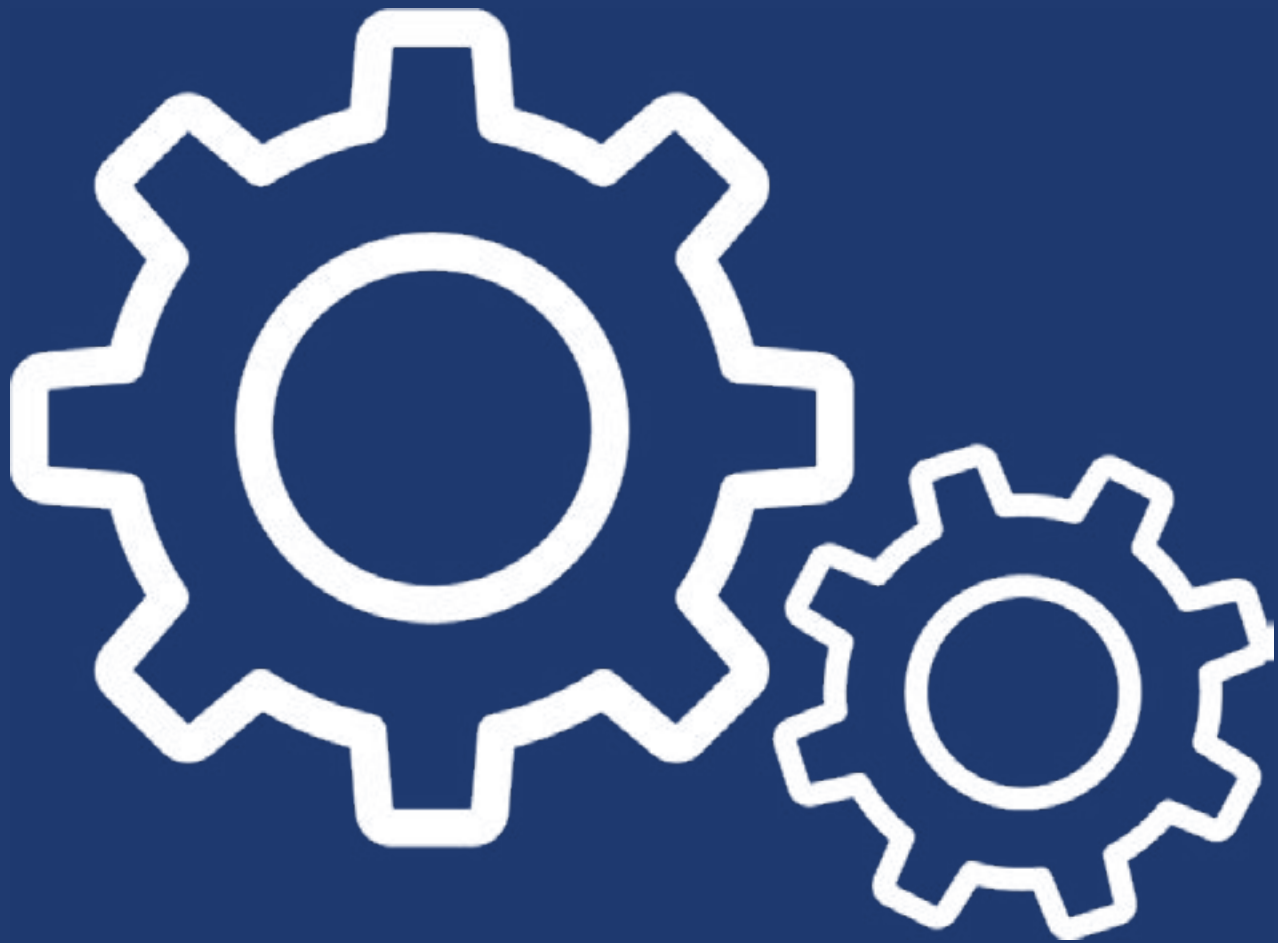


# Manufacturing Production-1 Career Guide

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.

## How to use this document to learn more.

As one of the Top 100 Hot Jobs for 2022, manufacturing production is a promising occupation for job seekers in West Michigan. To find out if this might be a good career choice for you, use this Career Map to examine:

- Who might enjoy this kind of work.
- Qualifications needed in this career field.
- Growth potential and levels of pay.
- Valuable skills for this type of work.
- Common tools and technology used in this work.
- Occupations, responsibilities, and other job titles.

This information is drawn from national data and insights from West Michigan employers. It is meant as a starting point for job seekers and career coaches to work together in the exploration of meaningful and fulfilling careers.



## 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
- Achievement
- Adaptability
- Teamwork
- Decisive

## 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 associates 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.
- Monitor processes, materials, or surroundings.
- Inspecting equipment, structures, or material.
- 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



West Michigan Works! is part of the statewide Michigan Works! system and the workforce development agency in West Michigan. We serve the employers and job seekers of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

We partner with employers, educators, economic developers and community organizations to create a qualified workforce that meets our region's current and future talent needs and fuels our shared economic future.

Learn more at: <https://www.westmiworks.org/>



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/>