

# Construction Equipment Operator

## PANHANDLE

*Average Wage*  
\$13.76

*Average Annual  
Job Openings*  
25

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
550	650

## TEXAS

*Average Wage*  
\$14.14

*Average Annual  
Job Openings*  
1,435

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
29,050	35,950

## UNITED STATES

*Employment in*  
*2006*  
393,090

*Female* 2%  
*Minority* 37%

## EMPLOYMENT CODES

*OES 97956*

*O\*NET 47-2073.00*  
*Operating Engineers and*  
*Other Construction*  
*Equipment Operators*

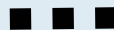
## JOB DESCRIPTION

Use machinery to move construction materials, earth and other heavy materials at construction sites by moving levers or foot pedals, operating switches, or turning dials.



## SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED

- ◆ Mechanical aptitude
- ◆ Good physical condition and sense of balance
- ◆ Good eye-hand-foot coordination and ability to judge distance
- ◆ May require the ability to work at heights



Construction equipment operators use trench excavators, road graders, and similar equipment to clear and grade land to prepare it for construction of roads, buildings, and neighborhoods and may operate machinery that applies asphalt and concrete to roads and other structures. They may operate excavation and loading machines equipped with scoops, shovels, or buckets that dig sand, gravel, earth, or similar materials and load it into trucks or onto conveyors. Sometimes they may drive and control industrial trucks or tractors equipped with forklifts or booms for lifting materials or with hitches for pulling trailers.

In addition to controlling the equipment, operators also set up and inspect the equipment, make adjustments, and perform some maintenance and minor repairs.

Operating heavy construction equipment can be dangerous but, as with most machinery, accidents generally can be avoided by observing proper operating procedures and safety practices.

## PANHANDLE AREA PUBLIC TRAINING PROVIDERS

Training Provider	Direct	Related	Education Offering

For information on Panhandle Area private training providers or public training providers outside of the Panhandle Area, please refer to the Resource Index.

### LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

#### HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT LEVELS BY INDUSTRY

Local Government	25%
Highway/Street/Bridge Construction	20%
Utility System Construction	12%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10%
Heavy/Civil Engineering Construction	6%
Nonresidential Building Construction	5%
Mining Support Activities	4%
Self-employed/Unpaid Family Workers	4%

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Center for Construction Education and Research, P.O. Box 141104, Gainesville, FL 32614-1104, (888) 622-3720, <http://www.nccer.org>

Associated General Contractors of America, 2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201, (703) 548-3118, <http://www.agc.org>

International Union of Operating Engineers, 1125 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 429-9100, <http://www.iuoe.org>

For additional website sources, please refer to the Resource Index.

# Construction Equipment Operator