

Bicycle Mechanic

Keep bikes safe and running. Low pay, real craft, and a trade you can start the week you leave school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$42,780

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$55k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Bike shops, sporting goods stores,
mobile repair vans, race and tour...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Work on your own bike. Shop class and anything mechanical helps, and a part-time job in a shop during school is the best start there is.
- 2 Get hired** Weeks
Shops take on beginners, usually in late winter ahead of the spring rush, and train them on builds and basic repairs.
- 3 Learn the full bench** 1 to 3 years
Wheel building, hydraulic brakes, drivetrains, suspension and electric systems, roughly in that order of difficulty.
- 4 Take a professional course, if you want** 1 to 2 weeks
The United Bicycle Institute and other schools run one and two week professional repair and certification courses that shops recognize.
- 5 Lead the bench, or go out on your own** 3 to 8 years
Lead mechanic, service manager, a mobile repair business, or your own shop.

Pros and cons

- + No tuition, no debt, hired within weeks
- + A genuine craft that takes years to master
- + Deep discounts and a workplace full of people who ride
- Low pay with a low ceiling
- Seasonal: spring is chaos and winter can mean cut hours
- Employment in the trade is expected to decline

Good to know

The Wright brothers were bike mechanics

Orville and Wilbur Wright ran a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, and built their first aircraft using the wire, chain, light tubing and hand skills they used on bikes all week.

Electric bikes changed the bench

Electric bikes are heavier, faster and carry motors, batteries and dealer only software. Mechanics now need electrical diagnosis and manufacturer training that simply did not exist ten years ago.

Optional boosts

Electric bike diagnosis. Suspension service. Wheel building. Bike fitting.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Bicycle Repairers

United Bicycle Institute: professional repair and certification courses

Apprenticeship.gov: Registered Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/bicycle-mechanic>



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