

## Transcribed from “Top 10 Aviation Jobs” by Sparky Barnes

### Sargent

High pay and rewarding challenges, coupled with growth opportunities, are just some of the benefits that make these career paths attractive.

Our sibling publication *Plane & Pilot* has done regular surveys of schools throughout the country with aviation-related programs, and has compiled a list of the “Top 10 Aviation Careers.” These careers soared to the top of the list because they represent lucrative salaries, good working schedules, stimulating challenges, potential growth opportunities, and interesting variety of positions and geographical locations—all with a projected increase in the number of positions becoming available during the next decade. We’ve also considered the time and financial resources required for entry into these positions. Please note that the salary ranges are approximate, and the upper ranges represent the approximate current typical top salary for such fields. Leaders in their fields and those with management and program management responsibility can earn substantially more.

### **1 Pilot (airline, corporate, charter, fractional ownership, air taxi, flight instructor, military, test pilot)**

Airline pilots begin their careers with the regionals and may move on to the majors; commercial pilots usually have a lower experience threshold before hiring—and commercial opportunities are growing; and flight instructors often build time to qualify for another pilot career. Military pilots may see fewer opportunities in the future if unmanned aerial vehicles become prevalent in military operations.

Salary Range: \$20,000-\$250,000

### **2 Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic**

Mechanics must be federally certified and are responsible for maintaining aircraft for airworthy and safe operation condition. They may work with jet or reciprocating engines and airframes constructed from sheet metal or composite materials.

Salary Range: \$25,000-\$100,000

### **3 Air Traffic Controller**

Air traffic controllers may work in a high-pressure environment and specialize in ground, departure or en-route control as they direct the flow of air traffic. A controller must be federally certified, know federal regulations and be able to quickly implement emergency procedures, if necessary.

Salary Range: \$60,000-\$150,000

## **4 Avionics Technician**

An avionics technician repairs, tests and installs aviation equipment. Such technicians must have a knowledge of electronics, computers and math, and they must possess analytical skills to diagnose equipment problems. Vocational school or two years' training/education is typically required.

Salary Range: \$36,000-\$80,000

## **5 Airline Dispatcher**

Dispatchers normally have the authority to dispatch and direct/divert airline flight operations, monitor the progress of flights and advise flight crews of conditions affecting the safety of flights.

Salary Range: \$30,000-\$150,000

## **6 Meteorologist**

A meteorologist needs a strong background in advanced math and physics, and an ability to interpret and analyze atmospheric data effectively in order to create forecasts for flight operations. A college degree is typically required.

Salary Range: \$40,000-\$120,000

## **7 Structural Engineer**

These engineers develop technical solutions for complex structural problems. They must understand engineering principles, interpret drawings and analyze aircraft structures. A college degree is typically required.

Salary Range: \$60,000-\$120,000

## **8 Electrical Engineer**

These engineers design and integrate electrical components and systems. They must understand electrical theory and schematics, and possess solid science, math, analytical and trouble-shooting skills. A college degree is typically required.

Salary Range: \$60,000-\$120,000

## **9 Propulsion Engineer**

These engineers work with installation, testing and analysis of aircraft engines and must have knowledge of fuel, exhaust, combustion and other engine systems, as well as science, math and analytical skills. A college degree is typically required.

Salary Range: \$60,000-\$120,000

## **10 Human Factors and Industrial Design**

Individuals in these positions must be able to combine their knowledge of engineering and technology with elements of psychology in order to develop smooth-working interfaces between machines and humans, with a focus on usability, ergonomics and aesthetic product design. A college degree is typically required.

Salary Range: \$55,000-\$175,000

### **(Conclusion)**

Imagine how fulfilling it would be to keep your passion for aviation alive by waking up every morning to go to a financially rewarding job that impacts the aviation industry in a positive way.