

- Automotive service technicians and mechanics held approximately 818,000 jobs in 2002. The majority worked for retail and wholesale automotive dealers, independent automotive repair shops, or automotive service facilities at department, automotive, and home supply stores. Others found employment in gasoline service stations; taxicab and automobile leasing companies; Federal, State, and local governments; and other organizations. About 16 percent of service technicians were self-employed.¹
- Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to increase about as fast as the average (10 – 20%) through the year 2012. This amounts to 82,000 – 164,000 new jobs between 2002 and 2012.²
- With respect to 2001 Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the auto repair, services, and parking component of the overall industry was \$111.4 billion in current dollars, while the motor vehicles and equipment component was \$99.5 billion in current dollars.³
- Opportunities should be good for automotive service technicians with good diagnostic and problem-solving skills and knowledge of electronics and mathematics.⁴
- Formal automotive technician training is the best preparation for automotive service jobs.⁵
- The ascendancy of the numerically smaller post-baby boom generation may curb demand for cars and trucks. Increased demand due to growth in the number of vehicles in operation will be somewhat offset by improved vehicle quality and durability which increase reliability and reduce the need for extensive repair and maintenance.⁶
- According to the *Career Guide to Industries*, automotive service technicians employed by automobile dealers should have a high degree of job security, since “changes in economic conditions have little effect on this part [repair and maintenance] of the dealer’s business.”⁷
- Motor vehicle and equipment manufacturing is expected to grow 3 percent over the 2002-2012 period.⁸
- In Automotive Services, employment growth will continue to be concentrated in motor vehicle dealerships and independent service repair shops.⁹

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2004-05.

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov/nea/dn2/home/gdpbyindy.htm.

⁴ BLS, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2004-05.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ BLS, *2004-05 Career Guide to Industries*.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ BLS, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2004-05.



- A number of selected occupations within the automotive industry are expected to increase employment by at least 10 percent during the 2002 to 2012 time period. These occupations include:
 - automotive service technicians and mechanics (12.4 percent increase)
 - automotive body and related repairers (13.2 percent)
 - automotive glass installers and repairers (10.7 percent)¹⁰

¹⁰ BLS, National Employment Data, <http://www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm>.

