

Three Automotive Occupations



NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

1. Read three occupation cards

One comparison basis: May 2024 U.S. national median annual wage; 2024-34 U.S. projection; average annual openings over the projection period. These are not DFW starting salaries.

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN OR MECHANIC	DIESEL SERVICE TECHNICIAN OR MECHANIC	AUTOMOTIVE BODY AND RELATED REPAIRER
Inspects, maintains, and repairs cars and light trucks; often uses computerized diagnostics.	Inspects, repairs, and overhauls buses, trucks, or other vehicles with diesel engines.	Repairs and restores vehicle bodies and related structures after damage.
Median: \$49,670	Median: \$60,640	Median: \$51,680
Growth: 4%	Growth: 2%	Growth: 2% for body/glass group
Annual openings: 70,000	Annual openings: 26,500	Annual openings: 16,000 for body/glass group
Many complete a postsecondary automotive program; some enter with high school and learn on the job.	High school plus on-the-job learning is typical; employers may prefer postsecondary diesel training.	High school plus repair training and on-the-job skill development are common routes.

One task difference I notice:

One preparation difference I notice:

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupation profiles. Accessed August 2026.

2. Compare all three

OCCUPATION	MEDIAN RANK, 1-3	PREPARATION EVIDENCE	GROWTH	ANNUAL OPENINGS	ONE WORK OR TASK DIFFERENCE
Automotive Service Technician					
Diesel Service Technician					
Automotive Body and Related Repairer					

Highest-to-lowest median comparison:

One reason salary alone cannot decide fit:

One limitation of using national evidence for a DFW student:

Words for this task: median/mediana · openings/vacantes · preparation/preparación · limitation/limitación

3. Recommend for fictional Taylor

Taylor enjoys diagnostics, wants paid work soon, and prefers electronic systems over painting or heavy equipment.

Use this frame if it helps: “Taylor should investigate [occupation] because [fact 1] and [fact 2]. The national evidence cannot answer [local unknown], so Taylor should verify it with [authorized source].”

First occupation Taylor should investigate:

Table fact 1:

Table fact 2:

Why those facts fit Taylor's priorities:

One local question the national data cannot answer:

Authorized local or official source: