

TRUCK MECHANICS AND DIESEL ENGINE SPECIALISTS

Job Description: North Dakota's oil and gas extraction and lignite coal mining industries utilize large transport vehicles and other heavy equipment in their operations. Truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists are needed to ensure that they remain operational and are repaired quickly when needed. Their job is to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engine used in machinery. A person in this career uses a variety of hand tools and power tools to do his or her work. They inspect brake systems, steering mechanisms, wheel bearings, and other important parts to ensure proper operating condition. They attach test instruments to equipment and read dials and gauges to diagnose problems. They perform routine maintenance such as changing oil, checking batteries, and lubricating equipment and machinery. This is demanding and challenging work that is sometimes done in less than ideal conditions and under time constraints. It is for those who enjoy working with their hands and take satisfaction in solving problems, resulting in the proper operation of engines and machinery.



Needed Skills and Education: This job requires skills in: following written repair work orders; observing and diagnosing mechanical problems; operating computerized diagnostic equipment in mechanics; using electrical repair hand and power tools, along with machinist instruments; and more. The position requires one to two years of post-secondary training. A large number of community colleges and trade and vocational schools offer programs in diesel engine repair. Employers prefer to hire graduates of formal training programs because those workers are able to advance quickly to the journeyman level of diesel service.

Wages: In North Dakota, the average annual wage for this occupation is \$43,900. This is very slightly above the national average annual wage of \$43,660. The average hourly wage in North Dakota is \$21.10 but an experienced truck mechanic and diesel engine specialist can earn up to \$28.29 per hour.

Other Information: The employment outlook for this occupation in North Dakota is increasing, likely due to the increased activity in energy. Nationally, it is expected that people who enter diesel engine repair and maintenance will find favorable opportunities. The military has nearly 7,000 diesel engine mechanics and needs new recruits to replace those who leave.

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