

Parts Technician

Find, order, stock and sell the parts that keep vehicles and machines running. A Red Seal trade you can do without getting greasy.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$83k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Dealerships, parts stores,
equipment dealers, warehouses,...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Math, business and any automotive course. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) can start you early.
- 2 Get hired** Weeks
Dealership parts departments, auto parts chains, truck and equipment dealers. Many hire counter trainees with no experience.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
Skilled Trades Ontario calls it Parts Technician (24OP). Alberta and other provinces register it as Partsperson.
- 4 Work and study** 2 to 3 years
Ontario: 6,000 hours, 5,460 on the job plus 540 in school. Other provinces run 3 periods of roughly 1,500 hours.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the exam. The Red Seal endorsement works across Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Red Seal trade with no tool chest and no grease
- + Indoor, regular hours
- + Cheapest trade to enter
- Retail counter pay is modest
- Technicians and customers get impatient when a part is wrong
- Lots of lifting and standing in the warehouse

Good to know

A Red Seal without a wrench

Partsperson is a Red Seal trade alongside electricians and welders, but the tools are a computer, a scanner and a forklift. It is the closest thing to an office job in the skilled trades.

The number is 17 characters

Every vehicle has a 17-character vehicle identification number, and a partsperson uses it dozens of times a day to find the exact part for that build. One wrong digit and the wrong part shows up.

Optional boosts

Heavy equipment or truck parts. Mine and oil sands warehouses. Parts manager. Supply chain and purchasing.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Parts technician, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Skilled Trades Ontario: Parts Technician (24OP)

Red Seal Program

Government of Canada: Canada Apprentice Loan

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/parts-technician>



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