

Employment Outlook in Connecticut

Did You Know?

- The median age of workers in Connecticut is 37.4.*
- Connecticut's workforce is the seventh oldest in the nation.*
- According to the 2005 Survey of Current and Future Manufacturing Jobs in Connecticut:
 - The majority of manufacturers (84 per cent) expect a quarter of their employees to retire within 5 years.
 - Eleven percent expect to replace more than half of their workforce due to employee retirements.
- More than half of the top 100 companies headquartered in Connecticut headquartered in Connecticut are manufacturing firms.
- Many of them have current and continuing demand for skilled employees, but can't find candidates with the qualifications and skills needed to fill the positions.
- The average annual pay for manufacturing jobs in Connecticut ranges from \$43,000 for production workers to well over \$100,000 for engineers. (CT Dept. of Labor, 2006)
- According to the 2005 Survey of Current and Future Manufacturing Jobs in Connecticut, positions that are extremely difficult to fill include:
 - CNC programmers
 - Machinists
 - Tool & Die Makers
 - Technicians
 - Engineers

Manufacturing Jobs in Demand

Manufacturing Engineering Technician

Salary Range: \$37,000-\$60,000

Every product that you see must be made – cars, computers, refrigerators, music systems, bicycles, video games, sports equipment, aircraft, medical devices are all manufactured. As a manufacturing engineering technician you will operate, install, maintain, and continuously improve the machinery, processes, and production system that produce these products. You will work in clean, modern facilities with high tech devices such as robots, highly automated systems, computer controlled machining systems, and intricate assembly machinery. (Source: National Association of Manufacturers) **Education: High school plus associate's degree.**

Machinists

Salary Range \$32,000 - \$59,000

Basically, you'll be making things with metal. Lathes, milling machines, shapers, grinders, will be part of your daily work. You'll run computer-controlled machining tools that are accurate to a few micro meters. And you'll work with finish tools to perfect each piece you've made. When you're working with this much metal, you'll become familiar with different types of material. And you'll be in charge of metal working projects from planning and fabrication through assembly, inspection, and testing, using knowledge of machine functions, metal properties, and mathematics. (Source: National Association of Manufacturers) **Education: High school or college plus apprenticeship (2-5 years).** Machinist training varies from a formal apprenticeship and post secondary programs to learning the trade informally on the job.

Drafters (CAD – Computer Aided Design)

CAD drafters transform initial rough product design using computers to transfer the design into working documents. They review engineering drawings and designs to ensure the right specifications and standards are used. **Education: High school, associate's degree preferred.**

CNC programmers and operators

Salary Range: \$33,000 - \$48,000 (to \$68,000 with 4-year degree)

Work with CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines, which cut and shape metal, metal, plastic, or glass to form a finished part. They plot out step-by-step, the way a machine will do its job of making auto, machine, or other part that need to meet extremely exact standards. Once the programming is done, CNC operators step in to keep an eye on the machine all the way through the manufacturing process. **Education: high school, some post secondary desirable.** (Source: CollegeBoard.com)