Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators

What They Do
Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, derricks, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures or pour hard surface pavement. May repair and maintain equipment in addition to other duties.

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 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.

Relationships — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

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.

- Control Precision
- Depth Perception
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Near Vision
- Far Vision
- Manual Dexterity
Basic Skills You Need

- Operation and Control
- Operation Monitoring
- Monitoring
- Coordination
- Equipment Maintenance
- Troubleshooting

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

- Applied Math  3
- Workplace Documents  4
- Graphic Literacy  4

*Using the median skill level.

Education & Training

The minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent is recommended for operating engineers and other construction operators, followed by learning the trade on the job.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com to be connected with a staff person at your nearest Job Service office who can help you get started.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of operating engineers and other construction equipment operators are:

- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Construction of Buildings

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,702</td>
<td>1,805</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>$45,422</td>
<td>$45,398</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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/

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.

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