

# More South Dakota Hot Careers

Beyond the  
Top **30**

High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:  
Architecture and Construction



## Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers

*Standard Occupational Code 49-9021*

### What They Do

Install or repair heating, central air conditioning or refrigeration systems that control the temperature and air quality in buildings. They are sometimes called HVACR technicians or HVAC technicians.

### 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.

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

**Independence** — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

**Working Conditions** — Offer job security and good working conditions.

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

- Problem Sensitivity
- Near Vision
- Visualization
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Finger Dexterity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

## Basic Skills You Need

- Troubleshooting
- Equipment Maintenance
- Repairing
- Operations Monitoring
- Installation
- Quality Control Analysis
- Critical Thinking

## Education & Training

Some post secondary education in a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) or closely related program is recommended for heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic and installer positions.

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.

## Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,283	1,405	122	9.5%	138	\$47,168	\$48,400

## 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 heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics and installers are:

- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Self Employment

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://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.

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