

Pathways Into MANUFACTURING



We've taken into consideration future job growth, variety of future career options, number of job openings, and future talent shortages to help estimate how "high opportunity" some great positions are.

Opportunity Level Key

- 😊 Good
- 😄 Great
- 😎 Amazing

A career for you...yes YOU!

It's a common misconception that youth can't work in manufacturing. Actually, you can begin as a student-learner or apprentice at age 16 (and work full-time at 18) on any non-hazardous or "exempt" equipment like:

- Power-driven woodworking machines
- Metal-forming, punching, and shearing machines
- Paper product machines
- Circular saws, band saws, and shears

Manufacturing for High Schoolers

No diploma required (perfect for 16 year old learners & apprentices)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Production Worker Helpers | \$10.40/hr entry | 😊 |
| Laborers & Material Movers | \$11.50/hr entry | 😊 |
| Packers & Filling Machine Operators | \$11.75/hr entry | 😊 |

Diploma sometimes required

| | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers | \$13.10/hr entry | 😊 |
| Team Assemblers | \$11.50/hr entry | 😊 |
| Machine Feeders & Offbearers | \$15.10/hr entry | 😊 |

Hot jobs with some training

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Welders | \$17.10/hr entry | 😊 |
| Sheet Metal Workers | \$19.60/hr entry | 😊 |

**All salary and occupation data from 2018 Q2 Census of Employment and Wages by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Ramsey County, MN.*

Getting Started

- **Take a career exploration quiz** to evaluate your interest in the field overall. CAREERwise.minnstate.edu has great tools on their "Assess Yourself" page.
- **Learn** about different types of manufacturing, like process development, logistics, quality assurance, and engineering.
- **Explore** different types of machinery and work environments to determine what is most important to you in a job.
- **Talk to your career navigator** in your school about classes or experiences you could have now to help build your academic and professional toolkit. Here are a few options available to you:
 - **Manufacturing & Applied Engineering (I & II)** - WBLAS CTE
 - **Precision Machining (I & II)** - WBLAS CTE
 - **21 Manufacturing Apprenticeships** - Open to 16 year olds and up
 - **OSHA Certifications; Gen Z Connections**

What makes these careers great?

- **Employer-paid lifelong learning.** Most entry-level careers do not require a degree, and many employers offer certifications, on-the-job training, or apprenticeships.
- **Work into a high salary quick.** With a little bit of training and experience, you'll quickly move into a living wage job. On average, metal tooling workers make about \$15,000/year more than other job fields requiring similar amounts of training.
- **Be yourself.** Machinist, production tech, and other shop positions are known to have a relaxed dress code, and few manufacturers have restrictions around piercings or tattoos.
- **Skill transferrability.** You'll be able to take them pretty much anywhere in the world.
- **Work high tech.** Manufacturing is one of today's fastest-changing industries.
- **Build the future.** Many people love being a part of engineering and constructing something tangible. No matter whether you choose a production, quality assurance, engineering, or technical career path, you'll have a critical part in shaping tomorrow.

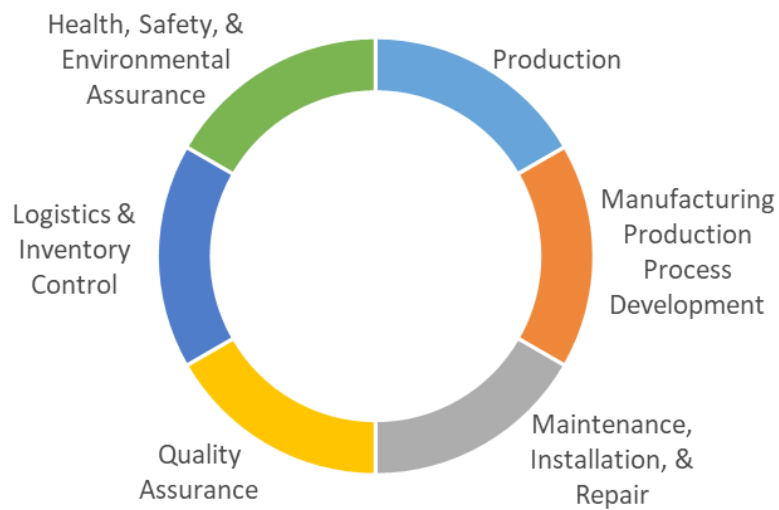
Next Career Move

Smart Certs

- **An OSHA Certification** through the Department of Labor and Industry is an excellent way to open up additional career opportunities in manufacturing. All employers will require that you be compliant with OSHA regulations.
- **NIMS** sets industry skills standards and offers certifications in everything from CNC Machining and Press Brake Operating to Metalforming and Welding.
- **An American Society for Quality (ASQ) CQE** certification is an essential to differentiate yourself if you are interested in pursuing an experience as a Quality Assurance Engineer.



EXPLORE MANUFACTURING CAREERS



Data and design by RealTime Talent, November 2018



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