

Occupations in Automotive Service

Mechanics and Repairs

- > Aircraft Mechanic Technician > Mechanic
- > Automotive Service Technician > Motorboat Mechanic
- > Automotive Service Technician Teacher

Automotive Fun Facts

- In the early 1900s, Florence Lawrence, a silent movie actress, invented the first turn signal or “auto signaling arm,” which attached to the car’s rear fender. Later she invented the rear brake signal based on the same concept. Unfortunately, she never patented her invention.
- In 1902, Mary Anderson invented the first windshield wiper. Before her invention, people smeared a mixture of onions and carrots on windshields to repel water.
- In 1915, Wilma Russey became the first woman to work as a taxi driver in New York. She was also an expert garage mechanic.
- In 1916, the Girl Scouts initiated an “Automobling Badge” for which girls had to demonstrate driving skills, auto mechanics, and first-aid skills.
- In 1922, Henry Ford opened his Phoenix Factory, employing women to do assembly and welding work.
- In 1923, there were 173 new inventions by women for the automobile. Among these inventions were a carburetor and an electric engine starter.
- In 1943, Helene Rother was the first woman to work as an automobile designer when she joined the interior styling staff of General Motors.

Source: Antique Automobile Club of America Museum

Break free of the traditions and barriers that limit your choices.
What’s stopping you? Be different! Try something new!
Is a nontraditional career in your future?

Automotive Service Technician

A NONTRADITIONAL CAREER PATH FOR WOMEN



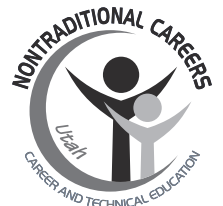
Talk to your school counselor
about a nontraditional career in STS.

Break free of the barriers that limit your career choices.

www.UtahCTE.org



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SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES EDUCATION

Nontraditional Careers

Did you know a nontraditional career is any occupation in which women or men comprise 25 percent or less of its total employment?

Women in nontraditional occupations earn more money than those in female-oriented fields.

Choosing a nontraditional career path can mean:

- > Greater job satisfaction.
- > Higher wages and better benefits.
- > Great advancement opportunities.
- > Economic self-sufficiency.
- > Broader job opportunities.
- > Freedom to pursue a career related to your interests and abilities.

BREAK with tradition and explore a nontraditional career!

Automotive Service Technician as a Career

There are many people who still learn this trade on the job as helpers; however, employers prefer to hire those with automotive training and education.

The work of automotive technicians and mechanics has evolved from simply mechanical to high technology. New cars today have more computers on board than the first spacecraft, and as a result today's technicians are diagnostic, high-tech problem solvers. Good reading and basic mathematics skills are needed to follow the instructions and diagrams in technical manuals. Technicians need the ability to detect sounds and hear the differences between sounds of different pitch and loudness.

Career and Technical Education Pathways

High school is a great time to try out a wide range of Career Pathways by enrolling in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. As an added bonus, you will be developing work-related skills that can be put to immediate and profitable use.

CTE provides courses and Pathways consistent with industry training and certification, thus providing depth and meaning for both visual and hands-on learning and education that can be applied in today's job market.

Through participation in CTE, Skilled and Technical Sciences Education can guide you as you take courses in your chosen Pathway.

By taking an STS course, you will acquire essential technical and leadership skills, and learn how to properly use tools and equipment that will enable you to successfully work in your area of choice. You will also gain an important foundation of knowledge and skills necessary for continuing your education in STS.

Employment

In 2008, automotive repair and maintenance shops and automobile dealers employed the majority of the workers in this field, with over 763,000 jobs held in the United States.¹

In Utah, an entry-level position for an automotive service technician generally starts at an average hourly wage of \$9.60, or \$19,968 per year. Increases in salary are based upon training and experience.²

Working Conditions

Generally, automotive technicians work indoors in well-ventilated and -lighted repair shops. However, some shops are drafty and noisy. Technicians frequently work with dirty and greasy parts, and in awkward positions. Minor cuts, burns, and bruises are common, but serious accidents are usually avoided when the shop is kept clean and orderly and safety practices are observed. Technicians often handle loads of 20 to 50 pounds.

1.6 percent of automotive service technicians and mechanics are women.³

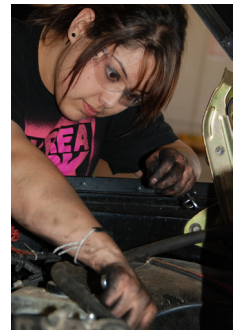
Outlook

Demand for qualified automotive service technicians will increase as the number of motor vehicles in operation continues to grow in line with the nation's population. However, opportunities will be better for those who complete a post-secondary automotive training program, as employers report finding it difficult to find workers with the right skills.

In Utah, the annual growth rate in this occupation is expected to be 3.6 percent through the year 2016, with employment totaling 10,880.²

UtahFutures

Log on to UtahFutures.org to learn more about a career in the automotive industry. From the home page, click on the "occupations" option to find an occupation that interests you and link to the description for that occupation. (Refer to the sample list of occupations on the back of this page.) Check out employment opportunities, working conditions, outlook, skills and abilities, and wages for your selected occupation. **Is a nontraditional career in your future?**



¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

² Utah Department of Workforce Services

³ Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Nontraditional Occupations for Women in 2008