



# Exploring Manufacturing Careers in Will 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 Workforce Services Division of Will County 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

In Will County, in-demand manufacturing jobs are projected to grow 5% through 2024, creating about 1200 job openings. Since 2010, America has seen a resurgence in manufacturing jobs. Today, employers are looking to hire well-qualified and trained workers.



## Training

Jobs in Will 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

- Machine Operator
- Machinist
- Tool & Die Maker
- Welder

### 2 Years

#### Associate Degree

- Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operator
- Industrial Machinery Mechanic
- Supervisor of Production Workers

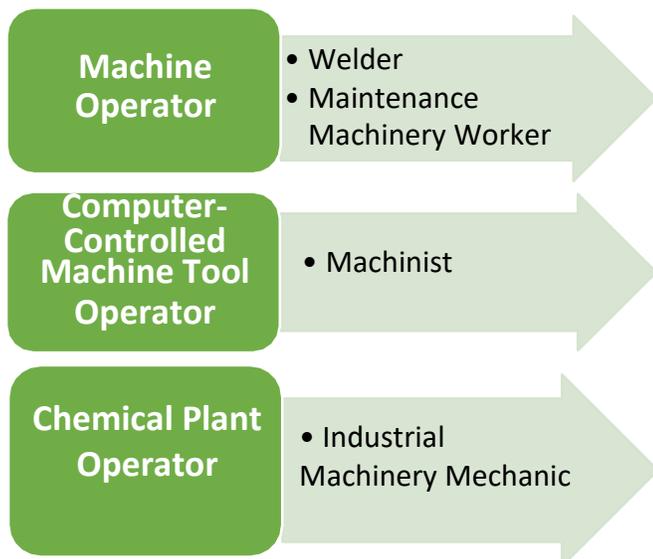
Jobs4people.org provides information about careers in manufacturing and includes local Will County job postings, training programs and advice on how to find financial aid. It is a resource which will introduce you to manufacturing jobs in Will County and help you figure out which ones could be the right 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. Completing the required technical training is critical to landing a job in these professions and there are additional skills employers also 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?**

- **Communication - writing, presenting, computer literacy**
- **Organization - time management, flexibility**
- **People management - teamwork, influencing, negotiation, leadership**
- **Critical thinking - problem solving, creativity, judgement**



# Will County In-Demand Manufacturing Jobs

Job Title	Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	Annual Job Openings Will County	Average Starting Hourly Wage	Average Hourly Wage with Experience	
<b>Certificate</b>					
	Chemical Plant Operators & Technicians	56	<10	\$18.02	\$30.13
	Chemical Technicians	210	19	\$13.65	\$22.33
	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators*	403	23	\$13.00	\$19.61
	Electrical & Electronic Technicians & Repairers*	226	14	\$16.83	\$29.11
	Industrial Machinery Mechanics*	859	70	\$16.64	\$26.25
	Machine Operators	902	53	\$10.63	\$17.51
	Machinists*	2,390	147	\$10.27	\$19.03
	Maintenance Machinery Workers	249	20	\$16.21	\$25.07
	Mechanical Drafters	174	11	\$16.05	\$25.26
	Production and Planning Clerks	1,164	94	\$13.07	\$21.70
	Supervisors of Production, Mechanics, Operating, Repair Workers*	1,672	127	\$16.12	\$28.96
	Tool and Die Makers	314	17	\$16.83	\$27.48
	Welders*	786	65	\$13.24	\$20.85

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

