

Brake Operators

Nature of Work:

The job of a brake operator consists of making locomotives and cars into trains. This entails physical work in adding and removing cars at railroad stations and assembling and disassembling trains in railroad yards (1). The operators look for signs of faulty brake equipment on the train such as sticking breaks and overheated axle bearings. They mainly work under the supervision of the conductor. Subways and streetcars also use brake operators.

Qualifications Needed/ Training/ Education:

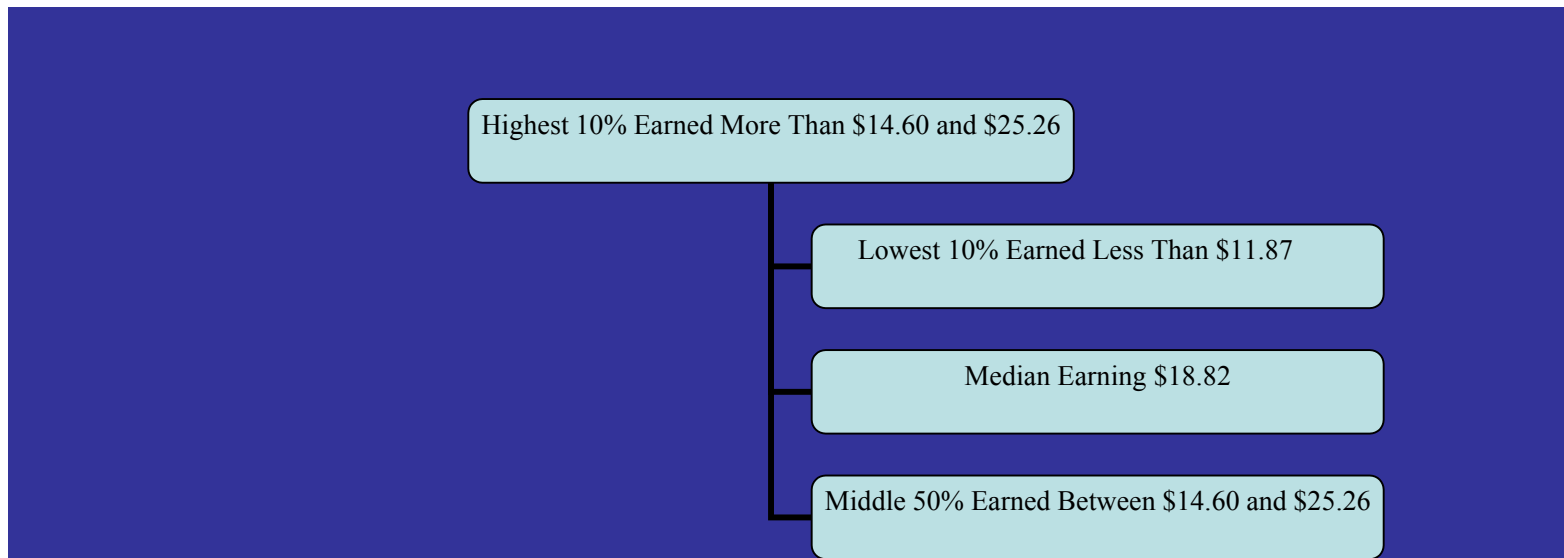
- High School Degree Required
- Physically Demanding
- On the job training is provided by experienced personnel in most cases
- Occasionally, some railroads require more formal instruction

Job Outlook:

The opportunity for a job as a brake operator is not as promising as other jobs. As technology advances it replaces the need for human operation in this career.

Earnings:

Hourly Earnings in 2000



Geographical Areas of Employment:

Employment can be found all throughout the Nation for working on railroad cars, and metropolitan areas where subway stations and streetcars are located.

- 1.) <http://dothr.ost.dot.gov/careers/brake.htm>
- 2.) <http://www.bls.gov/oco/print/ocos244.htm>