



## South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

**Career Cluster: Transportation,  
Distribution & Logistics**



# Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics

*Standard Occupational Code 49-3023*

## What They Do

Inspect, maintain and repair cars and light trucks. They may work on any part of a vehicle related to how it operates, from engines to brakes. They often confer with customers to discover vehicle problems that need to be repaired, and they also use computerized diagnostic devices to help identify problems.

## Is This For You?

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

**Realistic** (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

**Conventional** (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

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

**Independence** — Work on their own and make decisions.

**Support** — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Relationships** — Provide service to others and work in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Deductive Reasoning
- Manual Dexterity
- Finger Dexterity
- Inductive Reasoning
- Near Vision
- Problem Sensitivity
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Control Precision
- Extent Flexibility

## Basic Skills You Need

- Repairing
- Troubleshooting
- Critical Thinking
- Operations Monitoring
- Equipment Maintenance
- Active Listening
- Judgment and Decision Making

## Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in an auto mechanics program, including hands-on training with current technology, is recommended.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com) or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,338	2,596	258	11.0%	234	\$46,520	\$50,810

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of automotive service technicians and mechanics are:

- Automotive Repair and Maintenance
- Self Employment

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
SD Department of Labor & Regulation  
605.626.2314

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July  
2024