

Heavy Equipment Operator



What They Do

A heavy equipment operator drives or controls construction equipment, including bulldozers, forklifts, backhoes, dump trucks, cargo trucks, and hydraulic truck cranes. They operate this equipment to assist in the construction of structures, including bridges, roads, and buildings.

Job Duties

- Monitor construction operations.
- Operate heavy-duty construction or installation equipment.
- Operate equipment or vehicles to clear construction sites or move materials.
- Move construction or extraction materials to locations where they are needed.
- Load or unload materials used in construction or extraction.
- Test air quality at work sites.
- Signal equipment operators to indicate proper equipment positioning.
- Maintain construction tools or equipment

Job Earnings

In New York State:
\$40,913 is the lower range
\$69,950 is the median salary
\$153,192 is the upper range

This occupation requires:

Education/Training

- High school diploma or GED
- Participation in on the job training, apprenticeship, or a certification or associates degree
- A CDL license from the Department of Motor Vehicles

Job Outlook

In New York State, 2018, 13,010 people were employed as heavy equipment operators. In 2028, there are projected to be 14,530 people employed in this line of work. The anticipated annual job openings, based on growth, attrition, and retirements is expected to be 1,640.

Career Title - Career Pathway

Ways to start preparing for you future career TODAY!

1

Middle/High School Classes to Take:

- Diesel Mechanics and Repair
- Driver Education
- Geography
- Physical Education

2

Clubs/Extracurricular Activities:

- Camp Hard Hat

3

Local BOCES/Career & Technical Education Programs:

- Genesee Valley BOCES
 - Conservation (Batavia & Mt. Morris)
 - Diesel Mechanics (Batavia & Mt. Morris)
- Orleans Niagara BOCES - Diesel Technology / Heavy Equipment / Agriculture Mechanics
- Monroe2Boces - Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance

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Volunteer Opportunities:

- Genesee County:
 - Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County
 - United Way of Genesee County
- Livingston County:
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 - Habitat for Humanity of Livingston County
- Orleans County:
 - Community Action of Orleans & Genesee
 - Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Wyoming County
 - Community Action of Wyoming County

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Local Colleges/Training:

- Genesee Valley BOCES - CDL School
- Monroe2 BOCES - CDL School
- Buffalo Heavy Equipment Operator Training
- Alfred State, Heavy Equipment Operations
- Local 158 IUOE training
- CAT Heavy Equipment Operator Training