



# Exploring Manufacturing Careers in Kankakee County

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## Industry Overview

Manufacturing is the process of adding value to raw materials by turning them into products. Overall, 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

The Kankakee Workforce Services office has identified 13 high-demand jobs with available training programs in the manufacturing field, which 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 Kankakee 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 Kankakee 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 from several weeks to more than four years. Here are some examples below:

### 1 Year or less

#### Certificate Program

- Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operator
- Quality Control Inspector
- Welder

### 1 to 2 Years

#### Certificate Program

- Machinist
- Industrial Machinery Mechanic

The Kankakee Workforce Services website provides information about careers in manufacturing and includes local Kankakee 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 Kankakee County and help you figure out which ones could be the right fit for you.

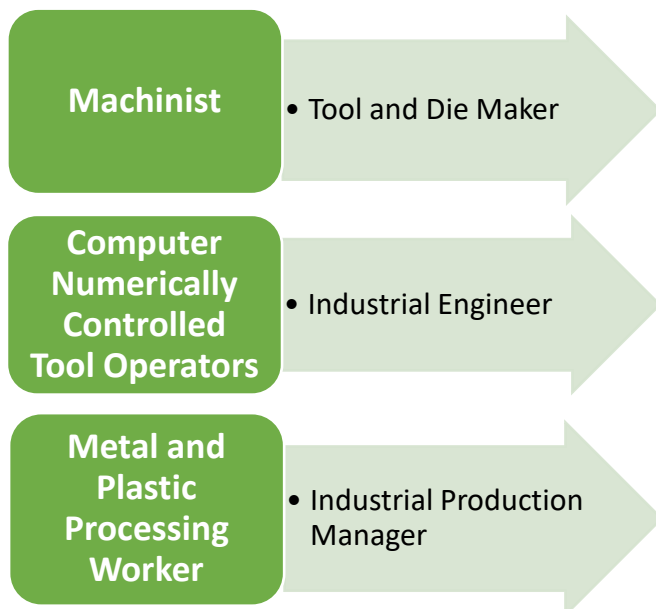


## Career Opportunities

There are many job specializations and opportunities within the manufacturing field. You can train for a job as a supervisor or transportation and distribution manager in manufacturing and spend more time working with people or work independently operating and 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 may 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. Even though 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?**

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- **Communication - writing, presenting, computer literacy**
  - **Organization - time management, flexibility**
  - **People management - teamwork, influencing, negotiation, leadership**
  - **Critical thinking - problem solving, creativity, judgement**
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# Kankakee County In-Demand Manufacturing Jobs

Job Title	Annual Job Openings Cook County Region	Annual Job Openings Kankakee County Area	Average Starting Hourly Wage	Average Hourly Wage
<b>Certificate</b>				
 Chemical Equipment Operator*	77	26	\$29.69	\$36.82
 Numerical Control Machine Operators	285	11	\$19.76	\$33.36
 Electricians*	1072	40	\$29.57	\$50.05
 Industrial Machinery Mechanics*	536	39	\$25.00	\$47.35
 Machinists*	1057	46	\$19.50	\$31.30
 Maintenance and Repair Workers	3109	100	\$18.92	\$31.49
 Metal and Plastic Processing Workers	1431	69	\$24.01	\$25.20
 Quality Control Inspectors	1048	54	\$18.03	\$29.22
 Tool and Die Makers	143	6	\$22.71	\$33.14
 Stationary Engineers	100	3	\$32.05	\$64.59
 Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers*	576	24	\$22.30	\$32.54
<b>Bachelor Degree</b>				
 Industrial Engineers	343	17	\$41.69	\$62.22
 Industrial Production Managers	263	16	\$49.10	\$79.69

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

