

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to increase slower than the average of other occupations through the year 2018. Additional job openings will be due to the need to replace a growing number of retiring technicians, who tend to be the most experienced workers. The number of vehicles in operation as well as the number of vehicles per family is increasing so the demand for technicians to service these vehicles will be great. For well-prepared people with a technical background, automotive service technician careers offer an excellent opportunity for good pay and the satisfaction of highly skilled work with vehicles incorporating the latest in advanced technology. JCCC's automotive technology program holds master certification under guidelines for the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation/Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). ASE-certified training programs must meet strict industry standards tools, equipment, course of study, facilities, and instructor qualifications. Technicians can expect steady work even when there are down turns in the economy, employers will cut back on new hires instead of letting experienced workers go.

Employment Information

Greater Kansas City Area: In 2008, automotive service technicians and mechanics held an estimated 5,020 jobs in the eleven counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Further data indicate that an estimated 1,800 automotive service technicians and mechanics were employed throughout the four Kansas counties in the Kansas City MSA (Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte) in 2004 with 2,020 projected by 2014 (+12.2%).

State: Automotive service technicians and mechanics held an estimated 7,364 jobs in Kansas in 2004, with 8,228 jobs projected by 2014 (+1%). All together, 864 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements.

National: Automotive service technicians and mechanics held 763,000 jobs in 2008, with 799,600 jobs projected by 2018 (+4.8%). Approximately 36,000 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

Greater Kansas City Area: Automotive service technicians and mechanics employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of \$17.99 in 2008. The average hourly wage for automotive service technicians and mechanics in Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties was \$18.52 in 2008.

State: Automotive service technicians and mechanics in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of \$15.85 in 2008.

National: Automotive service technicians and mechanics working full-time earned an average hourly wage of \$16.88 in 2008.

JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. Seventy-five percent of the automotive technology program completers who responded to the short-term follow-up study conducted during the 2008-09 academic year were employed full-time in a job related to automotive technology and reported earning an average hourly wage of \$11.90.

Note: Salary and placement information for JCCC career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers.