Equipment Operator (47-2073.00)

At-a-Glance Statistics

GREEN JOBS   BRIGHT OUTLOOK

Sample Job Titles	Back Hoe Operator, Engineering Equipment Operator, Equipment Operator, Heavy Equipment Operator, Loader Operator, Machine Operator, Motor Grader Operator, Operating Engineer, Operator, Track Hoe Operator

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

State	Growth
UT	37%
FL	26%
CO	25%
TX	21%
OR	19%
AZ	18%
CA	16%
NV	16%
ID	16%
DC	14%