

FACTORY WORKER

ALSO KNOWN AS:

GENERAL HAND

FACTORY HAND

FACTORY OPERATIVE

MAKE A DIRECT IMPACT ON PRODUCTION OUTCOMES.

In this role, you'll be involved in *all* the action on the factory floor – being physically active, driving forklifts, operating machinery, and ensuring products get to where they need to be in a timely and safe manner. This is a career for those who appreciate clear, tangible outcomes for their hard work and commitment.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a factory worker include:

- ☑ Forklift driving
- ☑ Heavy lifting
- ☑ Machinery operation
- ☑ Manual handling
- ☑ Problem solving

CAREER PROGRESSION

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

- Team Leader
- Process Operator
- Production Operator
- Production Leader (Food and Beverage)

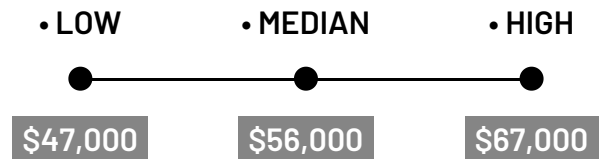
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a factory worker include:

- ☑ Precision
- ☑ Honest
- ☑ Reliable
- ☑ Accountable
- ☑ Physical stamina
- ☑ Realistic – “Do-er”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Factory Worker 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

JOB OVERVIEW

Factory workers play a crucial role in the manufacturing process, operating machinery, assembling products, and ensuring quality control on production lines. They contribute significantly to their employer's productivity and efficiency, directly impacting the availability of goods in the market and the overall economy.

These versatile professionals work with a wide range of equipment, from hand tools to sophisticated automated machinery. They must possess a keen eye for detail, good hand-eye coordination, and the ability to follow complex instructions. Safety awareness is paramount, as they often work in environments with moving parts and potentially hazardous materials.

In a typical day, a factory worker might set up production equipment, monitor machine operations, assemble components, perform quality checks, and maintain a clean and organised work area. They often work in teams, collaborating with colleagues to meet production targets and maintain high standards of quality and safety.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Operate and monitor production machinery and equipment
2. Assemble components or products according to specifications
3. Conduct quality control checks on finished items
4. Maintain a clean and safe work environment
5. Report any equipment malfunctions or production issues to supervisors

HOW TO BECOME A FACTORY WORKER

Becoming a factory worker typically doesn't require formal qualifications to start, making it an accessible entry-level position in the manufacturing industry. However, on-the-job training is usually provided, and there are opportunities for further education and skill development. Here are some steps to become a factory worker:

1. Complete Year 10 or equivalent education
2. Consider completing a pre-apprenticeship or traineeship in manufacturing
3. 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.
4. Apply for entry-level positions at manufacturing companies
5. Undertake on-the-job training and safety inductions

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

While not always required, vocational education and training can significantly enhance your skills and career prospects in manufacturing. Here are some relevant qualifications:

- Certificate II in Engineering – Production Technology (MEM20219)
- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20422)
- Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology (MSM20216)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

University education is not typically required for entry-level factory worker positions. However, for those looking to advance into management roles or specialised technical positions within manufacturing, a university degree can be beneficial.