

There are many promising occupations in the field of motor vehicle mechanics. With new technology and steady growth, prepare yourself for the growing and changing work opportunities.

Motor vehicle mechanics inspect, diagnose, repair, and service mechanical, electrical, and electronic systems and components of cars, buses, and trucks. They may specialize in areas such as brakes, suspension, engine, and fuel systems.

They inspect and test automotive systems; diagnose and isolate faults; and adjust, repair, and replace parts. Motor vehicle mechanics often use hand tools and specialized auto repair equipment; perform maintenance service and road tests; and advise customers on how the vehicle is working. Usually protective clothing, goggles, and safety boots must be worn. Motor vehicle mechanics may be exposed to noise and fumes.

MORE INFORMATION

**Programs**

One-year motor vehicle repair, body repair, and heavy duty equipment repair certificates are available through the Nova Scotia Community College and Cape Breton University.  
[www.nsc.ca](http://www.nsc.ca)  
[www.capebretonu.ca](http://www.capebretonu.ca)

In addition, various workplaces offer Certificates of Qualification and the Nova Scotia Community College offers technologist level, nationally accredited three- and four-year apprenticeship programs.

**Professional Organizations**

**Canadian Automotive Repair and Service Council (CARS)**

[www.cars-council.ca](http://www.cars-council.ca)

**Nova Scotia Automotive Industry Human Resource Sector Council**

[www.automotivesectorcouncil.ca](http://www.automotivesectorcouncil.ca)

**Nova Scotia Department of Education, Apprenticeship Training Division**

[www.apprenticeship.EDnet.ns.ca](http://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](http://www.novascotiacaareeroptions.ca)

**Job Futures**

**Canada's National Career and Education Planning Tool**

[www.jobfutures.ca](http://www.jobfutures.ca)

**Human Resources and Skill Development Canada**

**National Occupation Classification (NOC)**

[www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca)

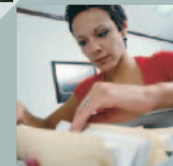
**NOC Code Search**

Automotive Service Technicians, Truck and Bus Mechanics, and Mechanical Repairers: 7321



Career Pathways Series

MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANICS



Information for High School Students

## PERSONAL SKILLS

# NEEDED

People who succeed have skills and abilities that include the following:

- > mechanical aptitude
- > patience
- > reliability
- > good co-ordination and agility
- > lightness of touch and attention to detail
- > some physical strength

Strong skills in mathematics and computers will also be helpful.



## WHERE THEY

# WORK

There is work in this field anywhere that people live and drive cars in Nova Scotia. Mechanics and technicians may be employed in service stations and other businesses that repair vehicles, and in commercial businesses that use cars, trucks, and buses in their business.

## WHAT THEY

# EARN

Average hourly income: \$17.25  
Minimum: \$10.00  
Maximum: \$28.25

The wage rate for apprentices is usually a percentage of the journeyperson rate, and goes up after you complete each stage of the apprenticeship program.



## REQUIRED

# COURSES

You must have a high school diploma or its equivalent to enter the four-year apprenticeship program that most workplaces require. Mathematics, technical courses, and computer training are all useful courses of study.

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

**Most motor vehicle mechanics are men. Only 1.1% are women, which means that a female who chooses this career will face challenges. The average age is 38 years, which is slightly above the average age of workers in Nova Scotia.**

**As motor vehicles become more complex through the use of advanced electrical and electronic technology, the skills needed to repair them are changing. This means you will need to keep up with new developments. Many employers look for mechanics that have strong electronics and computer skills. Mechanics with journeyperson status are the most highly sought after.**

### What is the difference between automobile mechanics, automotive service technicians, and bus, truck, and transport mechanics?

Automobile mechanics and automotive service technicians work with private vehicles; bus, truck, and transport mechanics work with commercial vehicles. Both commercial and non-commercial mechanics and technicians work in designated apprenticeship trades, which means you must be a registered apprentice or have a Certificate of Qualification to practice.

Automotive service technicians and truck and transport mechanics have four-year apprenticeship terms. The term for automobile mechanic is two years.