

# Earth moving plant operator

Average salary: \$70,252+

Career trend: positive

## Job description

Preparing the ground for a building or infrastructure requires the use of heavy machinery and a skilled hand to operate these metal giants. As an earth moving plant operator, you'll harness your interest in machinery to dig and move earth, and level surfaces.

## What earth moving plant operators do

Like other physical and construction workers, an earth moving plant operator's workplace varies based on the type of job they're doing. Major employers include earthmoving and civil construction contractors, private developers, mining and minerals processing companies, and government authorities.

Construction jobs can involve any civil construction works like roads and railway, work on new buildings or repairs to older buildings. Sites may be located in the city, suburbs or country and are sometimes in remote areas.

Often working in conjunction with other physical and construction labourers, earth moving plant operators manipulate controls to direct and manoeuvre their equipment. They also select or change plant attachments for particular jobs and change and maintain its working parts to ensure it's in working order.

Some plant operators own and operate equipment on a contract hire basis.

## You'll like this job if...

You follow exact instructions. You can work with limited supervision. You concentrate on the task at hand. You have smooth hand-eye coordination. You enjoy practical and manual activities. You're physically fit. You take a detailed and methodical approach to your work and have an aptitude for the technical and the practical.

## Will I get a job?

- Some growth in this occupation is predicted, with 3,400 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 60,400.

## What will I earn?

- \$1,351–\$1,650 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- Backhoe operator
- Bulldozer operator
- Earthmoving plant operator
- Construction plant operator
- Excavator operator
- Grader operator
- Loader operator

## A day in the life...

Work as an earth moving operator may involve these tasks:

- prepare and position plant for operation
- select, fit and remove attachments such as buckets, winches, loading scoops, shovel blades, and rock breaking hammers
- operate controls to excavate, break, drill, level, compact, gouge out, move, load and spread earth, rock, rubble, and soil
- monitor operation of plant and adjust controls to regulate pressure, speed and flow
- ensure the safety of other workers
- raise, lower and manipulate attachments using manual and hydraulic controls
- work from drawings, markers and verbal instructions
- service, lubricate clean, repair, and refuel equipment.

### Main employing industries

- Construction
- Infrastructure
- Mining

### Other jobs you may like...

- Plant operator
- Engineering production worker

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

Certificate III in Civil Construction (Plant Operations) RII30815. This is the major qual and the one that, to work on residential building site, you need to have.

### VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



[www.vet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vet.nsw.gov.au)

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**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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