



## Automotive Service Technician (A.S.E.)

Automotive service technicians, often called service technicians or service techs, diagnose, adjust, inspect, maintain, and repair automotive vehicles and light trucks.

Most automotive service technicians work in a well-ventilated and well-lit repair shop. Many problems can be fixed with computers; however, technicians still perform many tasks with greasy parts and specialty tools, oftentimes, in uncomfortable positions. Many technicians specialize in a specific category such as engine repair, brake repair, and other specialty fields, while the master mechanic is proficient in all phases of automotive repair.

Automotive service technicians may work as automobile technicians, service consultants, engine machinists, and parts specialists, to name a few of the various occupations. Some individuals have gotten their start by working as a laborer in automotive service departments or changing oil in a fast lube business.

Most technicians work full-time with nights, weekends, and overtime being common. In this occupation, the rate of workplace related injuries and illness is above the national average. While minor cuts and bruises tend to be commonplace, workers are not likely to be in danger if they follow safety guidelines and procedures.

### Indiana Wage Information

|             | Entry   | Median  |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Hourly Wage | \$13.70 | \$18.09 |

### Job Outlook in Indiana

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Long term  | 9.1% (increase)  |
| Short Term | 3.97% (increase) |

\*Data collected from [hoosierdata.in.gov](http://hoosierdata.in.gov)

### Job Duties

- Align vehicles' front ends
- Disassemble units and inspect parts using micrometers, calipers, and gauges
- Install and repair accessories
- Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services
- Rebuild defective/broken parts
- Review work orders
- Rework ignition systems, lights, and instrument panels
- Repair/replace brakes
- Repair vehicle's transmission
- Overhaul and/or replace malfunctioning vehicle parts
- Keep up-to-date and apply new technology
- Test drive vehicles and test components and systems using equipment such as analyzers, gauges

## Important Qualities

**Customer-service skills** - must be able to discuss automotive problems in addition to options for fixing them; must work well with customers in order to earn repeat business

**Detail-oriented** – must account for details when inspecting or repairing engines and components to prevent any type of malfunction

**Dexterity** – must have a steady hand and good hand-eye coordination

**Troubleshooting skills** – must be able to determine and fix problems in mechanical and electrical systems

## Skills and Knowledge

### Technical

- Knowledge of mechanical components
- Knowledge of electronic systems
- Knowledge of the use of common hand tools
- Knowledge of regulations and procedures for disposal of refrigerants and oils
- Ability to use computerized diagnostic and power tools

### English Language Arts

- Be able to read and understand work orders and manufacturers' specifications

### Math

- Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications

## How can YOU get involved?

The world of work relies on the foundational skills students acquire in your classrooms and/or programs!

- Know your students'/clients' interests and career goals
- Affirm the value of the skills/hobbies students demonstrate both in and outside of the classroom
- Infuse your classroom culture and/or meetings with career-minded activities
- Provide time to make connections between the material learned in adult education or workshops and students' daily lives/career aspirations
- Know the basic job descriptions and training requirements of in-demand occupations in your area
- Know which WorkINDiana programs are available in your region
- Know the processes for referring students to postsecondary or on-the-job training
- Post resources where students can find more information about further education/training and careers

## Certification and Advancement

In the automotive industry of today auto repair is more complicated than ever, and it benefits the automotive technician to become certified by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). This certificate proves the technician to be a knowledgeable professional in their field and will also improve their chances for advancement, though further training and work experience will be required.

To receive the ASE certification, auto technicians can take one or more exams in specialty fields. The specialties are grouped into fields such as automobile, medium/heavy truck, truck equipment, school bus, collision repair, etc. The exams are detailed and require vast knowledge of the field. They generally have between 40 and 70 scored multiple choice questions and 10 or more non-scored questions. Scored and non-scored questions are not identified, so the test takers must answer each question to the best of their ability. ASE test-takers may take the certification exams at a secure, proctored test center of their choice. After passing at least one of the exams and providing proof of up to two years of relevant work experience depending on the certification, the test-taker becomes ASE certified. If a person passes the test without the required work experience, they will receive a student certification that will last 2 years, giving the student time to attain work experience necessary for ASE certification. Those who have completed an automotive training program in high school, vocational or trade school, or community or junior college may use any of these as a substitute for one year of experience. In order to remain certified, the ASE certified professional must retest every five years.

There are practice tests available online to help technicians prepare for their exam. The practice tests are half the length of the regular ASE test and provide feedback in the form of a performance report which gives explanations for correct and incorrect answers.

An automotive technician can become an ASE Master Technician by passing a specified group of tests in a series. You must recertify in each test area every five years. If you do not recertify and your certification expires you will lose your Master Technician status. If this happens you must recertify by taking the Recertification Tests.

Sources and Further Information:

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

[www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)

[www.myskillsmyfuture.org](http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org)

[www.wikihow.com/Obtain-ASE-Certification](http://www.wikihow.com/Obtain-ASE-Certification)

[www.wikihow.com/Become-ASE-Certified](http://www.wikihow.com/Become-ASE-Certified)

[www.ase.com/Tests/ASE-Certification-Tests.aspx](http://www.ase.com/Tests/ASE-Certification-Tests.aspx)

[www.ase.com/Tests/Official-Practice-Tests.aspx](http://www.ase.com/Tests/Official-Practice-Tests.aspx)

\*Last Updated July 2016