



⚡ Grounded in 4 sources

Boring Jobs That Pay Well

A master catalog of 50+ overlooked, low-competition jobs that quietly pay \$60K+—with real titles, certs, and where to apply. No hype, just the specific paths and shortcuts from insiders.

📌 Updated for 2026 📄 50+ underrated, high-paying roles 📢 @jobhacki · JobHacki Community



Start Fast

Clear first steps you can take this week.



Real Sources

Built from people who actually did it.



Honest Numbers

Source-reported pay, costs, and risks.

[Get the Full Guide Vault →](#)

🔒 Includes checklists, scripts & source-backed insights

YOU WILL LEARN

- Who This Guide Is For
- Opportunity Snapshot
- Why This Job Is Worth Looking At
- What The Job Actually Does
- Pay Potential — The Real Numbers
- Requirements

▶ **MODULE 01**

Who This Guide Is For

This guide is for job seekers who want stable, well-paying work but aren't interested in hype, high stress, or endless competition. If you want a real job (not a business or side hustle), prefer structure, and are open to learning a skill or getting certified, you'll find dozens of overlooked options here.

Especially useful if you're tired of crowded fields, want a path to \$60K+ that doesn't require a four-year degree, and value predictability over flash.

▶ **MODULE 02**

Opportunity Snapshot

\$60K–\$110K

Typical pay range (source-reported, varies by role)

3–18 months

Time to qualify (cert/training for most roles)

50+

Distinct real job titles listed below

Low

Competition (many roles have <5 applicants/job)

Yes

Employers hiring now (see 'Where to apply')

▶ **MODULE 03**

Why This Job Is Worth Looking At

Most people overlook these jobs because they're not glamorous or widely advertised. But that's exactly why they're less competitive and often pay more than crowded office roles.

Many of these jobs have strong union protections, overtime, and clear advancement ladders. Some (like elevator inspector or water treatment operator) are nearly recession-proof and can't be offshored or automated away soon.

Several paths here are highlighted by creators who built six-figure incomes in 'boring' fields—like concrete coatings or automation technician—by following a simple, repeatable process.

▶ **MODULE 04**

What The Job Actually Does

These roles span technical, operational, and skilled trades. Most involve hands-on work, routine inspections, or maintaining critical infrastructure.

Examples include monitoring water treatment systems, inspecting elevators, operating power plants, maintaining sterile hospital equipment, or troubleshooting industrial automation lines.

Day-to-day, you might be running diagnostic tests, logging data, performing preventive maintenance, or ensuring compliance with safety standards. Many jobs have set shifts and minimal customer interaction.

▶ **MODULE 05**

Pay Potential — The Real Numbers

Most roles in this guide pay \$60K–\$110K (source: BLS, job boards, and creator interviews).

For example:

- Elevator Inspector: \$80K–\$110K (after 1–2 years)

- Water Treatment Operator: \$62K–\$95K

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- Sterile Processing Tech: \$60K–\$76K
- Power Plant Operator: \$78K–\$105K
- Railroad Signal Operator: \$80K–\$100K
- Concrete Coatings Installer: \$60K+ (reported by 'Mike', source transcript)

Many offer overtime, shift differentials, and union benefits. Entry-level pay may start lower but ramps up within 12–24 months.

▶ **MODULE 06**

Requirements

Role Type	Education	Cert/License	Background Check
Technical/Operator	HS diploma or GED	State license or cert (varies)	Yes (most)
Skilled Trades	HS diploma or GED	Trade cert/apprenticeship	Yes (most)
Healthcare Tech	HS diploma or GED	1–2 yr cert	Yes (always)

Most require only a high school diploma plus a specific certificate or state license. Background checks are standard, especially in healthcare and utilities.

▶ **MODULE 07**

Skills Needed

Attention to detail, reliability, and the ability to follow procedures are critical. Many roles value mechanical aptitude, basic math, and comfort with checklists or digital logs.

Some jobs (like automation technician) require basic familiarity with software or programmable logic controllers (PLCs), but most skills are taught on the job or during certification.

Certifications or Licenses

Role	Cert/License	Time to Qualify	Where to Get It
Elevator Inspector	QEI (Qualified Elevator Inspector)	12–18 months	NAEC, state agencies
Water Treatment Operator	State Operator License (Class D–A)	6–18 months	State water boards
Sterile Processing Tech	CRCST (Certified Registered Central Service Tech)	6–12 months	IAHCSMM
Power Plant Operator	NERC Certification	6–12 months	NERC-approved providers
Railroad Signal Operator	On-the-job + FRA cert	12–24 months	Railroad employers
Concrete Coatings Installer	Manufacturer training	1–2 weeks	Product vendors (e.g. Penntek, Rust-Oleum)

Beginner Roadmap

- 1 Pick 3–5 roles from the master catalog below that match your interests and location.
- 2 Research the exact cert/license for your state (see 'Certifications' table).
- 3 Check job boards (Indeed, State/City jobs, Union listings) for current openings.

- 4 Contact local employers or unions to ask about apprenticeship or trainee programs.
- 5 Enroll in the required training or certification course (many are part-time or online).
- 6 Update your resume with the exact job title and cert as listed in postings.
- 7 Apply to at least 5 jobs per week, using the resume keywords and script below.

▶ **MODULE 10**

7-Day Action Plan

- 1 Day 1: Review the master catalog and shortlist 3 roles.
- 2 Day 2: Search Indeed, government, and union job boards for those roles in your area.
- 3 Day 3: Identify the cert/license needed for your top pick. Call a local employer or union to confirm.
- 4 Day 4: Register for an info session or online intro course (many are free).
- 5 Day 5: Draft your resume using the keywords below. Save 5–10 job postings for reference.
- 6 Day 6: Reach out to a current worker (LinkedIn, Reddit, or union hall) to ask about their path.
- 7 Day 7: Apply to 3 jobs or trainee programs using the script below.

▶ **MODULE 11**

30-Day Action Plan

- 1 Week 1: Complete any required pre-tests or background paperwork for your chosen role.

- 2 Week 2: Enroll in a certification or apprenticeship program. Start online modules if available.
- 3 Week 3: Apply to at least 10 jobs using the resume keywords and script. Follow up on applications.
- 4 Week 4: Schedule an informational interview with someone in the field. Prepare for interviews using the talking points below.
- 5 Ongoing: Track your applications in a spreadsheet. Adjust your search based on feedback and interview outcomes.

▶ **MODULE 12**

Insider Secrets & Shortcuts

- 1 For concrete coatings or similar trades, ask a friend already in the business to document every step (photos, videos) and use those as your portfolio—even before formal training. (Source: 'Mike', transcript)
- 2 When applying for automation technician or similar roles, use Google Sheets to track which companies you've applied to and avoid duplicate applications—a simple filter prevents wasted effort. (Source: '5 "Boring" AI Automations')
- 3 For jobs requiring certification, some employers will pay for your training if you apply as a trainee or apprentice—always ask in the interview.
- 4 Use the exact alternate job titles listed below when searching job boards; many roles are posted under 3–6 different names.
- 5 If you have a background in a related trade (e.g., tile to concrete coatings), highlight overlapping skills and ask for a 'working interview'—many employers value hands-on proof over resumes.

▶ **MODULE 13**

Exact Resume Keywords

Copy these keywords directly from job postings to maximize ATS hits:

- Preventive maintenance
- Compliance inspection
- Troubleshooting
- Safety protocols
- Equipment calibration
- Process documentation
- Quality control
- Shift work
- State license (e.g., QEI, CRCST, NERC)
- Apprenticeship

▶ **MODULE 14**

Copy/Paste Application Script

▶ **MODULE 15**

Interview Talking Points

- Emphasize reliability and attention to detail: 'In my previous role, I maintained a 100% compliance record on safety checks.'
- Show willingness to learn: 'I completed [cert/training] and am eager to take on additional certifications if needed.'

- Mention hands-on experience: 'I've worked with [specific equipment/process] and am comfortable with routine maintenance and troubleshooting.'
- Ask about advancement: 'What does the typical progression look like for someone in this role?'
- Bring up shift flexibility: 'I'm open to night or weekend shifts if required.'

▶ **MODULE 16**

Red Flags / Scams To Avoid

Warning

Avoid any 'training' program that charges thousands upfront with no employer connection or state-recognized certification. Real jobs will list the cert/license required and often offer paid on-the-job training. Be wary of vague job titles or roles that promise 'guaranteed placement' for a fee.

▶ **MODULE 17**

MASTER CATALOG: 50+ Boring Jobs That Pay

Well

Role	Realistic Pay	Time to Qualify	Cert/License	Where to Apply
Elevator Inspector	\$80K– \$110K	12–18 mo	QEI	State jobs, NAEC, Indeed
Water Treatment Operator	\$62K– \$95K	6–18 mo	State Operator License	City/State jobs, AWWA
Sterile Processing Tech	\$60K– \$76K	6–12 mo	CRCST	Hospitals, IAHCMM
Power Plant Operator	\$78K– \$105K	6–12 mo	NERC	Utility companies, Indeed
Railroad Signal Operator	\$80K– \$100K	12–24 mo	FRA cert	Railroads, Union Pacific
Concrete Coatings Installer	\$60K– \$90K	1–2 wk	Vendor training	Local contractors, Indeed
Lineman Apprentice	\$62K– \$85K	6–12 mo	Apprenticeship	Utility companies, IBEW
Substation Technician	\$68K– \$95K	12–18 mo	State license	Utility companies
Wind Turbine Technician	\$60K– \$85K	12 mo	Tech cert	Wind farms, Indeed
Elevator Mechanic	\$80K– \$110K	18–24 mo	State license	Union jobs, NEIEP
Nuclear Medicine Tech	\$70K– \$100K	18–24 mo	ARRT/NMTCB	Hospitals

Role	Realistic Pay	Time to Qualify	Cert/License	Where to Apply
EEG/Neurodiagnostic Tech	\$78K– \$95K	12–18 mo	ABRET cert	Hospitals, Neurodiagnostic labs
HVAC Controls Technician	\$65K– \$90K	12–18 mo	EPA cert	Facilities, Indeed
Boiler Operator	\$65K– \$90K	6–12 mo	Boiler license	Hospitals, Facilities
Stationary Engineer	\$70K– \$100K	12–18 mo	State license	Facilities, City jobs
CNC Programmer	\$62K– \$90K	6–12 mo	Tech cert	Manufacturing, Indeed
Industrial Automation Tech	\$65K– \$95K	12–18 mo	PLC cert	Factories, Indeed
Medical Equipment Repairer	\$60K– \$85K	12–18 mo	BMET cert	Hospitals, OEMs
Diesel Mechanic	\$62K– \$90K	12–18 mo	ASE cert	Trucking, Dealerships
Aircraft Dispatcher	\$65K– \$95K	6–12 mo	FAA cert	Airlines, Indeed
Court Reporter	\$62K– \$90K	12–18 mo	State cert	Courts, Agencies
Utility Meter Technician	\$60K– \$80K	3–6 mo	On-the-job	Utility companies

Role	Realistic Pay	Time to Qualify	Cert/License	Where to Apply
Pipeline Controller	\$70K– \$100K	6–12 mo	On-the-job	Energy companies
Fire Alarm Technician	\$62K– \$85K	6–12 mo	NICET cert	Fire safety firms
Traffic Signal Technician	\$60K– \$80K	6–12 mo	IMSAC cert	City/State jobs
Bridge Inspector	\$70K– \$95K	12–18 mo	PE or NBI cert	DOT, State jobs
Building Automation Tech	\$65K– \$90K	12–18 mo	Tech cert	Facilities, Contractors
Land Survey Technician	\$60K– \$80K	6–12 mo	State cert	Survey firms, City jobs
Geological Technician	\$62K– \$85K	6–12 mo	On-the-job	Mining, Oil & Gas
Hazmat Removal Worker	\$62K– \$90K	6–12 mo	OSHA cert	Remediation firms
Crane Operator	\$70K– \$100K	6–12 mo	NCCCO cert	Construction, Unions
Elevator Installer	\$80K– \$110K	18–24 mo	State license	Union jobs, NEIEP
Nondestructive Testing Tech	\$65K– \$90K	12–18 mo	ASNT cert	Aerospace, Energy

Role	Realistic Pay	Time to Qualify	Cert/License	Where to Apply
Line Inspector (Utilities)	\$60K– \$85K	6–12 mo	State cert	Utility companies
Hydroelectric Plant Operator	\$70K– \$100K	12–18 mo	State license	Utility companies
Rail Yard Engineer	\$65K– \$90K	6–12 mo	On-the-job	Railroads
Shipyards Electrician	\$62K– \$90K	12–18 mo	State license	Shipyards
Postal Inspector	\$70K– \$100K	12–18 mo	Federal training	USPS
Industrial Radiographer	\$65K– \$95K	12–18 mo	State/NRC cert	Energy, NDT firms
Water Meter Installer	\$60K– \$80K	3–6 mo	On-the-job	City/State jobs
Gas Plant Operator	\$70K– \$100K	12–18 mo	State license	Energy companies
Subway/Transit Operator	\$62K– \$90K	6–12 mo	Transit cert	Transit agencies
High Voltage Electrician	\$70K– \$100K	12–18 mo	Journeyman license	Utility companies
Medical Dosimetrist	\$80K– \$110K	18–24 mo	MDCB cert	Hospitals

Role	Realistic Pay	Time to Qualify	Cert/License	Where to Apply
Nuclear Power Reactor Operator	\$80K– \$110K	18–24 mo	NRC license	Nuclear plants
Industrial Hygienist	\$65K– \$95K	12–18 mo	CIH cert	Manufacturing, OSHA
Pipeline Inspector	\$65K– \$95K	12–18 mo	API cert	Energy companies
Elevator Tester	\$80K– \$110K	12–18 mo	QEI	State jobs, NAEC
Wastewater Operator	\$62K– \$90K	6–18 mo	State license	City/State jobs
Traffic Control Supervisor	\$60K– \$85K	6–12 mo	State cert	DOT, Contractors

► **MODULE 18**

Source Notes

“I get this email from a guy named Mike, middle of nowhere, Iowa. He lays tile for a living and he says, 'Chris, I started a coating business 3 months ago and I'm already making over \$60,000 a month, no experience, and you can start this business for under a,000 bucks.'”

— He Made \$60K His First Month With This Boring Business

[1] Build Your First AI Business in 6 Hours (Ultimate Beginner Guide)

[3] 3 "Boring" Agentic Workflows That Will Make You \$5,000+

[4] He Made \$60K His First Month With This Boring Business

▶ RESOURCE GUIDE

Resources, Certifications & Direct Links

Tap straight into search results, certification training, and paid apprenticeships for this path.

🔍 DIRECT SEARCH LINKS

Indeed — open roles

biggest board ↗

LinkedIn Jobs

apply + network ↗

ZipRecruiter

1-click apply ↗

Google — near me










local + niche boards ↗

Glassdoor — real salaries

verify pay ↗

USAJOBS (federal)

gov + benefits ↗

-  **ABRET EEG Tech (R. EEG T.)** Neurodiagnostic/EEG tech credential — \$78K+ path, 1-2yr Paid [↗](#)
-  **HSPA CRCST (Sterile Processing)** Sterile processing tech cert — hospital path, ~4-6mo Paid [↗](#)
-  **State Water Operator Cert (ABC)** Water/wastewater treatment operator — state-licensed, steady gov pay Paid [↗](#)
-  **NICET (Fire Alarm / Inspection)** Engineering tech certs — fire alarm, inspection, \$70K+ niches Paid [↗](#)
-  **NCCCO Crane Operator** Crane operator cert — \$80K+ union paths Paid [↗](#)
-  **NERC Operator Cert (Power Grid)** Power system operator — \$90K+ control-room roles Paid [↗](#)
-  **CDL-A (Truck Driving)** Commercial driver license — freight/local/union routes Paid [↗](#)
-  **FAA Part 107 (Drone Pilot)** Commercial drone license — inspections, mapping, real estate Paid [↗](#)
-  **NREMT (EMT Basic)** EMT cert — fast entry healthcare, ~3-4mo Paid [↗](#)

Hack

Set a saved-search alert on [Indeed](#) + [LinkedIn](#) for this exact term — new roles hit your inbox before they're crowded.








▶ **TOOL GUIDE**

Tool Stack — Organized by Category

Every tool for this path, grouped by category. Free tools first, paid last. Tap any logo to open it.






Job Boards

7 free · 0 paid

-  **Indeed** Largest job board Free [↗](#)
-  **LinkedIn Jobs** Jobs + networking Free [↗](#)
-  **Remote OK** Remote jobs board Free [↗](#)
-  **USAJOBS** Federal government jobs Free [↗](#)
-  **We Work Remotely** Remote-only jobs Free [↗](#)
-  **Wellfound** Startup + tech jobs Free [↗](#)
-  **ZipRecruiter** Quick-apply job board Free [↗](#)







Resume & ATS

5 free · 0 paid

-  **Jobscan** ATS keyword matching Free [↗](#)
-  **Kickresume** Templates + AI writer Free [↗](#)
-  **Resume Worded** Resume + LinkedIn scoring Free [↗](#)
-  **Rezi** AI ATS resume builder Free [↗](#)
-  **Teal** Resume builder + job tracker Free [↗](#)










AI Assistants

5 free · 1 paid

	ChatGPT	Writing, ideation, prompts, drafts	Free	↗
	Claude	Long docs, reasoning, coding, agents	Free	↗
	Google Gemini	Google-integrated AI	Free	↗
	Perplexity	AI research with live sources	Free	↗
	Poe	Many AI models in one app	Free	↗
	Grok	X-integrated AI	Paid	↗





Learning & Certifications

6 free · 3 paid

-  **AWS Skill Builder** Free AWS cloud training Free [↗](#)
-  **Coursera** Courses (audit free) Free [↗](#)
-  **freeCodeCamp** Free coding + certs Free [↗](#)
-  **HubSpot Academy** Free sales/marketing certs Free [↗](#)
-  **Professor Messer** Free CompTIA training Free [↗](#)
-  **Salesforce Trailhead** Free Salesforce admin path Free [↗](#)
-  **CompTIA CertMaster** Official A+/Net+/Sec+ prep Paid [↗](#)
-  **Google Career Certificates** Job-ready certs (IT/data/cyber/UX) Paid [↗](#)
-  **Udemy** Cheap skill courses Paid [↗](#)

Productivity

4 free · 0 paid

-  **Calendly** Booking / scheduling calls Free [↗](#)
-  **Google Sheets** Trackers + light CRM Free [↗](#)
-  **Loom** Screen-record pitches/looms Free [↗](#)
-  **Notion** Docs, dashboards, templates Free [↗](#)

Money tip

Stack the **free** tools first. Only pay once a tool is directly making or saving you money.

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THE JOBHACKI ARSENAL

This guide is 1% of what members get

The community unlocks the tools that do the heavy lifting for you:



OmniCut

Upload any video — get back a timestamped, cut-by-cut edit blueprint: hooks, vocal cues, effects and animation calls, all mapped to the viral frameworks behind our own content. You (or your AI editor) just follow the map.



JobHacki Resume Builder

Our exact one-page, recruiter-tested template — auto-built from your LinkedIn in minutes, exported as an editable doc + PDF.



JobHacki Readiness Simulator

Paste any job link. Get tested on what the role actually requires, see your readiness score, and get the fastest study path to close the gaps.



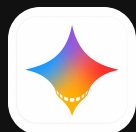
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Every guide and career path we publish — refreshed by 24/7 AI researchers so you never act on stale info.

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Join free today — founding-member pricing locks in before the tools go paid.

WHAT EACH TOOL ACTUALLY DOES



OmniCut

OmniCut watches your entire video the way an elite editor would — every frame, the full transcript, your offer and what you're actually selling — then runs it through the viral frameworks behind our own content. What you get back is a timestamped editing score: your video chopped into 10-second sequences, each with exact vocal cues, audio cues, effect calls and animation directions. Copy a sequence, paste it into Gemini Omni, and generate that cut — then the next, then the next, until the whole edit is done. Runs as a custom GPT inside ChatGPT (you'll need a ChatGPT account), purpose-built for Gemini Omni video editing the day it drops.



JobHacki Resume Builder

Drop in your LinkedIn (or paste your experience) and it rebuilds everything into the exact one-page format we use: tight summary line, education with the details recruiters scan for, metric-driven experience bullets, and the 10-category skills stack that beats ATS keyword filters. Out comes a polished PDF plus a fully editable doc — change any line later without starting over. Single-industry and multi-industry versions included.



JobHacki Readiness Simulator

Paste a real job posting link. The simulator breaks down what that role actually demands — skills, tools, terminology, scenarios — and tests you on it: multiple choice, written answers, even voice roleplay for interviews and sales calls. You get a Readiness Score out of 100 across skill match, tool match, communication and interview readiness, plus the exact study plan to close your gaps — linked straight to the guides, certs and resources that fix them.



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The full living library: 100+ grounded, step-by-step playbooks across AI businesses, careers, trades, healthcare paths and side income — every one built from people who actually did it, never theory. Our AI researchers monitor hundreds of creators and sources around the clock, so tools, pay data and methods stay current. Search it, filter it, read online or download any guide as a PDF.

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