Manufacturing Production-1 Career Guide

A guide for multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic; separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders; mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders; cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders.
Finding Your Way to a Career: Manufacturing Production-1

Manufacturers rely on a wide range of occupations to deliver finished goods to their customers. Manufacturing production workers are an essential part of the team. From blueprints to finished product, they make certain that operational sequences run smoothly to deliver required quality standards safely, timely, and with minimal waste.

Exploring Occupations in Manufacturing Production-1

Manufacturing production workers are essential within every manufacturing environment. They utilize their knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture of goods. Typical activities may include reading blueprints, work orders, or production schedules to determine product or job instructions or specifications. They might also inspect, measure, or test completed metal workpieces to ensure conformance to specifications.

The Path to Success

Who might enjoy this type of work?

People who work in the manufacturing production field tend to enjoy:
- Practical, hands-on problem solving.
- Working with real world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- Following set procedures and routines.
- Working with data and details more than with ideas.
- Having a clear line of authority to follow.
- Mental problem solving.
- Working with ideas and using cognitive (thinking) skills.

People who do well in this work generally perform well in such areas as:
- Responsibility
- Adaptability
- Decisive
- Achievement
- Teamwork

Qualifications needed in this career field.

Nationally, most people working in manufacturing production have a high school diploma or equivalent. The next largest group has an associate’s degree or certification.

Sample certifications include:
- Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic credential sample: High school diploma, CNC Machinist Certification, on-the-job training
- Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders credential sample: High school diploma, up to one year on-the-job training
- Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders credential sample: High school diploma, up to one year on-the-job training
- Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders credential sample: High school diploma, up to one year on-the-job training

Growth potential.

In the West Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa, there were 3,033 manufacturing production jobs in 2020. That number is projected to grow by at least 3% to 3,080 by 2025.

Valuable skills for this type of work.

Tasks and functions performed by manufacturing production workers include:
- Controlling machines and processes.
- Getting information.
- Inspecting equipment, structures, or materials.
- Handling and moving objects.

Common tools and technology used in this work.

Tools: turning machines, drilling machines, mill machines, power saws, grinders
Technology: enterprise resource planning software, computer-aided manufacturing software, Microsoft Office
Mapping a Career:

Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic

Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders

Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders

Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders

Wage ranges represent 25th - 75th percentile. Timeframes represent the typical education and experience combined. See page 6 for detailed description of occupations.
Manufacturing Production–1: A Field Guide

Occupations, responsibilities and other job titles.

Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic
Set up, operate, or tend more than one type of cutting or forming machine tool or robot.

Examples of locally used job titles: cell technician, computer numerically controlled machine setter (CNC machine setter), die setter, machine operator, machine technician

Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
Set up, operate, or tend continuous flow or vat-type equipment; filter presses; shaker screens; centrifuges; condenser tubes; precipitating, fermenting, or evaporating tanks; scrubbing towers; or batch stills. These machines extract, sort, or separate liquids, gases, or solids from other materials to recover a refined product. Includes dairy processing equipment operators.

Examples of locally used job titles: blender/cook, brewer, cellar worker, digester cook, machine tender, paper machine tender, plant operator, pulper operator, winemaker

Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
Set up, operate, or tend machines to mix or blend materials, such as chemicals, tobacco, liquids, color pigments, or explosive ingredients.

Examples of locally used job titles: blender, blending technician, coater operator, ink blender, ink maker, issuing operator, machine operator, mixer, mixer operator, stock preparation operator

Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
Set up, operate, or tend machines that cut or slice materials, such as glass, stone, cork, rubber, tobacco, food, paper, or insulating material.

Examples of locally used job titles: cutter, cutter operator, cutting pressman, die cutter operator, flat cutter, machine operator, paper cutter, sheeter, skiver operator, slitter

CareerPoint helps students and job seekers find their place in the world of work by matching interests and abilities with training, support, and meaningful and rewarding careers.

By providing training and tools, CareerPoint supports the workforce professionals who help people navigate the West Michigan job market.

CareerPoint promotes evidence-based coaching to help students and job seekers discover and follow pathways to rewarding careers. This model follows seven steps to each participant’s success.

Learn more at: https://talnetcareerpoint.org/