

# Occupational Profile

# Auto Mechanics



## SKILLS YOU NEED

### Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Monitoring

### Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

#### Medium level

- Following written repair work orders
- Observing and diagnosing mechanical problems
- Operating computerized diagnostic equipment in mechanics
- Repairing mechanical objects
- Using electrical/electronic testing instruments
- Using mechanics hand and power tools

### Workplace Skills:

#### High level

- Troubleshooting

#### Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Equipment Maintenance
- Equipment Selection
- Installation
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Operation and Control
- Operation Monitoring
- Quality Control Analysis
- Repairing
- Technology Design
- Time Management

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

## WHAT THEY DO

Repairs automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any vehicle part or specialize in the transmission system. Belongs to the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics cluster and Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance pathway.

## IS THIS FOR YOU?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by

doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.

- **Investigative**—You are a “thinker”. When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement**—It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Working Conditions**—It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security, and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your tasks.

**Aptitudes** reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Form Perception**
- **Clerical perception**
- **Eye-hand Coordination**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	68,585	76,810	8,225	1.2	2,420
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	9,795	10,875	1,080	1.1	355

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## 2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	20.43	42,500	13.17	27,387	24.07	50,056
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	18.29	38,047	11.38	23,671	21.75	45,235

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
High School Diploma	None	Long-Term On-The-Job

Automotive technology is rapidly becoming more sophisticated, and most employers prefer applicants who have completed a formal training program in automotive body repair or refinishing. Most new repairers complete at least part of this training on the job. Many repairers, particularly in urban areas, need a national certification to advance past entry-level work. A high school diploma or GED is often all that is required to enter this occupation, but more specific education and training is needed to learn how to repair newer automobiles. Collision repair programs may be offered in high school or in postsecondary vocational schools and community colleges. Trade and technical school programs typically award certificates to graduates after 6 months to a year of collision repair study. Some community colleges offer 2-year programs in collision repair. Many of these schools also offer certificates for individual courses, so that students are able to take classes incrementally or as needed. Generally, it takes 3 to 4 years of hands-on training to become skilled in all aspects of body repair. Approved apprenticeship programs/sponsors in Iowa can be found at [http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom\\_state\\_data/iowa\\_apprenticeship/4930230.htm](http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_apprenticeship/4930230.htm)

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	4
Locating Information	4
Reading for Information	4



This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Auto Mechanics Employed?)

Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers  
Repair and Maintenance  
Self Employed  
Gasoline Stations  
State Government

Source:

<http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This workforce product was funded by a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner. This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit