

NOC 7315 Aircraft Mechanics and Aircraft Inspectors

Description of occupation

Aircraft mechanics maintain, repair, overhaul, modify and test aircraft structural, mechanical and hydraulic systems. Aircraft inspectors inspect aircraft and aircraft systems following manufacture, modification, maintenance, repair or overhaul. Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors are employed by aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul establishments, and by airlines and other aircraft operators (Statistics Canada, 2016).

Job title examples:

- aircraft gas turbine engine technician
- aircraft inspector
- aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) (except avionics)
- aircraft mechanic
- aircraft structural repair technician
- aircraft systems inspector
- aviation mechanical component shop technician
- certified aircraft technician
- hydraulic mechanic, aircraft
- inspector, flight test
- inspector, repair and overhaul
- shop inspector, aircraft repair

What is a NOC code?

The NOC system is based on categorizing occupations by their evaluated skill level and skill type. Each NOC code consists of four digits. The first digit denotes the occupation's skill type; the second denotes the occupation's skill level. Combined, these two digits define the NOC "Major Group" for all occupations with the same skill level and skill type. The final two digits are employed to narrow, or "drill down", to a specific occupational group. The third digit, combined with the "Major Group", defines the "Minor Group". The fourth digit identifies even further the specific occupation within the "Minor Group", referred to as the NOC "Unit Group". The NOC is a standard that classifies and describes occupations in the Canadian economy. It is the foundation for occupational statistics and labour market information (Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, 2016).

Training and education required

- Completion of secondary school is required
- A college diploma in aircraft maintenance

Or

- Completion of a four-year apprenticeship program is usually required.
- Several years of on-the-job training are required for aircraft mechanics.

Aircraft mechanics and inspectors who sign maintenance releases and certify airworthiness require an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's (AME) licence issued by Transport Canada. Trade certification for aircraft maintenance engineers is available, but voluntary in Ontario. Industry certification from the Canadian Aviation Maintenance Council for some occupations in this unit group is available, but voluntary. Aircraft inspectors require several years of experience as an aircraft mechanic (Statistics Canada, 2016).

Programs prepare students for different classifications of the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) Licence issued by Transport Canada. In most programs, aircraft repair and maintenance courses can result in several months' credit towards the AME Licence. Field experience is also an important part of the curriculum in all aircraft repair and maintenance programs, giving students the opportunity to gain experience working with both static and flying aircraft. (Ontario Colleges, 2016).

Aircraft repair and maintenance programs at Ontario colleges require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a grade 12 English credit. A grade 12 math credit may be required, though individual requirements will vary by program. Most colleges also suggest courses that may help students better prepare for the program, but aren't necessary for admittance (Ontario Colleges, 2016).

Some programs accredited by Transport Canada may be used towards experience credit in obtaining a Canadian AME License. There are various Canadian AME Licensing ratings relative to the experience credit obtained. For more information on the licensing system, please visit www.tc.gc.ca (Ontario Colleges, 2016).

Aircraft Mechanics and Aircraft Inspectors programs are available at the following colleges in Ontario, as of September 2016:

- Algonquin College
- Canadore College
- Sault College
- Centennial College
- Fanshawe College
- Mohawk College
- Confederation College.

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship allows students to learn a skilled trade while gaining paid on-the-job work experience. Apprenticeship programs are usually offered through a college or vocational school and help prepare you for a career in the trades. The programs are structured to provide both classroom learning and on-the-job experience.

Although most of the learning in an apprenticeship is on the job, there is also an in-class component through a college. Apprentices typically spend 80-85% of their education and training in the workplace.

At the end of the apprenticeship training program, the apprentice becomes a journeyperson and is certified to work in the trade (Government of Canada, 2014).

To qualify for apprenticeship in Ontario you must:

- Be at least 16 years if age
- Have legal permission to work in Canada (i.e. have a valid social insurance number)
- Meet the educational requirements of your chosen trade
- Have a sponsor in Ontario (most sponsors are employers who will hire, train and pay you during your apprenticeship)

To apply for an apprenticeship, you must apply online through the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, once the criteria above is met.

Median and average wages and salaries in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed in the aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspector's occupation within Durham Region is as follows:

Median wages and salaries – **\$60,138**

Average wages and salaries - **\$83,104**

(Sourced from Statistics Canada 2011 data, custom purchased by the Durham Workforce Authority).

Salaries in this field can vary depending on your position and experience, however the average starting salary is in the low-to-mid-\$30,000 range. Gaining AME accreditation will lead to a higher salary. (Ontario Colleges, 2016).

Employed by Place of Work and Place of Residence

Place of Work (POW) – is defined as individuals employed within the Durham Region.

Place of Residence (POR) – is defined as Individuals who reside within the Durham Region.

The number of individuals employed within Durham Region (POW) in the aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspector's occupation is 35.

The number of Durham Region residents employed (POR) in the aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspector's occupation is 120.

(Sourced from Statistics Canada 2011 data, custom purchased by the Durham Workforce Authority).

Employment Prospects

This list below represents a sample of employment prospects for those seeking employment in aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspector's occupation within Durham Region. There is also a proposed airport for the Pickering Lands which would bring many job opportunities in this occupation to Durham Region.

Air Express Ontario Inc. –Oshawa
 Canadian Flight Academy –Oshawa
 Durham Flight Centre –Oshawa
 Enterprise Airlines –Oshawa
 Oshawa Executive Airport –Oshawa
 Greenbank Airport –Uxbridge