



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Supply Chain & Transportation



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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Attention to Detail — A tendency to be detail-oriented, organized, and thorough in completing work.

Dependability — A tendency to be reliable, responsible, and consistent in meeting work-related obligations.

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
- Information Ordering
- Oral Comprehension

Work Activities

- Getting Information
- Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment
- Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge
- Repairing and Maintaining Mechanical Equipment

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 or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

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:

- Repair and Maintenance
- Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers
- Self Employment
- General Merchandise Retailers

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,516	2,803	287	11.4%	244	\$51,160	\$55,660

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

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

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
SD Department of Labor & Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx.

Printed on recycled paper. 



August
2026