

# Manufacturing Careers with Upcoming Demand

A couple of key points before you read the descriptions and details of the careers below:

**Safety** – Safety is a critical part of every individual's role and it is a requirement that everyone hold themselves accountable to follow all safety policies/guidelines. In addition, it is asked that everyone watch out for any safety hazards and report them promptly. Safety in a manufacturing environment is the highest priority and receives a strong focus.

**Continuous Improvement (LEAN)** – Another very critical part of all of the below positions is continuous improvement. Not only is it important for people to be able to perform the requirements of a specific role; It is also critical that everyone have the mindset of thinking about how they can make their job better each day. It is about problem consciousness and then taking action to improve on a continual basis. This is a minimal requirement of every position and a very critical component for companies to continue to be competitive.

## Careers:

**Tool & Die Makers/Machinist** – Individuals in this position work with Engineers to build fixtures, tooling, dies, and some production machines. A wide variety of materials are used along with milling machines, lathes, drill presses, and various other types of fabrication equipment. It is critical that individuals in this role have a solid understanding of mathematics (geometry and trigonometry) and are able to pay close attention to detail. Tolerances used are many times less than the thickness of a human hair.

Education: Machine Tool Associate degree or completion of Journeyman Machinist program

Salary: \$19.00 to \$26.00/hour

**Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Technician** – Mainly responsible for troubleshooting, maintaining, and repairing manufacturing production equipment. Individuals in this role must have a solid understanding of electricity, electrical components and machine circuitry. In addition, they also must have a solid understanding of mechanical repair. Not only do these technicians troubleshoot, maintain, and repair equipment; they are also very involved in the installation of new equipment. The variety of equipment worked on is very large, so it is important to have a broad knowledge and ability.

Education: Electro-Mechanical Associate degree or completion of Journeyman Industrial Electrician Apprenticeship

Salary: \$19.00 to \$26.00/hour

**Automation Specialist** - Responsible for development and assistance of automation projects. This is a highly technical position that requires detailed knowledge of electrical systems and automation to support the Automation in use throughout the Manufacturing Plant. While this is a technical position, the Automation specialist also interacts with robotic operators, managers and process managers on a daily basis, so strong communication skills are also required.

Education: Electro-Mechanical Associate Degree, Automation Associate Degree or completion of Journeyman Industrial Electrician Apprenticeship

Salary: \$19.00 to \$26.00/hour

**Manufacturing Engineers** – Manufacturing Engineers are responsible for the Manufacturing Systems used. The position will plan, formulate and coordinate various long- and short-term engineering projects designed to improve the quality and performance of products and to reduce cost, waste and delays in operation. The position will evaluate, develop and recommend improvements in safety, quality, manufacturing equipment, layouts, processes and material handling equipment. The position will evaluate, develop and oversee production of new and non-standard products. There is a high emphasis on continuous improvement.

Education: Bachelor degree in Manufacturing Engineering – Associate degree in Manufacturing Engineering may be considered.

Salary: \$50,000/year +

**Plastics Injection Molding Set-up/Process Technician** – These individuals are the experts in the injection molding process. There are three aspects to this role: 1) The molding process 2) The mechanical changeover process 3) Leadership

Key responsibilities will include troubleshooting problems, completing mold changeovers, set-up and process injection molding machines, conduct daily quality audits and monitor overall shift quality, maintaining department housekeeping and pm's, assisting maintenance technicians with machine and mold repairs, completing shift reports daily and providing direction to technician on the shift. This is a technical position that requires a solid mechanical ability, as well as the ability to systematically troubleshoot the molding process.

Education: Industrial Maintenance certificate/degree or Plastics technology degree suggested

Salary: \$15.00 to \$22.25/hour

**Hand Welders** - Welders are responsible for welding activities throughout the department they are assigned to and leading others in the area when needed. Although as technology continues to advance, more and more welding is done robotically, hand welders are still needed. There are many applications where it is still not effective or efficient to weld robotically.

Education: Welding Degree or certification

Salary: \$14.00 to \$20.50/hour

**Production Team Leaders** - Production Team Leaders are the leaders in each production area. These are individuals who become experts in the product they are producing as well as providing direction to the rest of the team. Some key activities are running team huddles, convey and support team goals, support training of technicians, watch for production line imbalances and make adjustments, maintain schedules, document production, document downtime, and work with Process Managers/Managers/Engineers as needed. This position also requires a strong focus on continuous improvement. This is a leadership role that can also lead to advanced leadership opportunities.

Education: Degree or certification in Leadership, Operations Management or Lean Manufacturing helpful

Salary: \$15.00 to \$20.50/hour

**General Manufacturing Production Technicians** – These production team members either are assembling product or operating equipment in various departments. These are more entry-level types of positions that there is growing demand for. While a formal education is not required it is very helpful to have some education related to Lean, machine operations, or general manufacturing methods. These entry-level employees can grow into filling higher level positions with future needs.

Salary: \$12.00 to \$16.50/hour