engineering. Bachelor's degree holders have a median salary of \$78,750, while Master's degree holders earn 20% more with a median of \$94,500. Ph.D. holders command the highest salaries, with a median of \$115,500, 46.7% higher than Bachelor's degree holders.

The salary premium for advanced degrees underscores the value of continued education in the field. However, professionals should weigh the cost and time investment of additional education against potential salary increases and career advancement opportunities.

Education Level	Low Salary	Median Salary	High Salary
Bachelor's	\$57,750	\$78,750	\$126,000
Master's	\$68,250	\$94,500	\$157,500
Ph.D.	\$84,000	\$115,500	\$189,000

# Salary by Discipline

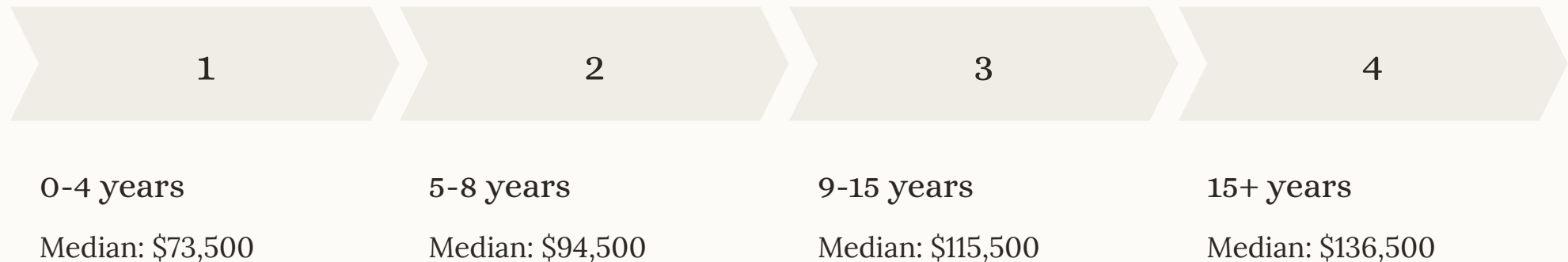
Civil engineering encompasses various specialized disciplines, each with its own salary range reflecting market demand and specialized skills. Energy/Power maintains the highest median salary at \$104,475, followed by Water at \$95,550. Structural engineering offers the highest potential earnings, reaching up to \$304,500. Environmental and Land Development also show strong salary potential, likely due to increasing focus on sustainability and variability in project scales.

Energy/Power	Environmental	Structural	Water
Median salary: \$104,475	Median salary: \$98,175	Median Salary: \$94,500	Median Salary: \$96,550
Range: \$56,700 - \$217,350	Range: \$58,800 - \$227,850	Range: \$51,324-304,500	Range: \$68,250-262,500

# Salary by Experience

Years of experience significantly impact earning potential in civil engineering. Entry-level positions (0-4 years) offer a median salary of \$73,500, while those with 5-8 years of experience see a 28.6% increase to \$94,500. Experienced professionals (9-15 years) earn a median of \$115,500, 57.1% higher than entry-level. Senior-level engineers (15+ years) command the highest salaries, with a median of \$136,500, 85.7% higher than entry-level positions.

This steady increase underscores the value of longevity and accumulated expertise in the field, highlighting the potential for significant career growth over time.



# Salary by Professional Certification (PE)

Professional Engineering (PE) certification continues to be a significant factor in salary determination. Entry-level or in-progress engineers have a median salary of \$78,750. Professional Engineers (PE) see a substantial boost with a median of \$120,750, 53.3% higher than entry-level positions. Senior-level or Specialized License holders command the highest salaries, with a median of \$168,000, more than double that of entry-level positions.

These figures underscore the significant value of obtaining and maintaining professional engineering licenses, both for immediate salary increases and long-term career advancement.



## Entry-level

Median: \$78,750



## PE Certified

Median: \$120,750



## Senior/Specialized

Median: \$168,000



# Salary by State

Geographic location plays a crucial role in salary determination for civil engineers. Alaska (\$124,950), California (\$123,900), and Hawaii (\$122,430) lead the nation with the highest median salaries, likely due to higher costs of living and specific engineering demands. Mississippi (\$79,538), Delaware (\$75,600), and Arkansas (\$88,200) have the lowest median salaries, possibly reflecting lower costs of living and different economic conditions.

States like California, Texas, and New York offer the highest potential salaries, reaching up to \$262,500 annually. These geographic variations highlight the importance of considering location in career decisions, while also factoring in cost of living and quality of life considerations.

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## Highest Median Salaries

Alaska: \$124,950, California: \$123,900, Hawaii: \$122,430

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## Lowest Median Salaries

Mississippi: \$79,538, Delaware: \$75,600, Arkansas: \$88,200

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## Highest Potential Salaries

California, Texas, New York: Up to \$262,500

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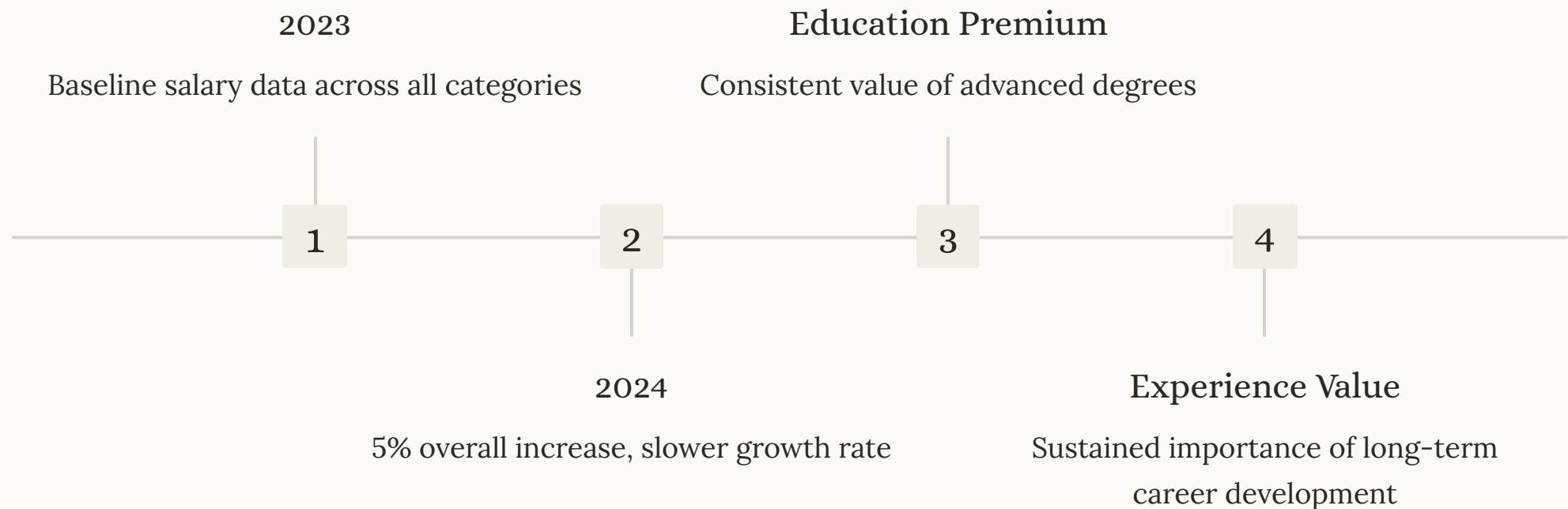
## Regional Variations

Western and Northeastern states generally offer higher salaries than Southern and Midwestern states

# Analysis: 2024 vs 2023

The 2024 Civil Engineering Salary Report shows a consistent 5% growth across all categories, indicating steady but slower growth compared to previous years. The salary premium for higher education levels remains significant, with the median salary difference between a Bachelor's and Ph.D. increasing to \$36,750. Experience continues to be highly valued, with those having 15+ years of experience earning nearly double the entry-level salary.

Energy/Power maintains the highest median salary at \$104,475, while Structural engineering offers the highest potential earnings. The value of PE certification remains substantial, with certified engineers earning 53.3% more than entry-level positions. Geographic variations persist, with California, Alaska, and Hawaii offering the highest median salaries, while emerging markets like Colorado, Texas, and Washington show strong growth.





# Conclusion

The 2024 Civil Engineering Salary Report indicates steady growth across all sectors, with key factors influencing salaries including education level, experience, professional certification, specialization, and geographic location. Energy/Power and Structural engineering offer the highest earning potential, while California, Alaska, and Hawaii lead in median salaries.

The consistent value of advanced degrees, experience, and PE certification underscores the importance of continuous professional development in maximizing earning potential in the civil engineering field. As the industry continues to evolve, staying informed about salary trends and market demands remains crucial for career planning and advancement.

## Education

Advanced degrees consistently correlate with higher salaries

## Experience

Long-term career development significantly boosts earning potential

## Certification

PE certification offers substantial salary increases

## Location

Geographic variations play a crucial role in salary determination