

Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operator (53-7032.00)

At-a-Glance Statistics



Sample Job Titles

Backhoe Operator, Dragline Oiler, Dragline Operator, Equipment Operator, Excavator Operator, Heavy Equipment Operator, Loader Operator, Operator, Pit Operator, Track Hoe Operator

Key Tasks

- Move levers, depress foot pedals, and turn dials to operate power machinery, such as power shovels, stripping shovels, scraper loaders, or backhoes.
- Set up or inspect equipment prior to operation.
- Become familiar with digging plans, machine capabilities and limitations, and with efficient and safe digging procedures in a given application.
- Observe hand signals, grade stakes, or other markings when operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications.
- Operate machinery to perform activities such as backfilling excavations, vibrating or breaking rock or concrete, or making winter roads.
- Receive written or oral instructions regarding material movement or excavation.
- Move materials over short distances, such as around a construction site, factory, or warehouse.
- Create or maintain inclines or ramps.
- Lubricate, adjust, or repair machinery and replace parts, such as gears, bearings, or bucket teeth.
- Handle slides, mud, or pit cleanings or maintenance.
- Direct workers engaged in placing blocks or outriggers to prevent capsizing of machines when lifting heavy loads.
- Direct ground workers engaged in activities such as moving stakes or markers or changing positions of towers.

Education and Training


High school diploma or equivalent

71%


Less than high school diploma

23%


Post-secondary certificate

6%

Median Wages



Hourly

\$21.28



Annually

\$44,270

Top Industries



Construction
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction

Number Employed



50,000 positions
6,500 job openings

Top Ten States for Occupational Percentage Growth

