

Recruitment Hotsheet – Chemical Engineering

When you think of chemical engineers, you may quickly think of chemical manufacturing. You're only partly right. That's certainly an industry where they're found in large concentrations—designing chemical plant equipment and devising chemical manufacturing processes for production of plastics, synthetic rubber, detergents, paper and many other products. But chemical engineers are also widely recruited for a variety of other manufacturing industries—everything from energy, electronics and healthcare to food, clothing and paper. Chemical engineers are at home in the healthcare, biotechnology and business services fields as well. The usual requirement for entry-level chemical engineering jobs is a bachelor's degree. Many chemical engineers go beyond the Ch.E. to earn credentials as professional engineers (PEs). Whatever their credentials, all chemical engineers put more than their knowledge of chemistry to use; they also draw on learned principles of physics, mathematics, mechanical and electrical engineering.

Employment Trends

What's in the future for chemical engineers? It depends where you're looking. While by 2018 there's expected to be a 2% decline in employment of chemical engineers overall, and especially in the chemical manufacturing industry, there's projected growth in certain fields often not associated with chemical engineering. Projections show numbers of chemical engineers rising in service-providing industries, such as professional, scientific and technical services, particularly for research in energy and the developing fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology. Of course, for chemical engineers who feel most at home in the chemical manufacturing field, there will always be a need for sharp minds to research and develop new chemicals and more efficient processes to increase output of already existing chemicals. As for average compensation, the median annual salary for a chemical engineer in 2011 was approximately \$110,000, according to the American Institution of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Whether the field will remain male-dominated, who can say? As of 2009, women accounted for only 17.1% of professional chemical engineers.

Top Markets

1. Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX
2. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL
3. Newark-Union, NJ-PA
4. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA
5. Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ

Top Programs

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

[University of California-Berkeley](#)

[California Institute of Technology](#)

[University of Minnesota-Twin Cities](#)

[Stanford University](#)

Media Spotlight: Blogs

[C&EN \(Chemical & Engineering News\)](#)

[Chemical Engineering Web 2.0](#)

[Chemical Engineering World](#)

[Chemical Professionals](#)

Online Networks

[AIChE Forum Community](#)

[Chemical Forums](#)

[CheResources Forums](#)

[Nature Network](#)

E-Newsletters

[ACS Matters](#)

[AIChExchange](#)

[Chemical Engineering's eNewsletters](#)

[Chemical Online Newsletter](#)

Upcoming Events

American Chemical Society
Mar 25-29, 2012 – San Diego, CA

American Institute of Chemical Engineers Spring Meeting
Apr 1-5, 2012 – Houston, TX

National Society of Professional Engineers Annual Meeting
July 11-15, 2012 – San Diego, CA

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference
Oct 14-17, 2012 – Vancouver, BC

American Institute of Chemical Engineers Annual Meeting
Oct 28-Nov 2, 2012 – Pittsburgh, PA

Society of Women Engineers
Nov 8-10, 2012 – Houston, TX

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Nov 14-18, 2012 – Fort Worth, TX