



AA Registry Unit Plan

Basic Facts about CNC Metal and Plastic Machine Workers

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Summary

Quick Facts: Metal and Plastic Machine Workers

2020 Median Pay	\$38,270 per year \$18.40 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	See How to Become One
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Number of Jobs, 2020	1,035,400
Job Outlook, 2020-30	-2% (Decline)
Employment Change, 2020-30	-17,800

[What Metal and Plastic Machine Workers Do](#)

Metal and plastic machine workers set up and operate equipment that cuts, shapes, and forms metal and plastic materials or pieces.

[Work Environment](#)

Metal and plastic machine workers are employed mainly in factories. Workers must adhere to safety standards to protect themselves from workplace hazards. Most work full time, which for some includes evenings and weekends.

[How to Become a Metal or Plastic Machine Worker](#)

Metal and plastic workers typically need a high school diploma to enter the occupation and receive 1 year of on-the-job training. Computer numerically controlled (CNC) tool programmers typically need postsecondary training.

[Pay](#)

The median annual wage for metal and plastic machine workers was \$38,270 in May 2020.

[Job Outlook](#)

Overall employment of metal and plastic machine workers is projected to decline 2 percent from 2020 to 2030.

Despite declining employment, about 103,100 openings for metal and plastic machine workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. All of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

[State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for metal and plastic machine workers.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of metal and plastic machine workers with similar occupations.

[More Information, Including Links to O*NET](#)

Learn more about metal and plastic machine workers by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.