



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Supply Chain & Transportation



Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists

Standard Occupational Code 49-3031

What They Do

Diagnose, adjust, repair or overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines. Includes mechanics working primarily with automobile or marine diesel engines.

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.

- Near Vision
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Finger Dexterity
- Manual Dexterity
- Control Precision
- Hearing Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Problem Sensitivity

Work Activities

- Repairing and Maintaining Mechanical Equipment
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Getting Information
- Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events

Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in a diesel mechanics or related program, including hands-on training with current technology, is recommended for bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists.

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	3
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists are:

- Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods
- Repair and Maintenance
- Truck Transportation
- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,173	1,272	99	8.4%	107	\$58,120	\$59,480

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

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