

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook

Go

Installation, Maintenance, and Repair >

Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers

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[PRINTER-FRIENDLY](#)

[Summary](#)[What They Do](#)[Work Environment](#)[How to Become One](#)[Pay](#)[Job Outlook](#)[State & Area Data](#)[Similar Occupations](#)[More Info](#)

Summary

Quick Facts: Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	
2015 Median Pay	\$45,110 per year \$21.69 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Postsecondary nondegree award
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	Long-term on-the-job training
Number of Jobs, 2014	292,000
Job Outlook, 2014-24	14% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2014-24	39,600



What Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers Do

Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers—often called *heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) technicians*—work on heating, ventilation, cooling, and refrigeration systems that control the temperature and air quality in buildings.

HVACR technicians must follow EPA rules when they work with gases and refrigerants.

Work Environment

HVACR technicians work mostly in homes, schools, hospitals, office buildings, or factories. Their worksites may be very hot or cold because the heating and cooling systems they must repair may not be working properly and because some parts of these systems are located outdoors. Working in cramped spaces and during irregular hours is common.

How to Become a Heating, Air Conditioning, or Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer

Because HVACR systems have become increasingly complex, employers generally prefer applicants with postsecondary education or those who have completed an apprenticeship. Some states and localities require technicians to be licensed.

Pay

The median annual wage for heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers was \$45,110 in May 2015.

Job Outlook

Employment of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Candidates familiar with computers and electronics and those with good troubleshooting skills will have the best job opportunities as employers continue to have difficulty finding qualified technicians to install, maintain, and repair complex new systems.

State & Area Data

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers.

Similar Occupations

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers with similar occupations.

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

Learn more about heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[What They Do ->](#)