

**Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics** use high-tech skills to inspect, maintain, and repair automobiles and light trucks with gasoline engines. Their work has evolved from simply mechanical to high technology. Today integrated electronic systems and complex computers run vehicles and measure their performance while on the road. Automotive service technicians have developed into diagnostic, high-tech problem solvers. Technicians must have an increasingly broad base of knowledge about how vehicles' complex components work and interact, as well as the ability to work with electronic diagnostic equipment and computer-based technical reference materials.

**Transmission Technicians** and **Rebuilders** work on gear trains, couplings, hydraulic pumps, and other parts of transmissions. Extensive knowledge of computer controls, diagnosis of electrical and hydraulic problems, and other specialized skills are needed to work on these complex components. **Tune-up Technicians** adjust the ignition timing and valves, and adjust or replace spark plugs and other parts to ensure efficient engine performance.

**Automotive Air-conditioning Repairers** install and repair air conditioners and service components, such as compressors, condensers, and controls. These workers require special training in Federal and State regulations governing the handling and disposal of refrigerants. **Front-end Mechanics** align and balance wheels and repair steering mechanisms and suspension systems. **Brake Repairers** adjust brakes, replace brake linings and pads, and make other repairs on brake systems. Some technicians and mechanics specialize in both brake and front-end work.

**General Motors, Lexus/Toyota** and Monroe Community College have joined forces to provide appropriate "high-tech" instruction and a cooperative work experience at participating dealers in the Western New York Region.

#### Salary Information:

- **Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic for Rochester, NY area:**

\$31,500 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)

\$37,540 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)

[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

#### Additional Information:

- Automotive Youth Educational Systems: [www.ayes.org](http://www.ayes.org)
- National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation: [www.natef.org](http://www.natef.org)

