

Discover the A-Z of Careers in Manufacturing

Presented by the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium
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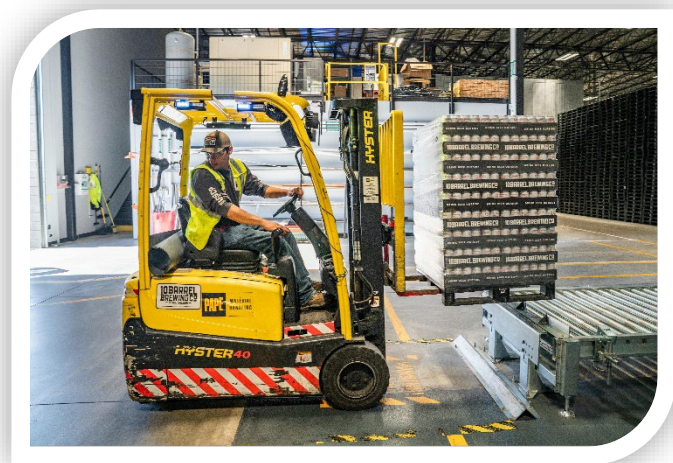
Are you thinking about your future career but unsure where to start? Maybe you're imagining a job where you can work with cutting-edge technology, design solutions, or even create products used around the world. If that sounds exciting, the manufacturing sector might be for you!

This week is **Careers Week in British Columbia**, and we're diving into the **A-Z of Jobs in the Manufacturing Sector**. Manufacturing isn't just about factories and machines (though there are plenty of those!); it's a dynamic industry offering a huge variety of jobs that suit all kinds of skills and interests. Whether you love hands-on work, problem-solving, designing, or leading teams, there's something for everyone.

Why Explore Careers in Manufacturing?

The manufacturing industry is the backbone of many economies, including British Columbia's. It offers:

1. **Variety:** From working as a robotics technician to managing supply chains, the options are endless.
2. **Growth:** Many roles offer room to learn and grow, with paths leading to leadership positions.
3. **Innovation:** This sector constantly evolves, incorporating the latest technologies, like automation and sustainable practices.
4. **In-demand Skills:** There's a growing need for skilled workers in this field, so job opportunities are plentiful.



The Road to Manufacturing Careers

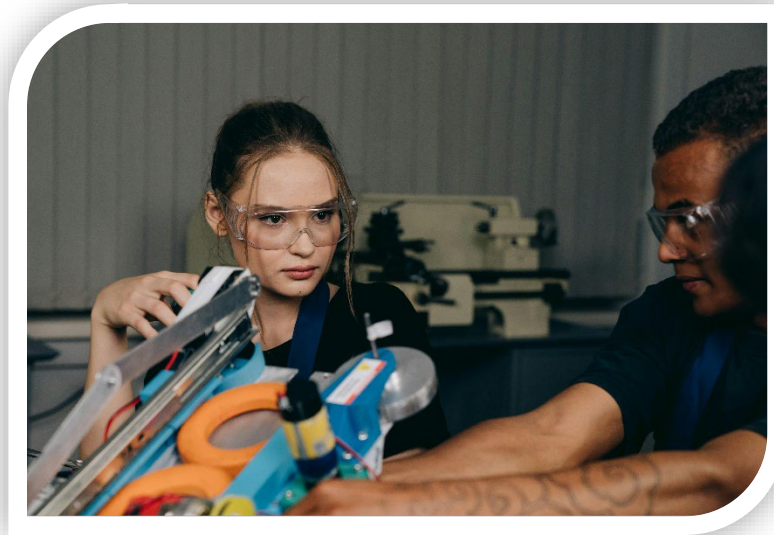
The manufacturing sector values skills, but the path to each role can vary. Here's a quick breakdown of what you might need:

- **High School Diploma:** Many entry-level positions, like General Labourer or Assembler, require only a diploma and on-the-job training.
- **Technical Training or Certification:** Roles like CNC Operator, Welder, or Robotics Technician may need specialized programs at a technical school or college.



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- **University Degree:** Careers like Engineer or Numerical Analyst might require a degree in fields such as engineering, math, or data science.
- **Apprenticeships:** Trades like Millwright or Tool and Die Maker combine hands-on learning with classroom instruction, leading to certifications as a Journey person.



A to Z of Jobs in the Canadian Manufacturing Sector

A is for Assembler

- **Description:** Assemblers put together components and parts to create finished products. They work on assembly lines, using tools and machinery to meet production goals efficiently.
- **Wage Range:** \$18–\$26/hour
- **Company Types:** Automotive, electronics, furniture, and appliance manufacturers.

B is for Buyer

- **Description:** Buyers procure raw materials and supplies for manufacturing processes. They negotiate with suppliers to ensure the best quality and cost for the company.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$40/hour
- **Company Types:** Consumer goods manufacturers, food processing plants, and industrial equipment manufacturers.



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C is for CNC Operator

- **Description:** CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Operators program and operate machines that cut, shape, and finish materials. They ensure precision and efficiency in producing parts from metals, plastics, and other materials.
- **Wage Range:** \$22–\$35/hour
- **Company Types:** Aerospace, automotive, and precision tool manufacturing companies.

D is for Draftsperson

- **Description:** Draftspersons create technical drawings and blueprints for manufacturing products. They use computer-aided design (CAD) software to detail specifications for production teams.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$40/hour
- **Company Types:** Construction materials, machinery manufacturing, and custom fabrication companies.

E is for Engineer (Manufacturing)

- **Description:** Manufacturing Engineers design, optimize, and troubleshoot production processes. They focus on efficiency, cost reduction, and maintaining high-quality standards.
- **Wage Range:** \$35–\$55/hour
- **Company Types:** Automotive plants, chemical manufacturers, and advanced technology firms.

F is for Fabricator

- **Description:** Fabricators cut, shape, and assemble materials like metal or plastic into finished products. They use various tools, including welding equipment and power tools, to create custom items.
- **Wage Range:** \$20–\$35/hour
- **Company Types:** Metalworking shops, structural steel companies, and custom product manufacturers.

G is for General Labourer

- **Description:** General Labourers perform diverse tasks such as material handling, cleaning, and assisting with machine operations. They are essential for keeping production lines running smoothly.
- **Wage Range:** \$16–\$24/hour
- **Company Types:** Food and beverage processing plants, packaging facilities, and general manufacturing operations.



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H is for Health and Safety Officer

- **Description:** Health and Safety Officers ensure compliance with workplace safety regulations. They conduct risk assessments, train employees, and implement safety protocols.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Factories, warehouses, and chemical processing plants.

I is for Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)

- **Description:** Industrial Mechanics maintain and repair machinery used in manufacturing. They troubleshoot mechanical problems and ensure machines operate efficiently.
- **Wage Range:** \$30–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Pulp and paper mills, automotive manufacturing plants, and food processing facilities.

J is for Journey person

- **Description:** Journey persons are skilled tradespeople who have completed their apprenticeship in a specific field, such as welding, machining, or electrical work. They bring expertise to their trade and ensure high-quality work in manufacturing processes.
- **Wage Range:** \$30–\$50/hour (depending on trade)
- **Company Types:** Tool and die shops, welding companies, and custom manufacturing firms.

K is for Kiln Operator

- **Description:** Kiln Operators oversee furnaces or kilns used to process materials such as ceramics, metals, or wood. They control temperatures and monitor the progress of materials during production.
- **Wage Range:** \$20–\$32/hour
- **Company Types:** Ceramics factories, glass manufacturers, and lumber processing plants.

L is for Logistics Coordinator

- **Description:** Logistics Coordinators manage the supply chain to ensure timely delivery of materials and products. They plan shipments, track inventory, and coordinate with suppliers and distributors.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$40/hour
- **Company Types:** Distribution centers, food processing plants, and large-scale manufacturing companies.



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M is for Machinist

- **Description:** Machinists operate machines to produce precision parts and tools. They interpret blueprints and set up equipment to meet exact specifications.
- **Wage Range:** \$24–\$38/hour
- **Company Types:** Aerospace, automotive, and custom machine shops.

N is for Numerical Analyst

- **Description:** Numerical Analysts process data to optimize manufacturing processes and productivity. They use statistical tools to identify trends and improve efficiency.
- **Wage Range:** \$30–\$50/hour
- **Company Types:** Manufacturing firms specializing in lean production and data-driven efficiency optimization.

O is for Operations Manager

- **Description:** Operations Managers oversee all aspects of manufacturing, from production schedules to employee performance. They ensure smooth operations and strive for continuous improvement.
- **Wage Range:** \$40–\$65/hour
- **Company Types:** Factories, logistics hubs, and large-scale production facilities.

P is for Production Supervisor

- **Description:** Production Supervisors manage teams and workflows on the manufacturing floor. They ensure workers meet production targets and maintain safety standards.
- **Wage Range:** \$28–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Automotive plants, electronics manufacturers, and food production facilities.

Q is for Quality Assurance Specialist

- **Description:** Quality Assurance Specialists design and implement systems to ensure product quality. They work with teams to troubleshoot and refine processes for consistency.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$40/hour
- **Company Types:** Pharmaceuticals, food processing, and aerospace companies.



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R is for Robotics Technician

- **Description:** Robotics Technicians install, maintain, and repair robotic equipment in manufacturing. They program robots to automate repetitive tasks and improve production efficiency.
- **Wage Range:** \$30–\$50/hour
- **Company Types:** Advanced manufacturing plants, automotive factories, and electronics assembly lines.

S is for Supply Chain Analyst

- **Description:** Supply Chain Analysts optimize the movement of goods, materials, and products through the supply chain. They analyze data to minimize costs and improve delivery times.
- **Wage Range:** \$28–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Consumer goods manufacturers, industrial equipment companies, and food processors.

T is for Tool and Die Maker

- **Description:** Tool and Die Makers create precision tools, molds, and dies for manufacturing products. They work with metals and specialized machinery to produce components for mass production.
- **Wage Range:** \$28–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Automotive, aerospace, and custom machining companies.

U is for Utility Worker

- **Description:** Utility Workers handle a variety of tasks to support production, such as cleaning machinery, moving materials, and assisting operators. Their flexibility ensures the plant runs smoothly.
- **Wage Range:** \$16–\$24/hour
- **Company Types:** General manufacturing facilities, food processing plants, and warehouses.

V is for Value Stream Manager

- **Description:** Value Stream Managers oversee the entire lifecycle of products within the manufacturing process. They identify inefficiencies and implement strategies to maximize value for customers.
- **Wage Range:** \$35–\$55/hour
- **Company Types:** Lean manufacturing firms, automotive plants, and industrial equipment companies.



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W is for Welder

- **Description:** Welders join metals using high heat and specialized equipment. Their work is vital for creating durable and reliable products in industries like construction, automotive, and aerospace.
- **Wage Range:** \$25–\$40/hour
- **Company Types:** Construction, shipbuilding, and metal fabrication companies.

X is for X-Ray Technician (NDT)

- **Description:** X-Ray Technicians in manufacturing use non-destructive testing (NDT) methods to inspect the integrity of materials and welds. They identify hidden defects without damaging products.
- **Wage Range:** \$30–\$50/hour
- **Company Types:** Oil and gas, aerospace, and pipeline inspection firms.

Y is for Yard Supervisor

- **Description:** Yard Supervisors manage outdoor storage areas for raw materials and finished goods. They coordinate loading, unloading, and inventory organization.
- **Wage Range:** \$20–\$35/hour
- **Company Types:** Lumber yards, construction material suppliers, and equipment manufacturing firms.

Z is for Zone Supervisor

- **Description:** Zone Supervisors oversee specific areas within a manufacturing facility, ensuring production targets and quality standards are met. They manage worker assignments and resolve operational issues.
- **Wage Range:** \$28–\$45/hour
- **Company Types:** Automotive, chemical processing, and electronics manufacturing companies.

Learn more about the [B.C. Youth in Manufacturing Initiative!](#)



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