

Aerospace Engineer

Aircraft, engines, satellites and flight simulators. Montreal is the hub, and only a handful of schools teach it.

TYPICAL PAY

\$104,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$70k to \$208k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Aircraft makers, engine plants,
space companies, defence**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Advanced Functions, Calculus, Physics and Chemistry are required. Marks in the high 80s or above at most schools.
- 2 Accredited aerospace engineering degree** 4 to 5 years with co-op
A four-year Bachelor of Engineering or Applied Science at a school accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. Only a few schools offer aerospace as its own degree. Mechanical engineering with an aerospace option is the common alternative.
- 3 Engineer-in-training** About 4 years
Register with your provincial regulator and work under a licensed engineer. Log your experience.
- 4 Professional practice exam** During your EIT (engineer-in-training) years
A law and ethics exam, taken during your training years.
- 5 P.Eng (professional engineer) licence** After 4 years
Apply with your experience record and references. In Quebec the regulator is the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, and French is expected.

Pros and cons

- + You work on aircraft, engines or spacecraft, which most engineers only dream about
- + Montreal is one of the three big aerospace cities in the world
- + Long programs mean stable work for a decade at a time
- Starting pay is about the same as mechanical, despite the harder entry
- Jobs are concentrated in Montreal, with fewer in Toronto and Winnipeg
- Layoffs follow every airline downturn, as in 2020

Optional boosts

A master's degree. Transport Canada design delegation. Security clearance. Project Management Professional (PMP).

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Aerospace engineers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Engineers Canada: Overview of the licensing process
Professional Engineers Ontario: fee schedule (PDF, Nov 2022)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/aerospace-engineer>

Good to know

The Canadarm

The robotic arm on the Space Shuttle was built in Canada and first flew in 1981. Canadarm2 has been assembling and repairing the International Space Station since 2001, and Canadarm3 is being built...

An engine made in Longueuil powers the world

Pratt and Whitney Canada's small turboprop engine (the PT6), built in Longueuil, Quebec, since the 1960s, is one of the most produced aircraft engines ever. Tens of thousands are flying.



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