

Parts Technician

Find, order and supply the exact component a mechanic needs. The job that keeps every shop moving.

TYPICAL PAY

\$37,330

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$30k to \$49k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Dealership parts departments,
auto parts stores, truck and equip...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma or an equivalency certificate** Grade 12
Most employers want one. Auto shop and business classes help you stand out.
- 2 Get hired** Weeks
Chain parts stores, dealership parts departments and equipment dealers all hire entry-level counter and warehouse staff and train them.
- 3 Learn the catalogue** First year
Electronic parts catalogues, vehicle identification numbers, interchange numbers and supersessions. This is the actual skill and it takes months to get fast.
- 4 Certify** 1 to 2 years in
Sit the parts specialist tests once you have the experience the testing body requires. There are separate tests for car parts and medium or heavy truck parts.
- 5 Specialize or move up** 3 years and beyond
Wholesale accounts, heavy equipment, inventory control, or parts manager. Some people move across into service advising or sales.

Pros and cons

- + You can start straight out of high school with no debt
- + Steady indoor work in nearly every town in the country
- + Real progression to parts manager or outside sales
- Starting pay is low and the published figures are low too
- Standing, lifting and climbing shelves all day
- Pressure from technicians and customers who need it immediately

Optional boosts

Manufacturer training. Inventory control. Heavy truck and equipment parts. Wholesale and fleet accounts.

Good to know

There is a certification just for parts people

The national automotive testing body is known for its mechanic exams, but it also runs a parts specialist series with separate tests for automobile parts and for medium and heavy truck parts. It sits along...

The federal survey cannot see this job

There is no national wage code for parts technicians. They are counted with stockers and order fillers, a group that also contains supermarket shelf stackers, which is why any figure you read for this...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Stockers and Order Fillers (53-7065.00)

National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence: certification tests

Apprenticeship.gov: Registered Apprenticeship

USAJOBS, the federal government's official employment site

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/parts-technician>



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