

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics

SOC: 49-3023 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

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| <div>\$49,670</div> <div>Median Salary</div> | <div>805,600</div> <div>Employment</div> | <div>+4.0%</div> <div>Growth Rate</div> |
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 25.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

5.2/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

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|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Realistic | 8.8/10 | Investigative | 7.4/10 |
| Artistic | 4.4/10 | Social | 5.6/10 |
| Enterprising | 4.6/10 | Conventional | 6.4/10 |

■ Top Skills Required

Customer-service skills, Detail oriented, Dexterity, Mechanical skills, Physical strength, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics are skilled trades professionals who inspect, maintain, and repair **cars, trucks, and light-duty vehicles**. They diagnose mechanical and electronic problems, perform routine maintenance, and ensure vehicles operate safely and efficiently. As vehicles become more advanced, their work increasingly blends hands-on mechanical skill with computerized diagnostics.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy problem-solving, working with tools and technology, and keeping essential transportation systems running.

What Do Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics Do?

Automotive technicians service vehicles throughout their lifecycle, from routine maintenance to complex repairs. Their responsibilities emphasize safety, accuracy, and reliability.

Common responsibilities include:

- Inspecting vehicles to identify mechanical or electrical issues
- Using diagnostic tools and software to pinpoint problems
- Performing routine maintenance such as oil changes and tire rotations
- Repairing or replacing brakes, engines, transmissions, and steering systems
- Testing repaired vehicles to ensure proper operation
- Explaining needed repairs and maintenance to customers
- Keeping detailed service and repair records

Types of Automotive Technicians

Automotive service technicians may specialize by system or vehicle type:

- General Automotive Technicians: Handle a wide range of vehicle repairs and maintenance.
- Brake and Suspension Specialists: Focus on braking, steering, and suspension systems.
- Engine and Transmission Technicians: Repair complex powertrain components.
- Electrical and Diagnostics Technicians: Work with vehicle electronics and computer systems.
- Dealership Technicians: Specialize in specific manufacturers or brands.
- Quick Service Technicians: Perform routine maintenance and inspections.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Automotive technicians combine mechanical aptitude with technical analysis.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Most automotive service technicians and mechanics enter the field through technical training and hands-on experience:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- Automotive Technology Programs: Vocational, technical, or community college training
- On-the-Job Training or Apprenticeships: Supervised learning in repair shops
- Professional Certifications (optional): Industry-recognized automotive credentials
- Continuing Education: Training on new vehicle systems and technologies

Where Do Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics Work?

These professionals work in a variety of automotive service environments:

- Independent Repair Shops
- Automobile Dealerships
- Fleet Maintenance Facilities
- Automotive Service Centers
- Government or Municipal Vehicle Shops
- Specialty or Performance Shops

Work is typically performed indoors in garages or service bays.

How Much Do Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics Earn?

Earnings vary by experience, certification, and employer:

- Entry-Level Technicians: Typically earn hourly wages while gaining experience
- Experienced or Certified Technicians: Often earn higher pay due to advanced skills
- Specialized or Master Technicians: May earn more with expertise in diagnostics or performance systems

Compensation may include bonuses, flat-rate pay, or overtime.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is physically and technically demanding. Technicians must diagnose increasingly complex vehicles that combine mechanical systems with advanced electronics. The challenge lies in keeping skills current, working efficiently under time pressure, and maintaining safety and precision.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Automotive Service Technician or Mechanic?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with vehicles and machinery
- Like hands-on problem-solving
- Are comfortable with evolving technology
- Prefer practical, skill-based work
- Want a skilled trade with consistent demand

How to Prepare Early

- Study basic mechanics, electronics, and physics
- Learn safe use of hand and power tools
- Gain experience through automotive classes or part-time shop work
- Practice troubleshooting and diagnostic thinking
- Explore automotive technology training programs

Automotive service technicians and mechanics keep people and goods moving by maintaining and repairing the vehicles that power daily life, combining technical expertise, precision, and practical skill in every repair.