



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

Heavy equipment operator

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.

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*	\$20,277
Journeyman**	\$33,411
Journeyman working at least 500 hours	\$49,055
Proportion***	64%

* 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 2011-2014	2015
New admissions to the CCQ	169	80
Placement rate of graduates*	84.8%	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.

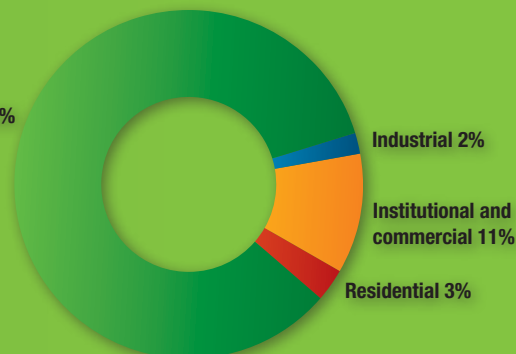
Hourly wage* according to the collective agreements

	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

Civil
engineering 84%



Job prospects



- Three were 5,967 heavy equipment operators in 2015, working for more than 1,800 employers. They use different kinds of equipment. In addition to tractors, apprentices learn to operate rollers, spreaders, levellers, and backhoes.
- This trade has seen somewhat of a slowdown in employment in recent years, as jobs are found mainly in the civil engineering and roadwork sector. However, this sector should be stimulated in coming years by major projects such as the Turcot interchange and the Champlain Bridge. The work is seasonal: there are five times more workers on the job in summer than in winter.
- Fewer new apprentices were admitted into the industry in 2015, 80, compared to the average of 169 per year over the four previous years. In the first year of work, the average salary of an apprentice with a diploma is \$20,300, and a journeyman who works at least 500 hours earns \$49,100 per year.
- Job prospects for heavy equipment operators are quite high. Demand will be growing strongly in coming years, but part of this demand will be filled by the currently available workers.

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

Employed workers in 2015

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	246
Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie	595
Côte-Nord	248
Estrie	202
Island of Montréal	259
Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière	1,122
Mauricie-Bois-Francs	478
Montérégie	993
Outaouais	264
Québec	1,163
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	378
Outside of Québec and Baie-James	19
Total	5,967

Number of employed women 44

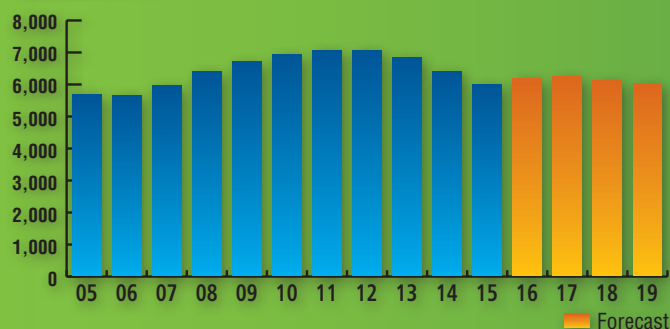
Worker mobility

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

Heavy equipment operator	22%
All trades and occupations	16%

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

Number of employed workers 2005-2019



Age of the workforce in 2015

	Average age	Under 30 years	30-54 years	55 years and over	Total number of workers
Apprentice	35	58%	40%	2%	620
Journeyman	47	12%	57%	31%	5,347
Total, heavy equipment operators	45	15%	56%	29%	5,967
All trades and occupations	39	27%	58%	15%	153,040