



# MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Motor vehicle technicians inspect faults and use computer-based tests to diagnose problems with a vehicle's mechanical or electrical systems, then repair, service, or replace any worn parts. This is a good profession for those who enjoy the challenge of dismantling, fixing, and maintaining mechanical systems.



### SALARY

Novice technician ★★★★★

Senior technician ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Good opportunities for qualified technicians • Employers include car dealerships, garages, breakdown organizations, and freight and construction companies

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Motor vehicles • Mechanical systems • Engineering • Electronics • Physics • Mathematics • Information Technology (IT)



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** Good school grades in science, mathematics, and English are usually required for trainee positions and vocational courses.



**LIFESTYLE** Most employees work full-time, but shift-work, overtime, and on-call hours—for breakdown services especially—are often required.



**LOCATION** The job is usually based in a workshop. Breakdown work requires travel as well as performing repairs outdoors and in all weather conditions.



**THE REALITIES** The job can be physically tiring, messy, and potentially dangerous due to the heavy, dirty, and hazardous nature of vehicle parts.

## CAREER PATHS

Technicians often specialize in a make of vehicle or type of repair, such as front-end mechanics—the suspension, steering, and wheels. Options for career progression include self-employment or changing roles, such as garage repair-work or managing the maintenance of a transportation firm's vehicles.

**TRAINEE** You can work as a trainee or apprentice motor vehicle technician, combining paid work with practical, on-the-job training.



**COLLEGE GRADUATE** You can gain a qualification before finding a job by taking a vocational course in motor vehicle technology. This will combine classroom instruction with workshop experience.



## SKILLS GUIDE



Strong communication skills to explain faults to clients who have limited technical knowledge.



Strength for lifting and reaching inaccessible parts, and stamina to concentrate for long periods.



Good problem-solving skills for investigating, diagnosing, and fixing mechanical faults.



Manual dexterity to use a wide variety of tools and handle complex vehicle components.



Precision and attention to detail to disassemble parts and reassemble them correctly.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **MECHANICAL ENGINEER** *see pp. 182–183*
- ▶ **AUTO DAMAGE APPRAISER** Inspects vehicles that have been damaged in accidents to estimate the cost of repair.
- ▶ **AUTO PARTS ADVISOR/SALESPERSON** Orders and sells vehicle parts and accessories in addition to providing advice to customers on vehicle faults and other troubleshooting issues.
- ▶ **MOTOR VEHICLE BODY REPAIRER** Fixes, restores, and refinishes damaged vehicle parts. Repairers also inspect vehicles for damage, replace or repair affected body panels, and refinish paintwork.

Once qualified, the best way to find work is to approach employers directly; many jobs are not advertised.

**FITTER** Also known as a “fast fitter,” this specialized role involves repairing, testing, and fitting vehicle parts, including tires, brakes, exhausts, and batteries.



**MOBILE TECHNICIAN** Assists drivers whose vehicles have broken down. Mobile technicians drive to the motorist’s location, inspect the vehicle for faults, and make any necessary repairs or tow the vehicle to a repair center or to the driver’s home.



**AIR-CONDITIONING/REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN** Specializes in the repair and maintenance of air-conditioning systems, handling any refrigerants in a manner that meets statutory safety requirements.



**MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN** You perform preventative and repair work to make vehicles roadworthy. With experience, you could move into a senior workshop role or maintain a fleet of vehicles for a commercial firm.

