

MACHINE OPERATOR

ALSO KNOWN AS:

PRODUCTION OPERATOR

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

MACHINE ASSISTANT

TRANSFORM RAW MATERIALS INTO FINISHED PRODUCTS WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.

Machine Operators are the skilled hands that bring manufacturing blueprints to life. In a world increasingly driven by automation, these professionals blend technical know-how with a hands-on approach, ensuring that the heartbeat of manufacturing never skips a beat.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a machine operator include:

- ✔ Attention to detail
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Technical proficiency
- ✔ Manual dexterity
- ✔ Safety awareness

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- CNC Machinist
- Team Leader
- Mechanical Engineering Tradesperson
- Engineering Technician

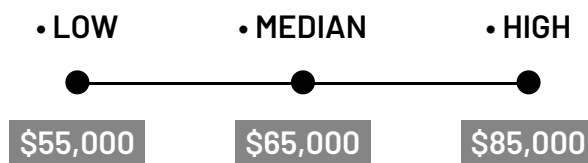
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a machine operator include:

- ✔ Reliable
- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Willingness to learn
- ✔ Precision
- ✔ Team Player
- ✔ Investigative – “Thinker”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Machine Operator can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

- ▶ Aerospace and Defence ▶ Chemicals, Hydrocarbons and Refining ▶ Food and Beverage ▶ Furniture and Other Products
- ▶ General Manufacturing and Engineering ▶ Meat and Seafood Processing ▶ Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology
- ▶ Polymers, Plastic and Rubber ▶ Printing and Graphic arts ▶ Pulp, Paper and Packaging ▶ Renewables ▶ Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- ▶ Timber and Wood ▶ Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Engineering Skills
- Furnishing Skills
- Industrial Technology Skills
- Science in Practice

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Design and Technologies (7-10)

JOB OVERVIEW

Machine Operators play a crucial role in the manufacturing industry, responsible for setting up, operating, and monitoring various types of machinery used in production processes. They are the backbone of manufacturing facilities, ensuring that equipment runs efficiently and produces high-quality products. Their work directly impacts the productivity, quality, and safety of manufacturing operations, contributing significantly to the success of their employers and the broader economy.

These skilled professionals work with a wide range of equipment, from simple mechanical tools to complex, computer-controlled machinery. They need to be proficient in reading and interpreting technical documents, understanding manufacturing processes, and troubleshooting mechanical and electronic issues. Machine Operators must also have a strong grasp of safety protocols and quality control standards, as they are often the first line of defence against production errors and workplace hazards.

A typical day for a Machine Operator might involve setting up machines for production runs, loading raw materials, monitoring machine performance, adjusting and maintaining product quality, performing basic maintenance, and recording production data. They often work in teams and may need to communicate effectively with supervisors, quality control personnel, and maintenance staff. As manufacturing processes become increasingly automated, Machine Operators are also expected to adapt to new technologies and continuously update their skills.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Prepare and set up machines for production runs, ensuring all settings are correctly configured according to specifications.
2. Operate machinery safely and efficiently to produce parts or products.
3. Conduct routine maintenance and cleaning of machines to ensure optimal performance. Diagnose and resolve machine malfunctions.
4. Monitor production processes to ensure products meet quality standards.
5. Maintain accurate records of production activities, including quantities produced, machine settings, and any issues encountered.
6. Adhere to all safety protocols and regulations to maintain a safe working environment.

HOW TO BECOME A MACHINE OPERATOR

Becoming a Machine Operator in manufacturing typically doesn't require formal qualifications to start, but having relevant skills and certifications can significantly enhance job prospects and career progression. On-the-job training is common in this field. Here are some steps to become a Machine Operator:

1. Complete Year 12 or equivalent education, with a focus on maths and technical subjects
2. Consider completing a Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology or Certificate II in Engineering Pathways
3. Obtain relevant certifications (e.g., forklift license)
4. Gain entry-level experience in manufacturing or production environments
5. Research potential employers online and apply for advertised positions. If you're interested in working for a specific company without current job openings, proactively submit your resume and a letter of interest
6. Apply for Machine Operator positions and be prepared for on-the-job training

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Vocational education and training can provide valuable skills and knowledge for a career as a Machine Operator in manufacturing. Here are some relevant qualifications:

- Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology (MSM20216)
- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20422)

For those looking to advance into leadership roles or specialise further:

- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Machining) (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting) (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting/machining) (MEM30219)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

While university education is not typically required for Machine Operator positions, it can be beneficial for career advancement into management or specialised technical roles within manufacturing.