

Career of the Fortnight

Mechanic



Mechanic

Job description:

Repairs, maintains, inspects, and installs machinery and parts. Completes diagnostic tests using manual tools and technological devices. Works with customers and co-workers to establish a timeframe for the completion of each project.

Types of mechanics

- Vehicle mechanic (also called a car mechanic, motor vehicle technician or service technician)
- Construction plant mechanic

So what appeals to you most? Vehicles and engines, from cars to aircraft and Formula 1 extravaganzas? Or working with a wide variety of equipment, from generators to demolition equipment? Your choice will guide you to which kind of mechanic you'd most want to be

Skills:

You'll need:

- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- problem-solving skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- customer service skills
- the ability to work well with others
- knowledge of engineering science and technology
- the ability to use your initiative
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Roles and Responsibilities

As a motor mechanic, you'll:

- talk to customers about their vehicle's problems
- find and diagnose faults using hand tools or a computer
- advise customers on what repairs are needed
- estimate time and costs for jobs
- repair and replace faulty parts
- road test vehicles to check repairs
- carry out scheduled servicing and maintenance
- fit accessories like stereos and alarms
- check stock levels and parts
- update vehicle service records

Employers of mechanic:

These include the:

- Aerospace industry.
- Automotive industry.
- Chemicals industry.
- Construction industry.
- Defence industry.
- Fast-moving consumer goods industry.
- Marine industry.
- Materials and metals industry.

Working conditions

You will be working in garage which will be noisy, dirty and physically active.

You will need to wear protective clothing and safety equipment.

Qualifications:

College

You could take a college course before applying for work as a trainee with a garage.

Relevant courses include:

- Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Competence
- Level 3 Diploma in Vehicle Technology
- T Level in Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T level

Apprenticeship

You can complete an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship as a motor vehicle service and maintenance technician.

This will usually take 2 to 3 years. You'll do on-the-job training and spend time at a college or training provider. You could also train as a vehicle mechanic in the British Army.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Working Hours:

35 – 48 Hours a week
Including evenings and weekends.
Working times need to be flexible

Annual Income:

Starter:
£18,000

Experienced:
£35,000

Labour Market Information

Labour Market Information (LMI) shows you what sorts of employment opportunities exist in your area and which sectors are growing. It can help you decide on a career path or where to get more information.

Vehicle technicians, mechanics and electricians	Mechanical engineers	Aircraft maintenance and related trades
<p>Weekly Pay £630</p> <p>Hours/Week 49h</p> <p>Annual Pay £32,760</p> <p>Hourly Pay £13</p>	<p>Weekly Pay £860</p> <p>Hours/Week 38h</p> <p>Annual Pay £44,720</p> <p>Hourly Pay £23</p>	<p>Weekly Pay £940</p> <p>Hours/Week 51h</p> <p>Annual Pay £48,880</p> <p>Hourly Pay £18</p>
<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Contraction -8.6%</p> <p>Replacement 50.3%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to contract by -8.6% over the period to 2027, losing 16,900 jobs. In the same period, 50.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 99,200 job openings.</p>	<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Growth 5.1%</p> <p>Replacement 39.9%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 5.1% over the period to 2027, creating 4,600 jobs. In the same period, 39.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,000 job openings.</p>	<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Contraction -8.6%</p> <p>Replacement 50.3%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to contract by -8.6% over the period to 2027, losing 2,200 jobs. In the same period, 50.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 13,000 job openings.</p>
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale of motor vehicles Land transport, etc Motor vehicles, etc Postal, etc Retail trade 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other trans. equipment Architectural & related Repair & installation Construction Head offices, etc 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other trans. equipment Repair & installation Public admin. & defence Air transport
<p>More info</p> <p>Clear card</p>	<p>More info</p> <p>Clear card</p>	<p>More info</p> <p>Clear card</p>