

Heavy equipment operator



Description of the trade

The trade of heavy equipment operator has four specialties.

- **Tractor operator: specialist who may operate different types of tractors, such as bulldozers, loader-backhoes, and front-end loaders**
- **Leveller operator: specialist who operates levellers**
- **Spreader operator: specialist who operates asphalt and cement spreaders, graders, etc.**
- **Roller operator: specialist who operates rollers, roller-compressors and non-manual compactors**

ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

- Present to the CCQ proof of completion of DEP - Conduite d'engins de chantier and of a job guarantee from an employer registered with the CCQ, for at least 150 hours spread over three consecutive months. This leads to an apprentice competency certificate in the trade.
- Measures are in place to increase the presence of women on construction sites by 2018. Consult them at mixite.ccq.org.

APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

- Have completed the 2,000-hour apprenticeship period in order to be eligible for the provincial qualification examinations in the four specialties, which, successfully completed, will enable you to obtain a journeyman competency certificate in each specialty.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Acquire knowledge related to the reading of plans, survey monuments, and concepts of mechanics, hydraulics, and electricity
- Be resourceful, careful, and vigilant
- Be capable of working alone
- Have good physical coordination
- Be dextrous

Average annual salary*

Apprentice**	\$16,453
Journeyman***	\$35,803
Journeyman working at least 500 hours	\$52,208
Proportion****	65%

* Includes premiums, overtime hours, and compensation for paid statutory holidays and the obligatory annual vacations provided in the collective agreements.
 ** Average salary of graduates admitted in 2014, for the 12 months following their admission.
 *** Average salary in 2015 of those having reported at least one hour of work.
 **** Proportion of journeymen in this trade having accumulated at least 500 hours in 2015. Does not include income that may have been made for work not falling under the construction collective agreements.

Integration into the labour market

	Annual average 2012-2015	2016
New admissions to the CCQ	127	86
Placement rate of graduates*	12.4%	n/a

* Source: *La Relance au secondaire en formation professionnelle*, survey by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec. New graduates are asked about their employment situation on June 1, after they have obtained their diploma.

Hourly wage* according to the collective agreements

	Industrial, institutional and commercial	Civil engineering and roadwork	Light residential
Apprentice – Class AA	\$30.72	\$30.40	–
Journeyman – Class AA	\$36.14	\$35.77	–
Apprentice – Class A	\$29.74	\$29.50	\$27.28
Journeyman – Class A	\$34.99	\$34.70	\$32.09
Apprentice – Class B	\$28.98	\$28.81	\$26.63
Journeyman – Class B	\$34.09	\$33.89	\$31.33

*Wage in May 2016.

Volume of work per sector



Job prospects



- There were 5,875 heavy equipment operators in 2016, working for more than 1,750 employers and using a variety of equipment. In addition to tractors, including backhoes, apprentices learn to operate levellers, spreaders, and rollers.
- Employment in this trade has slowed somewhat in recent years, with activity concentrated in the civil engineering and roadwork sector. It should be stimulated in coming years, however, by major projects such as the Champlain Bridge and Turcot interchange.
- Fewer new apprentices entered the industry in 2016, 86 compared with the average of 127 each year over the past four years. In the first year of work, the average income of a graduate apprentice is \$16,500, while that of a journeyman working at least 500 hours (65% of journeymen) rises to \$52,200 a year.
- Job prospects are quite good for heavy equipment operators. Demand is stable, and the aging workforce will create a need for new workers, although part will be met by those currently available.

Training

Study program:

Diploma of vocational studies (DEP) -
Conduite d'engins de chantier (5220)

Duration of training: 1,095 hours

Academic prerequisite: Category 2*

* The academic prerequisites for all trades and occupations in this brochure are described on page 74.

Training generally offered in the following regions:

- Chaudière-Appalaches
- Montérégie



To find out which public facilities are authorized to offer this study program, consult the website www.inforoutefpt.org

Number of employed workers in 2016

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	233
Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie	594
Côte-Nord	230
Estrie	196
Island of Montréal	256
Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière	1,116
Mauricie-Bois-Francs	475
Montérégie	1,020
Outaouais	228
Québec	1,118
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	387
Outside of Québec and Baie-James	22
Total	5,875

Number of employed women 43

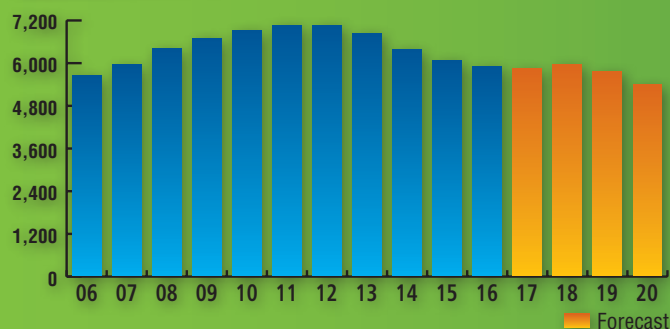
Worker mobility

Proportion of workers who travel from one region to another:*

Heavy equipment operator	23%
All trades and occupations	17%

* Excluding travel between the Montérégie, Island of Montréal, and Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière regions.

Number of employed workers from 2006 to 2020



Age of the workforce in 2016

	Average age	Under 30 years	30-54 years	55 years and over	Total number of workers
Apprentice	35	50%	47%	3%	522
Journeyman	47	12%	57%	31%	5,353
Total, heavy equipment operators	46	14%	56%	30%	5,875
All trades and occupations	39	26%	58%	16%	153,700