

Manufacturing AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL TRADES

Related jobs:

Dealership service advisers, master technicians, service managers: Auto electricians are sought after by dealerships because of their diagnostic skills.

Specialists

Electrical motor winders: Make, fit or repair electrical machines or appliances.

Automotive air-conditioning fitters: Install and repair air-conditioning units in various types of vehicles.

Accessory fitters: Install ancillary electrical equipment and carry out minor repairs to electrical circuits/systems.

What do automotive electrical tradespeople do?

As an automotive electrician, you will be driving some rather special and sophisticated tools and equipment to diagnose faults, install, maintain, and repair, electrical wiring and computer based equipment in all types of motor vehicles.

You'll also service and repair electronically controlled systems such as electronic fuel injection, ignition, anti-lock braking, cruise control and automatic transmissions.

In addition, you'll test, replace, recondition and install equipment such as generators, alternators, starter motors and batteries.

Living the life

Qualified automotive electricians are in high demand both in Australia and overseas so wages are increasing and there are plenty of opportunities to travel.

Automotive electricians also provide specialist services to other auto mechanical and body repairers, which offers great opportunities to become a contractor.

Establish a positive reputation and you could even establish your own business.

With today's modern technology, the work is generally clean and light. As a good, long-term career, automotive trades offer job security and opportunities for further training and skill development.

What types of organisations could I work for?

An auto electrician's knowledge and diagnostic skills are transferrable to other jobs and industry sectors, such as electro communications and defence industry sectors. That's the big picture.

To start with, you'd generally work in small to medium sized companies providing specialist electrical repair services.

But you could also work in general mechanical workshops where you'd be hailed as an Electrical Specialist.

Working in larger dealerships is another option. Your diagnostic and service advice skills can lead you into senior and master technician status.



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What are employers looking for?

Employers look for young people who can:

- Show an interest and enthusiasm for working with automotive technology
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake and complete a hands on training program
- Listen, understand and follow instructions
- Work well in a team environment
- Plan and organise their own activities
- Contribute to problem solving
- Use their own initiative

How do I get started?

Australian Apprenticeship

You can become an automotive electrical tradesperson by completing an Australian Apprenticeship.

An apprenticeship combines paid employment and a training course to develop technical knowledge and practical skills. As you progress and develop your skills and competence your wage increases.

Apprenticeships are available through Group Training Companies, which arrange placements with host companies or directly with an individual company.

For more information:

Phone: 1300 798 199

Email: caa@aigroup.asn.au

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The training course is provided by a TAFE institute or other registered training provider. When you are assessed as fully competent you become a tradesperson with the qualification of Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology. This is generally achieved within four years.

Further career opportunities

Once you have finished your apprenticeship, you can undertake further education and training to specialise in particular areas of interest like diagnostics, accessory fitting or other automotive areas such as retailing or business management. There's plenty of scope!

Get a head start at school

Choose subjects like maths, science, communications and computer subjects to give yourself a head start for your apprenticeship.

Do work experience with automotive electrical companies or start an automotive related Vocational Education and Training (VET) program at school. You may even take on an apprenticeship part time through an Australian School-based Apprenticeship.

Websites to visit for more information:

Find out more online from:

www.autocareers.com.au

www.makeit.net.au

www.skillsone.com.au

Content sourced from:

Job Outlook www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

myfuture www.myfuture.edu.au

Pictures provided by the Australian Industry Group

WWW.CAREERSCONNECTED.COM.AU

How much can I earn?

On average, weekly wages are:

Automotive Tradesperson	\$900
Senior/Master Technician	\$1,000+
Self-employed Tradesperson	\$1,460
Management	\$1,500
Professional Engineer (University Degree)	\$2,300

Apprenticeship wages (Repair Service & Retail Award)

First Year	\$259
Second year	\$339
Third year	\$462
Fourth year	\$541

Apprentices are also eligible for a range of Government financial incentives. Details are available from Australian Apprenticeship Centres: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative as at May 2008.