



Job Situation

Construction sites, demolition and highways projects. Small home office with phone, computer and fax. Self-directed. long hours during summer.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$5,000

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

Duties

Operate front end loader. Do basic maintenance. Look for new contracts. Estimate contract prices. File bids or tenders. Consult with clients. Keep records and accounts.

Prospects

Buying more equipment. Creating a company. Construction management.

Job Title

Heavy Equipment Contractor

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

7217

Job Description

Every town has a need for heavy equipment for roads, construction and public works. The local Heavy Equipment Contractor usually gets most of this work because it is an expensive proposition to move heavy equipment any distance. You do the same work as an operator employed by a company, with the extra responsibility of running a business and the extra money and satisfaction of working for yourself.

You enjoy taking care of the files and accounting because you like being in control of your situation. You do have a substantial loan payment to make each month until the loader is paid off, but when you get a good contract you always put a little extra down to pay off the interest. Finding work is the main challenge, but it's getting easier as you become established and word gets around. You have a listing in the Yellow Pages that brings in quite a few small jobs, and send out flyers to all the big outfits like construction companies and government departments. Your calendars and business cards are everywhere.

Doing up estimates is a delicate business. You want the work and try to bid competitively, but you have expenses to cover and you can't work for peanuts. Still, you always wonder if you could have bid a little lower when you miss a contract. Money isn't everything though, and you've enjoyed doing some freebies for community service groups.

You still really enjoy working with the loader, and you treat the old machine well—it's your bread and butter. You've learned enough to do the basic servicing yourself and never let a small problem become a major one. These machines are built to take abuse and you know there's years to go before you'll have to find new equipment, or a new loader anyway. You've already got your eye on a secondhand backhoe, just waiting for the price to come down to earth. The bank manager didn't say yes to a loan, but she didn't say no either.