

Careers in Manufacturing

Exciting. Dynamic. High Paying.

Why Choose Manufacturing?¹

Diverse Opportunities

Choose an area that matches your interests and skills in a wide range of industries.



Innovation and Technology

Get to work with cutting edge tools, automated systems, and advanced materials.



Job Stability and Career Growth

Progress from entry-level to managerial roles with a clear path for advancement.



Hands-On Experience and Pride in Creation

Enjoy seeing tangible results and taking products from prototypes to production.



Competitive Compensation

Earn competitive salaries and benefit packages. The average compensation in U.S. manufacturing is 6.3% higher than that for total private industry.¹⁶



Continuous Learning

Evolve and garner knowledge, enabling new career opportunities, as manufacturing changes to incorporate technological advances and reflect consumer preferences.



Top 5 Manufacturing Industries by Employment Growth²

These five manufacturing sectors have seen the most employment growth over the last five years.

Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (+147,000 jobs)



Food Manufacturing (+126,900 jobs)



Chemical Manufacturing (+76,400 jobs)



Beverage Manufacturing (+70,300 jobs)



Computers & Electronic Product Manufacturing (+68,800 jobs)



Manufacturing Needs People³

CURRENT VACANCIES

486 thousand
employment opportunities

in manufacturing as of June 2024⁵

PROJECTED LONG TERM VACANCIES

3.8 million
people needed by 2033

to fill manufacturing positions from retirement
and industry growth between 2024 & 2033⁷

Of these, **1.9 million**
jobs potentially unfilled

due to skills gap and lack of applicants⁷

Careers in Manufacturing^{4,5,6}



Robotics Technician

Safety Manager

Machinist—\$53,820*

Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver—\$53,340*

Environmental Engineer

Production Supervisor—\$71,440*

Process Engineer

CNC Operator

Electrical Engineer

Graphic Designer—\$52,970*

Industrial Engineer—\$99,300*

Circuit Designer

CAD Draftsman

Quality Control Inspector

Computer & IT Manager—\$190,050*

Assembly Line Worker—\$44,900

Coating & Painting Operator—\$46,520*

Flavorist

Logistician—\$88,100*

Welder, Cutter, Solderer—\$50,140*

Mechanical Engineer

Marketing Manager—\$171,380*

Laser Engineer

Drone Pilot

Human Resource Specialist—\$80,810*

CNC Tool Programmer—\$67,740*



*Average Annual Wage, 2023⁶

Jobs on the Horizon⁷

AI. Robotics. Digital engineering... Manufacturing pairs innovation with production and creativity with practicality.

Digital Twin Engineer

Create a virtual representation of the physical elements and the dynamics of an Internet of Things-connected product as it operates and interacts within its environment throughout its lifecycle.

Predictive Supply Network Analyst

Use machine learning and cognitive computing to identify opportunities for calibrating demand and supply, maximizing performance for all stakeholders.

Robot Teaming Coordinator

Train humans and robots to work together collaboratively, optimizing robot value and human skills.

Digital Offering Manager

Identify and create new product offers that are entirely digital and delivered virtually, developing data-driven products that are aligned with the physical products a company makes.

Drone Data Coordinator

Analyze, coordinate, and manage drone data to improve routes, resources, and safety.



Visit: <https://www.nist.gov/mep/mep-national-network>

Call: 1-800-MEP-4MFG



(1) Based on <https://www.nist.gov/mep/manufacturing-infographics/why-you-should-consider-career-manufacturing> (2) Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Survey, 5-year Employment Growth (2018-23). Extracted 8/5/24. (3) <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/manufacturing/supporting-us-manufacturing-growth-amid-workforce-challenges.html> (4) <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/g/9-Most-Popular-Types-of-Manufacturing-Jobs> (5) <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/g/highest-paying-manufacturing-jobs>; <https://ru.glassdoor.com/manufacturing-job-titles/> (6) Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Survey, May 2023. [https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/insights/us/articles/4747_Manufacturing-personas/4747_Manufacturing-personas-Interactive.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/oes/71-chrome-extension/iefaidhnmnmnibpcjgiclfndmka-jhttps://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/insights/us/articles/4747_Manufacturing-personas/4747_Manufacturing-personas-Interactive.pdf)