

INSTRUMENTATION TECH. ... ON THE JOB:

David D'Silva

Q: WHY DID YOU BECOME AN INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN?

I became an instrument technician because I had an interest in hands on work that involved mechanical and electrical components. It was a great blend of old and new technology.

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING AS AN INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN IN FORT MCMURRAY?

Fort McMurray is considered one of the biggest and most diverse places in Canada in terms of heavy industry. Getting your foot in the door here can give you excellent experience and lead to amazing opportunities and career growth in the future. Being in Fort McMurray gives you the chance to work for some of Canada's largest and most reputable companies.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE JOB?

My favourite part of the job is rebuilding and calibrating broken down equipment and trouble shooting on control systems.

Q: WHAT ARE THE HOURS LIKE?

Instrumentation technicians may work regular weekday hours or in shifts. They can work various rotation schedules, such as 7 days on and 7 days off, as well. It is possible to have a job where you will need to be on-call at night and on weekends. The working conditions and hours can change dramatically from one job to another. On average most instrument technicians work 40 hour workweeks.

Q: HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PROGRESSING IN YOUR JOB?

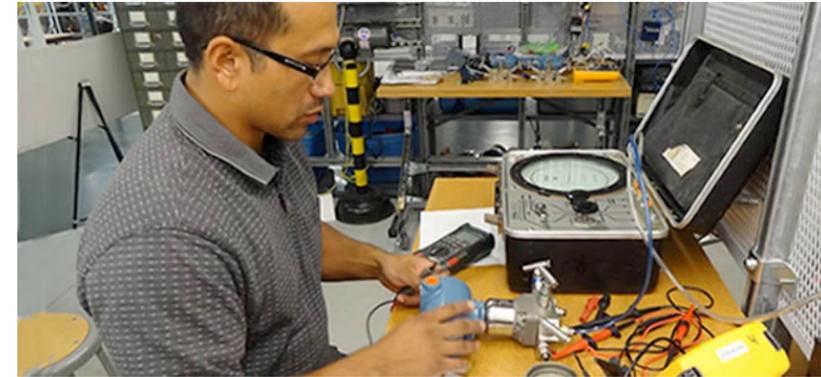
I see myself progressing in my job by becoming a subject matter expert on certain types of analyzers and equipment that have to do with environmental regulations.

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE THINKING OF BECOMING AN INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN?

If you are thinking about becoming an instrument technician be aware that it almost always requires working on industrial work sites as well as traveling for the job is quite normal. The jobs can be very dirty and some can come with safety risks. At the end of the day the job is very rewarding and can keep you on the cutting edge. This job offers continuous learning as the technology we work with keeps advancing.



OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE



INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

(NOC 2243)

Instrument technicians install, maintain and repair the measuring and control instruments used in industrial and commercial processing. Instrument technicians work with a wide variety of pneumatic, electronic and microcomputer devices used to measure and control pressure, flow, temperature, level, motion, force, and chemical composition.

AVERAGE SALARY
\$88,230.00

HOURLY WAGES

For full-time and part-time workers*
Instrument Technicians (NOC 7252)

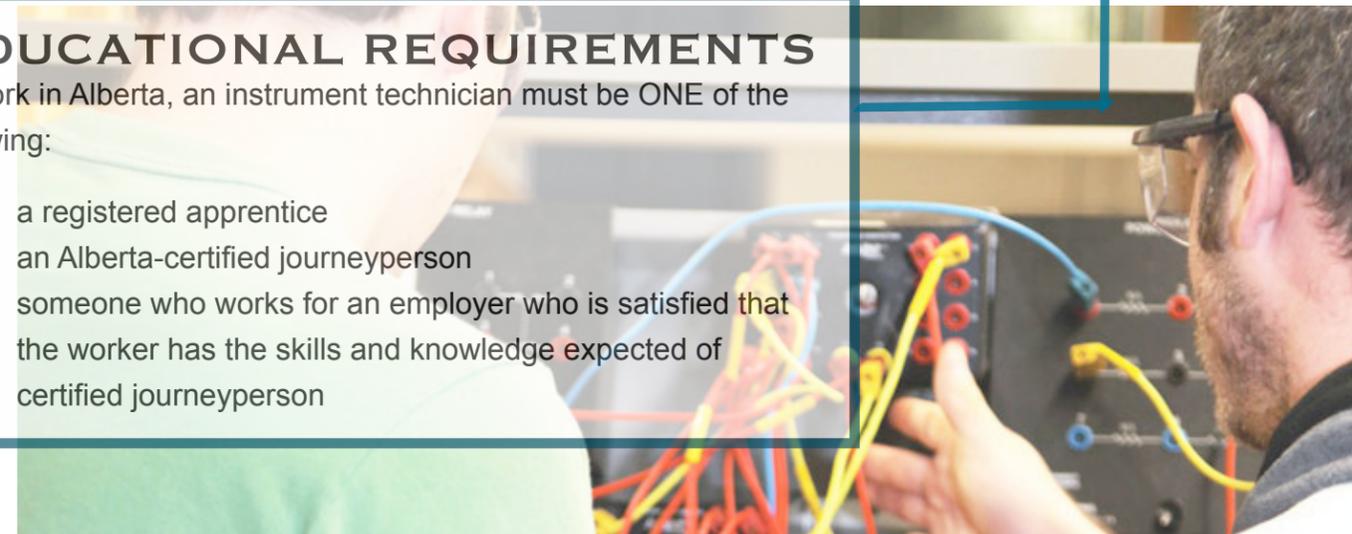
	Low	High	Average	Median
Starting	\$18.00	\$54.31	\$30.24	\$28.85
Overall	\$24.34	\$54.31	\$46.38	\$45.00
Top	\$24.34	\$54.31	\$42.37	\$49.28

*Source: 2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, for all of Alberta

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

To work in Alberta, an instrument technician must be ONE of the following:

- a registered apprentice
- an Alberta-certified journeyperson
- someone who works for an employer who is satisfied that the worker has the skills and knowledge expected of certified journeyperson



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

JOB TIPS

- Job sites such as www.indeed.ca, <http://www.wowjobs.ca/careers-instrumentation+technician-jobs-in-Fort+McMurray+AB> and www.jobbank.gc.ca are all great places to find Instrument Technician jobs in Fort McMurray.
- Being an Instrument Technician, compared to other trades in the oil field, can be less physically demanding and easier on the body. Instrumentation is both an indoor and outdoor job. It can vary depending on if you are working in a shop or in the field. The working conditions can vary a lot from one job to another.
- Instrument technicians may be required to lift or move items that weigh up to 20 kilograms.

SKILLS SHORTAGE

- There are often job openings for Instrument Technicians in the Wood Buffalo region, as 81% of employers said they recruited for this position in the last two years and 55% also said they experienced hiring difficulties.
 - The vacancy rate for this position was 6% in 2013.
- Source: Government of Alberta ALIS OCCinfo

INTERESTING FACTS AND TRENDS

- With industry becoming increasingly automated, instrument technicians are needed virtually anywhere there are control and metering systems. They are employed in the following industries: pulp and paper processing, hydro power generation, mining, petrochemical and natural gas, industrial and commercial manufacturing, industrial construction and industrial instrument servicing.
- Experienced instrument technicians may advance to supervisory positions, be employed as engineering technicians or move into company sales offices.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Reading



- Read e-mail and letters from co-workers, colleagues and clients
- Read safety information.

Document use



- Locate data in forms. They identify rock types and fatigue indicators in sample analysis reports.
- Enter data into various forms.

Writing



- Write field notes such as progress notes to record their observations and conversations with team members during field work.
- Write reports.

Numeracy



- Calculate dimensions of geological formations and structures.
- Measure geological features using specialized instruments.

Oral communication



- Discuss ongoing work with contractors, clients and representatives from governments and community groups.
- Discuss projects with co-workers and colleagues.

Thinking



- Discover testing equipment is malfunctioning
- Assess validity and completeness of test results

Digital Technology



- Use spreadsheets to organize and analyze data collected during research projects
- Use graphic software.

OTHER INFORMATION

- In order to be successful as an instrument technician it is important that individuals have the ability to pay close attention to detail, manual dexterity and patience, good mathematical, scientific, mechanical and logical reasoning abilities, good communication and reading skills and the ability and desire to keep up-to-date with technological developments in the field. It is also important to be able to troubleshoot problems well.
- This career can involve complex problem solving that can be mentally stimulating but at the same time, demanding.
- Technology advancements can affect the complexity of tasks related to this occupation. It can improve ease of use through improved search functions and user friendly software. But at the same time instrument technicians are expected to stay up to date on all of these changes and improvements as technology becomes increasingly sophisticated.
- For more information on Instrument Technicians please visit the External Profile: http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_search-eng.do?titleKeyword=noc+2243&source=2&modify=Go!

Source: Government of Canada Canada.gc.ca