



Job Situation

Service bay in large automotive and heavy equipment garage. Working alone or under supervision. Reporting to Service Manager. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,600

Student Loan – Owing

\$6,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$115

Duties

Follow written work orders. Diagnose and repair vehicle problems. Service and maintain vehicles. Advise customers.

Prospects

Specialization. Self-employment.

Job Title

Automotive Mechanic

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

7443

Job Description

Our society is extremely dependent on automobiles and many people literally could not live without them. Cars these days talk, plot courses and complain when something is wrong, but they can't fix themselves. Mechanics are the people who keep them running smoothly and safely. As automotive technologies expand, you will increasingly work with sophisticated electronics and even computers.

A typical day begins with climbing into your overalls and reporting to your supervisor to get your job assignments for the day. You have your own work area, where you keep your own hard-earned sets of tools. Diagnosing problems is the first step. The sick car imitations that customers do ("it goes kachunka chunka, you know") are sometimes funny, but not usually very helpful.

There is a large array of diagnostic and testing equipment in a modern garage, and this, combined with experience and consultation with other mechanics, will usually identify the problem. You need to be able to follow the instructions in the various manuals. Sometimes they require strength, and at other times a light touch and a good ear for that smooth "purr" that means you've adjusted the timing or the air mixture perfectly. It can be difficult to figure out what is going on under the hood but you stick with it and never give up and you always manage to fix the problem.

Apprentice mechanics work closely with experienced people, assisting and watching. As you gain skill and experience, you are trusted with larger or more difficult jobs and work on your own. There is a lot to learn in a specialty field like heavy equipment—a whole new vocabulary for starters, and diesel technology instead of gasoline. Using the math and physics you learned is required. As your apprenticeship time is served, you will earn more money, work more as a junior partner than a student and finally qualify for full certification and a significant raise.