

Manufacturing AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICAL TRADES

Related jobs:

- Light vehicle mechanic
- Heavy vehicle mechanic
- Automotive parts interpreter
- Dealership service adviser
- Senior/master technician
- Brake mechanic
- Steering and suspension specialist
- Motor sports mechanic

What does an automotive mechanical tradesperson do?

If you love cars and tinkering around with engines here's a great job with real vroom. You'll service and repair all types of motor vehicles including cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, tractors and even F1 racing cars!

You'll learn to diagnose faults using test equipment, computer analysis and technical manuals and use a range of specialised tools and equipment. All of this is to make sure that vehicles meet safety regulations and manufacturers' service specifications as well as meeting the vehicle owner's expectations.

Living the life

Good, qualified automotive mechanics are in big demand both in Australia and overseas so wages are increasing and there are plenty of opportunities to travel.

Mechanics generally work in small to medium sized workshops that are becoming 'high tech' as cars become more sophisticated, electronic and computerised.

Automotive trades offer job security and opportunities for further training and skill development.

A good mechanic can also develop highly valued expertise in specialist fields like motor sports/performance engines or move into non technical areas like automotive retailing, parts distribution or business development and management. There's plenty to get your engine revving.

What types of organisations could I work for?

Automotive manufacturers' dealerships employ mechanics. Dealerships can be large businesses operating over several sites with sales parts and service departments. There are also many independent automotive workshops that tend to be much smaller and offer specialist services.

If you're a good mechanic you could also start or buy your own business or set yourself up with a mobile unit and become a mobile mechanic on the road. Qualified mechanics are also employed by large organisations or government departments to service their own vehicle fleets and keep them moving.



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What are employers looking for?

Employers look for young people with drive and initiative 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 with others in a team
- 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 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 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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Manufacturing

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 Mechanical Technology. This is generally achieved within four years.

Further career opportunities:

Once you've finished your apprenticeship, you can add to your skills with some further education and training. This way you can specialise in other areas you might be interested in or take advantage of opportunities that present themselves, such as automotive manufacturer development programs, TAFE courses and university degrees.

Get a head start at school

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

Do work experience with a mechanic or start a 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.zoomplus.aigroup.asn.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

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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 assistance. Details are available from Australian Apprenticeship Centres: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative as at May 2008.