



Exploring Manufacturing Careers in Lake County

Look inside to learn about:

The Manufacturing Industry
Industry Outlook & Growth
Available Training

Required Skills & Abilities
Wage Trends
Education Requirements
Career Opportunities

Industry Overview

Manufacturing is the process of adding value to raw materials by turning them into products. It encompasses many industries producing a wide variety of end products.

Manufacturing encompasses a wide-range of industries including:

1. Automotive
2. Chemical
3. Clothing and footwear
4. Electronics
5. Food and drink
6. Metals
7. Pharmaceuticals
8. Process manufacturing



The world of high-tech manufacturing is exploding with exciting opportunities for today's workforce. As jobs in advanced manufacturing gain momentum, manufacturers are looking for highly skilled production workers.

In-Demand Manufacturing Jobs

Lake County Workforce Network has identified 19 high-demand jobs with available training programs in the manufacturing field. They are listed on the back page with related wage and training information. Certain manufacturing occupations may require drug testing and/or criminal background checks.

Outlook & Growth

The world of high-tech manufacturing is exploding with exciting opportunities for today's workforce in Lake County. As jobs in advanced manufacturing gain momentum, employers are looking for highly skilled production workers. Unfortunately, many of these jobs go unfilled because employers can't find people with the right skills.



Training

Jobs in Lake County's manufacturing industry require education and training, yet they don't always require a four-year degree. Depending on your career interests and professional goals, you can choose a training program that lasts several weeks to more than four years. Here are some examples below:

1 Year or less Certificate Program

- Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operator
- Machinist
- Welder

2 Years Associate Degree

- Engineer Technician

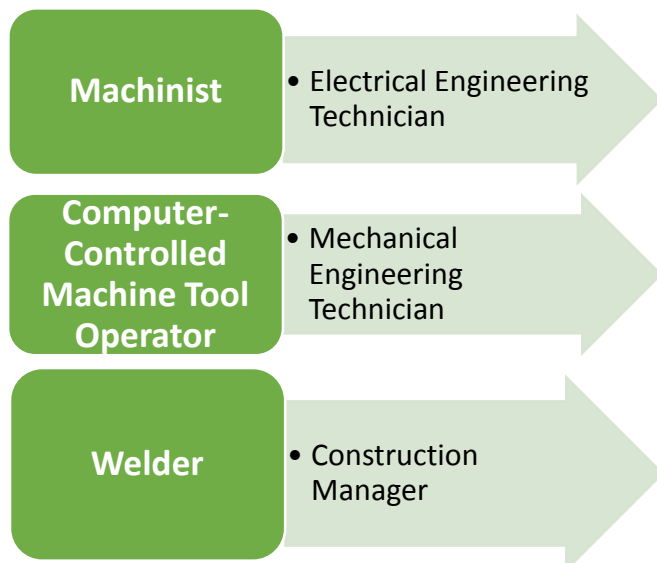
lakecountyil.gov provides information about careers in manufacturing and includes local Lake County job postings, training programs, and advice on how to find financial aid. It is a resource which will introduce you to manufacturing jobs in Lake County and help you figure out which ones could be the right fit for you.

Career Opportunities

There are many job specializations and opportunities within the manufacturing field. You can train for a job as an industrial production manager in manufacturing and spend more time working with people, or work independently operating or repairing machines. Different jobs also have different working environments. You could be working at a desk, in an office, on a busy production floor, or in a machine shop.



Of course, you don't have to stick to one career pathway. You can start in one career, and advance with experience and education into something different. Here are some manufacturing career pathway examples:



These career pathway examples are just a way to get you started – the next step is up to you!

Required Skills & Abilities

Many jobs in manufacturing require strong technical, math, and science skills. Although completing the required technical training is critical to landing a job in these professions, there are additional skills employers look for. To move ahead in, and even begin your career, you will need to demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills.









How many of these interpersonal manufacturing skills do you see in yourself?

-
- **Communication - writing, presenting, computer literacy**
 - **Organization - time management, flexibility**
 - **People management - teamwork, influencing, negotiation, leadership**
 - **Critical thinking - problem solving, creativity, judgement**
-



Lake County In-Demand Manufacturing Jobs

Job Title	Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	Annual Job Openings Lake County	Average Starting Hourly Wage	Average Hourly Wage with Experience	
High School Diploma/On-the-Job Training					
	Maintenance and Repair Workers	1,219	103	\$10.25	\$20.51
	Sales Representatives, Wholesale, and Manufacturing	348	38	\$19.25	\$40.99
	Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	286	41	\$15.33	\$28.46
Certificate					
	CNC Programmers	45	10	\$13.55	\$20.86
	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators	152	30	\$11.13	\$18.07
	Cutting, Punching and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	74	<10	\$8.67	\$13.72
	Electro-Mechanical Technicians*	9	<10	\$17.23	\$27.24
	Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	81	19	\$10.39	\$15.38
	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	149	19	\$15.67	\$25.90
	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	282	38	\$15.20	\$24.54
	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	439	53	\$9.76	\$18.15
	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other	111	10	\$10.60	\$21.54
	Machinists	699	66	\$9.48	\$17.05
	Maintenance Machinery Workers	61	<10	\$13.37	\$23.69
	Mechanical Engineering Technicians*	44	<10	\$18.74	\$27.01
	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	713	38	\$8.44	\$13.13
	Production Workers	686	34	\$9.04	\$15.12
	Welders	271	25	\$11.21	\$17.17
Associate Degree					
	Engineering Technicians	66	<10	\$13.65	\$30.80

*Earning an associate degree will also satisfy educational requirements for this job.