

# Plant Operator



**Alternate title** Backhoe Operator; Bobcat Operator; Bulldozer Operator; Driver (Mobile Plant); Earthmover; Excavator Operator; Front-end Loader Operator; Grader Operator; Hydraulic Rockbreaker Operator; Operator (Mobile Plant); Plant Operator; Paving Plant Operator; Road Roller Operator; Scraper Operator; Trench Digging Machine Operator.

**Description** Mobile plant operators drive backhoes, bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, graders, rockbreakers, scrapers, skid steer loaders, rollers and forklift trucks to level, excavate, move and load earth, rock and other material

The work conditions for mobile plant operators can be hot, muddy, dusty and noisy, but most earthmoving machines have soundproofed and airconditioned cabs for the operator.

- Typical duties**
- prepare machines for operation;
  - work from drawings and markers under the direction of supervisors and engineers;
  - back-fill trenches;
  - load and unload equipment from low loaders and move it around work sites;
  - select, change and operate special attachments such as winches, scrub clearers, rippers, pile drivers and rock-breaking hammers;
  - break up paving, rock and similar material by operating hydraulic or pneumatic breakers;
  - excavate or scrape earth, rock or rubble to the correct level and alignment;
  - load trucks with excavated fill;
  - drive machines to and from work sites;
  - service equipment by cleaning, lubricating and re-fuelling it and make minor adjustments and repairs when necessary;

- Personal requirements**
- enjoy practical and manual work
  - able to follow precise instructions
  - able to work as part of a team
  - physically fit and good eyesight
  - good hand-eye coordination
  - able to work without supervision



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- Qualifications**
- Certificate I in Construction
  - Certificate II in Civil Construction
  - Certificate III in Civil Construction (Plant)

**Entry pathway** No specific educational qualifications are required for entry to this occupation. Training is usually provided on the job by the employer, where a person starts as a labourer with a construction company and then moves on to gain experience in operating the equipment. About 2 years' experience is needed to become competent.

**Job prospects** Most plant operators work for building and construction companies or for excavating and land development firms. They are also employed by Government departments. Opportunities vary according to the degree of activity in the building industry and earthmoving projects such as dams and road building.

The vacancy level for Mobile Plant Operators is moderate. Vacancies arising from job changing (Plant Operators changing employers) are expected to provide 47 per cent of vacancies, compared with 46 per cent from job openings (Plant Operators leaving the occupation) and 7 per cent from new jobs.

- Related Jobs**
- Bulk Materials Handling Plant Operator
  - Crane Operator
  - Miner
  - Rural Heavy Vehicle Operator

- Further information**
- Big Plans [[www.bigplans.com.au/](http://www.bigplans.com.au/)]
  - Be Constructive [[www.beconstructive.com.au/](http://www.beconstructive.com.au/)]