EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS
The Automotive industry employs 10,100 South Australians, which is 1.3% of the workforce.

More than 1,000 jobs are expected to open up over the next five years due to industry growth and replacement of people who will retire.

Not surprisingly, most of the people working in the Automotive industry repair and maintain vehicles, mostly cars and trucks.

There are jobs everywhere in South Australia, but a large percentage of the jobs are in the northern metropolitan area.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THIS INDUSTRY
• Almost everyone works full time.
• The majority of people have a Certificate III qualification or higher.
• Most workers in this industry are men – but there is a growing number of women and plenty of opportunities.
• People working in the Automotive industry are generally younger than in other industries.
• To work in this industry you need to be physically fit, enjoy working with hand tools and solving mechanical problems.
• The majority of Motor Mechanics, Auto Electricians and Panel Beaters earn between $400 and $800 per week.

TRAINING PATHWAYS
See SACE www.sace.sa.edu.au for VET in SACE recognition options.

VET in SACE options include:
• Automotive Industry Retail, Service And Repair (AUR05)

Vocational Qualifications include:
• Certificate I in Automotive
• Certificate II and III in Automotive Administration
• Certificate II and III in Bicycles
• Certificate II and III in Automotive Mechanical or Electrical Technology
• Certificate II and III in Marine
• Certificate II, III, IV and Diploma in Motorsport
• Certificate IV and Diploma in Automotive Management
• Certificate IV and Diploma in Automotive Technology

University Degrees include:
• Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Automotive Engineering)
• Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical)

OCCUPATIONS IN THIS INDUSTRY

Light Vehicles
Light vehicle motor mechanics service, repair and overhaul the mechanical parts of motor vehicles, such as the engine, the transmission (clutch, gear box and differential), and the suspension systems (springs, steering, brakes, wheels and tyres).

With the changes in automotive technology, there are now more electronic controls and computers fitted to vehicles. As a result, light vehicle motor mechanics are becoming more specialised in their areas of work.

Light vehicle motor mechanics may specialise as Automotive Air-conditioning Fitters and Brake Mechanics or Automotive Electricians.

They may also specialise as breakdown service patrol officers who give emergency mechanical assistance to members of an automobile association.

Light vehicle motor mechanics may progress to positions such as service manager, service adviser, technical sales representative, technical officer or diagnostic specialist.

Related Occupations
Light Vehicle Motor Mechanics
Automotive Air-conditioning Fitters
Engine Reconditioners
Brake Mechanics
Automotive Electricians

Related Occupations
Light Vehicle Motor Mechanics
Automotive Air-conditioning Fitters
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Heavy Vehicles
A heavy vehicle motor mechanic repairs, maintains and tests heavy vehicles, other engines and related mechanical components. This involves diagnosing, overhauling, repairing, tuning, maintaining and testing diesel and petrol/gas-powered vehicles, including trucks, buses, bulldozers and other earthmoving equipment, tractors, stationary engines (e.g. generators, pumps, compressors and drilling rigs) and agricultural machinery.

Heavy vehicle mechanics are more likely to be working in country areas.

Panel Beaters
Panel beaters repair damage to metal, plastic and fibreglass bodywork on vehicles. They also make and form vehicle panels using machines or hand tools.

Related Occupations
- Engine Reconditioners
- Brake Mechanics
- Automotive Electricians

Related Occupations
- Vehicle Painters
- Vehicle Trimmers

The Automotive industry links to the:
- Transport and Storage industry
- Metals and Engineering industry
- Mining industry
- Agriculture industry
- Manufacturing industry
- Retail industry
- Property Services industry

TOP 5 OCCUPATIONS
1. Motor/Diesel Mechanics
2. Panel Beaters
3. Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories Fitters
4. Vehicle Body Builders and Trimmers
5. Automotive Electricians

Career information about specific occupations has been sourced from www.myfuture.edu.au
South Australian labour market information has been sourced from ABS Catalogue 6291.0 Labour Force, average of 4 quarters to February quarter 2010
South Australian information on Age, Region and Income has been sourced from the Australian Census of Population and Housing 2006
Job Openings information is sourced from the South Australian Training and Skills Commission, November 2009
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NEED MORE INFO?
Manufacturing Industry Skills Advisory Council www.misac.com.au
Auto Careers www.autocareers.com.au