

# HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

(**Note:** The scope of this profile does not include Haul Truck Driver, Driller, Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator)  
Heavy Equipment Operators work with machinery outdoors or underground, and are responsible and safety conscious.

## Job Description

- Use one or more types of heavy equipment:
  - Equipment used in open pit mines includes: graders, scrapers, track and wheel dozers and loaders, excavators, draglines, backhoes and shovels.
  - Equipment used in underground mines includes: locomotives, scoop trams, water trucks and remote-controlled equipment
- Use heavy equipment according to operating practices to excavate and move minerals and metals, earth, sand, gravel, rock, muck, coal and snow
- Safely drive and maneuver heavy equipment around the mine
- May select, fit and remove attachments
- Safely operate the controls of heavy
- Monitor gauges, dials and other indicators to make sure the heavy equipment is working properly; report discrepancies to dispatch
- Adjust controls to regulate pressure, control speed and flow of operation
- Perform a walk-around inspection before, during, and after every shift
- May clean, maintain and secure equipment
- Troubleshoot in accordance with regulations and approved procedures; may perform minor repairs as required or report issues to dispatch
- Complete log books and daily reports on delays, production and safety issues
- Use two-way radio, visual, audio and light signals to communicate with other operators and ensure safety

## Compensation

\$26.45/hour

\$48.24/hour

(Source: Canadian Mine Salaries, Wages & Benefits: 2018 Survey Results InfoMine USA, 2018).

## Job Prospects



## Why are People Attracted to this Career?

Heavy Equipment Operators often specialize in more than one type of equipment. Many are trained on different types of heavy equipment or use their experience to train others.

## What is it Like to Work as a Heavy Equipment Operator in Mining?

**Note:** conditions vary according to employer and region.

Heavy Equipment Operators work inside temperature-controlled equipment cabs. They work in their own in a cab for the majority of their shift and communicate with colleagues mostly over two-way radios or by using signals. New operators are likely trained by employers and begin by operating a blade machine, such as a grader, dozer or wheeled excavator. They are also required to lift heavy objects up to 23 kg (50 lbs) (based on 2014 job research).

## Success Profile

- Follows verbal directions and hand signals
- Ability to stay focused
- Fast reflexes and good hand-eye and eye-foot coordination
- Good interpersonal skills and works well with others
- Good troubleshooting skills
- Good vision and depth perception
- Respect and understanding of safety procedures and regulations
- Independent, organized and alert

## Job Entry Requirements

**Note:** The requirements listed below illustrate what it takes to start the career and do not take into account on-the-job training given to new employees.

### Fixed Requirements

- Physically fit and mobile
- Must pass a medical and drug test
- Willing to work in a diverse environment
- Proficiency in language of operation

### Regional Requirement

- Technical training and a valid certificate for specific equipment (in some cases apprenticeship training)

### May be Required

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Valid driver's licence and good driving record

### Assets

- Previous experience operating heavy equipment
- Willingness to relocate
- Other languages