

Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialist

WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

New York City

2006 Entry-level hourly wage \$15.65

2006 Median hourly wage \$23.93

New York State

Job growth outlook 2004–2014
(from 15,390 in 2004) +7%

JOB CHARACTERISTICS

What do bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists do?

- Use hand tools such as screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, pressure gauges, and precision instruments, as well as power tools such as pneumatic wrenches, lathes, welding equipment, and jacks and hoists.
- Inspect brake systems, steering mechanisms, wheel bearings, and other important parts to ensure that they are in proper operating condition.
- Perform routine maintenance such as changing oil, checking batteries, and lubricating equipment and machinery.
- Adjust and reline brakes, align wheels, tighten bolts and screws, and reassemble equipment.
- Raise trucks, buses, and heavy parts or equipment using hydraulic jacks or hoists.
- Test drive trucks and buses to diagnose malfunctions or to ensure that they are working properly.
- Inspect, test, and listen to defective equipment to diagnose malfunctions, using

test instruments such as handheld computers, motor analyzers, chassis charts, and pressure gauges.

- Examine and adjust protective guards, loose bolts, and specified safety devices.
- Inspect and verify dimensions and clearances of parts to ensure conformance to factory specifications.
- Specialize in repairing and maintaining parts of the engine, such as fuel injection systems.

In what type of conditions do bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists work?

- **Exposed to contaminants.** Requires exposure to contaminants (such as pollutants, gases, dust or odors).
- **Distracting or uncomfortable sounds or noise levels.** Requires exposure to sounds and noise levels that may be distracting or uncomfortable.
- **Using hands to control or feel objects, tools, or controls.** Frequent use of hands to handle or control objects tools or controls.
- **Wear protective or safety equipment.** Requires wearing protective or safety equipment such as safety shoes, glasses, gloves, hard hats or life jackets.
- **Exposed to hazardous equipment.** Requires exposure to hazardous equipment.

EMPLOYEE CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

How much education must a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist have?

Usually requires training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or

an associate's degree. May require a bachelor's degree.

What kind of *licensing* must a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist have?

Commercial driver's license is often required. Certification from National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) in one of several areas of truck repair is optional.

How much *work experience* should a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist have?

Some work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required for these occupations. Trade school certification is sometimes preferred.

What type of *job training* does a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist need?

One or two years of a combination of on-the-job and informal training with experienced workers.

What are the most important *abilities* a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist should have?

- **Problem sensitivity.** The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong.
- **Manual dexterity.** The ability to quickly move your hand or hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- **Multi-limb coordination.** The ability to coordinate limbs while sitting, standing, or lying down.

- **Near vision.** The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- **Arm-hand steadiness.** The ability to keep your hand and arm steady.

What are the most important *skills* for a bus and truck mechanic or diesel engine specialist to have?

- **Equipment maintenance.** Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining type and timing of maintenance needed.
- **Troubleshooting.** Determining causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.
- **Repairing.** Repairing machines or systems using the needed tools.
- **Reading comprehension.** Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Installation.** Installing equipment, machines, wiring, or programs to meet specifications.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers
- Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics
- Motorcycle Mechanics
- Outdoor Power Equipment and Other Small Engine Mechanics
- Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
- Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators

SOURCE O*NET Summary reports and occupational databases. Retrieved May 2008, from <http://online.onetcenter.org/>.