



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Architecture &
Construction



Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators

Standard Occupational Code 47-2073

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
- Rate Control

Basic Skills You Need

- Operation and Control
- Equipment Maintenance
- Operations Monitoring
- Monitoring
- Active Listening
- Time Management
- Troubleshooting

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.

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 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
- Self Employment

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,123	2,314	191	9.0%	251	\$49,310	\$50,810

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.

Printed on recycled paper. 

Provided By

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



June
2023