

What is nondestructive testing (NDT)?

Nondestructive testing (NDT) is testing that does not destroy the test object and is vital for constructing and maintaining all types of components and structures. NDT technicians identify and employ tests that locate and characterize material conditions and flaws that might otherwise cause problems. These tests are performed in a manner that does not affect the future usefulness of the object or material – which allows the technicians to provide the services associated with a balance between quality control and cost-effectiveness.

Where do people in the NDT industry work?

- Aircraft and Aerospace
- Power generation and utilities
- Chemical and Petrochemical
- Bridge and Building fabrication / erection
- Independent testing laboratories
- Electronics and Microelectronics

What types of jobs are available in this industry?

An NDT background can result in a job in design, inspection, sales, consulting or teaching. People with backgrounds in nondestructive testing technology find themselves working in a variety of industries.

- **Contractors/Business owners:** Provide consulting and inspection services that are mandated by insurance companies as well as local, state and federal enforcement agencies. In addition, provide quality control services to companies that may not have the resources or trained personnel to perform these inspections.
- **Technicians:** Perform, monitor, witness or evaluate inspections using a variety of inspection methods and quality assessment techniques such as ultrasound examinations, x-ray and gamma radiography imaging, magnetic particle and liquid penetrant defect detection, a variety of different electromagnetic inspection methods as well as many others.

Why are people in the NDT industry valued?

Our society relies very heavily on NDT technology to keep it as safe a place to live as possible. A great deal of responsibility is placed in the hands of NDT technicians and engineers who keep our aircraft and automobiles operating safely; our pipelines and petrochemical plants from leaking; and our bridges from failing.

What are the salary trends in this field?

Although using salary alone as a reason for accepting a new position – or leaving an existing job is not recommended, financial considerations do play an important role in choosing a new career path.

Starting salaries typically range from \$25,000-\$45,000 a year depending on job location. Industry will often increase wages as technicians meet company certification requirements. NDT technology graduates with 5-8 years of experience are currently averaging \$52,000 annually.

What are the opportunities? What type of training is available?

Companies belonging to the Association of Plant Inspection Professionals (APIP) offer training for entry level as well as training for incumbent workers.

Positions Available:

- Certified Technician
- Certified Inspector
- Project Expediter

Training Locations:

- Multiple locations throughout the Greater Houston Area
- Training locations can be chosen to best fit your needs

Training Times:

- Training schedules vary so that everyone has a chance to attend.
- Training times are based on the specific certification requirements.

