Equipment Operator (47-2073.00)

Sample Job Titles

Key Tasks
- Learn and follow safety regulations.
- Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects.
- Locate underground services, such as pipes or wires, prior to beginning work.
- Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met.
- Adjust handwheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.
- Start engines, move throttles, switches, or levers, or depress pedals to operate machines, such as bulldozers, trench excavators, road graders, or backhoes.
- Coordinate machine actions with other activities, positioning or moving loads in response to hand or audio signals from crew members.
- Load and move dirt, rocks, equipment, or other materials, using trucks, crawler tractors, power cranes, shovels, graders, or related equipment.
- Check fuel supplies at sites to ensure adequate availability.
- Drive and maneuver equipment equipped with blades in successive passes over working areas to remove topsoil, vegetation, or rocks or to distribute and level earth or terrain.
- Signal operators to guide movement of tractor-drawn machines.
- Keep records of material or equipment usage or problems encountered.
- Align machines, cutterheads, or depth gauge makers with reference stakes and guidelines or ground or position equipment, following hand signals of other workers.

Education and Training

- High school diploma or equivalent: 67%
- Post-secondary certificate: 18%
- Less than a high school diploma: 13%

Median Wages

- Hourly: $17.21
- Annually: $35,800

Top Industries

- Construction
- Government

Number Employed

- 402,000 positions
- 52,500 job openings

Top Ten States for Occupational Percentage Growth

1. UT: 37%
2. FL: 26%
3. CO: 25%
4. TX: 21%
5. OR: 19%
6. AZ: 18%
7. CA: 16%
8. NV: 16%
9. ID: 16%
10. DC: 14%