

The number of jobs in this field is increasing in Nova Scotia. Prepare yourself for the growing career opportunities as a heavy duty equipment mechanic.

Heavy duty equipment mechanics repair, overhaul, and maintain mobile, heavy-duty equipment that is used in construction, forestry, mining, landscaping, land clearing, and farming; they do the same work with equipment like cranes, dump trucks, and hauling vehicles, which handle material.

They check heavy construction equipment such as bulldozers, cranes, and graders for proper performance. They inspect the equipment for faults and malfunctions; diagnose equipment for faults and estimate what repair is needed; they adjust, repair, or replace defective parts; and they perform routine maintenance work on all these types of equipment.

Programs

There are a variety of one- and two-year programs and apprenticeship opportunities available for heavy duty equipment work in Nova Scotia. Information about these programs is available at:

Nova Scotia Agricultural College
www.nsac.ns.ca

NS Department of Education
www.apprenticeship.EDnet.ns.ca

NS Community College
www.nsc.ns.ca

Cape Breton University
www.capebretonu.ca

Professional Organizations

Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council
www.constructioncouncil.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Education
www.apprenticeship.EDnet.ns.ca

Career and Job Prospects

Nova Scotia Career and Labour Market Information
 For up-to-date information visit
www.novascotiacaareeroptions.ca

Job Futures

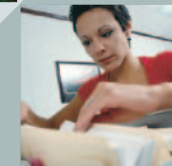
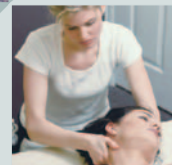
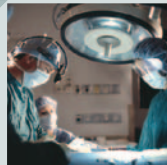
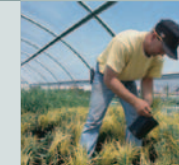
Search by National Occupational Classification (NOC) Code
www.jobfutures.ca

Human Resources and Skill Development

National Occupational Classification and Career Handbook
www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

NOC Code Search

Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanics: 7312



PERSONAL SKILLS

NEEDED

- People who succeed in this field
- are alert and responsible
 - are interested in electronics and mechanical operations
 - are comfortable with mathematics and the sciences
 - co-operate with others
 - are interested in performing routine tasks
 - are agile and physically strong
 - have good hand-eye co-ordination
 - have good vision and hearing
 - are comfortable working with tools



WHERE THEY

WORK

Heavy duty equipment mechanics are employed by companies that own and operate heavy equipment; railway transport and urban transit system companies; and companies that sell, rent, and services heavy equipment.

The work is spread fairly evenly throughout the province, in the Annapolis Valley, Halifax Regional Municipality, and the North Shore, with work also available in Cape Breton and in Southern Nova Scotia.

WHAT THEY

EARN

Average hourly income: \$21.25
Minimum: \$13.00
Maximum: \$30.00

The wage rate for apprentices is usually a percentage of the journeyperson rate, and increases after each stage of the apprenticeship program is completed.

REQUIRED

COURSES

High School

You will need a high school diploma or equivalent to enter most training programs. High school mathematics and physics are useful for both the work you will do and to help you get accepted into a training program.

You may be able to earn credits and begin your apprenticeship training through the Co-operative Education Program at your school.

Post Secondary

Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic and Farm Equipment Mechanic are both designated apprenticeship trades in Nova Scotia. Although you are not required by legislation to be certified, many Nova Scotia employers require you to be a registered apprentice or hold a Certificate of Qualification.



What is the difference between heavy duty equipment mechanics, construction millwrights, industrial mechanics, and motor vehicle mechanics and technicians?

Heavy duty equipment mechanics repair, overhaul, and maintain mobile, heavy equipment such as bulldozers and cranes.

Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics perform similar tasks with stationary industrial machinery and mechanical equipment, as well as installing it.

Motor vehicle mechanics and technicians inspect, diagnose, repair, and service cars, trucks, and buses.

People of diverse identities, backgrounds, and experiences find heavy duty equipment mechanic work to be challenging and rewarding. While it is heavily dominated by males, there are also women working in this field.

Workers are generally between the ages of 25 and 54, with the largest number in the middle of that age bracket. Most have a trade certificate or diploma.