



Job Situation

Construction sites and highways projects. Sometimes remote areas. Reporting to Service Manager. Long hours during summer.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$4,000

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$150

Duties

Adjust and repair heavy equipment. Plan and carry out routine maintenance and major overhauls. Keep maintenance records. Make recommendations to management. Advise equipment operators.

Prospects

Supervisory or management positions. Self-employment. Contracting.

Job Title

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

7312

Job Description

In our growing economy major construction projects are plentiful if you are willing to travel for work and the Heavy Equipment Mechanic is essential personnel on a major construction site. Keeping the equipment running smoothly is basic to keeping the project on schedule. Major overhauls are often done during winter months, so mechanics enjoy more consistent employment than many others in the construction industry.

Routine maintenance occupies most of your time. On a regular schedule you check each machine for wear and tear, clean filters, replace fluids, check pressures, and lubricate gears and bearings. You talk to the operators, listen carefully to what they have to say about the machine's performance, and sometimes give them advice. Quite often your maintenance routines will be interrupted by a call for help from an operator or supervisor on-site. You jump in the pick-up, which is also your tool box, and go to see what the trouble is while the operator and the supervisor stand anxiously alongside waiting for your diagnosis.

It could be anything from a broken tractor tread to an air filter clogged with blackflies and mud. You always do your best to get them back in business as soon as possible, but if it's something major or something that could become a safety hazard or cause further damage to the expensive equipment, you tell them the bad news and have the machine towed or carried back to your service bay.

The machines are huge and so are many of your tools, so strength is required, but experience has taught you that patience is the greatest virtue for mechanics. The hours can be long in the summer when construction starts at dawn and ends at dusk, but it's money in the bank, and more experience under your belt.