

# Philly Career Launch *Industry At-A-Glance*

## The Manufacturing Industry in Philadelphia

Manufacturing refers to companies that take raw materials or parts and finish them into new goods using tools, human labor, machinery, and chemical processing.<sup>1</sup> Manufacturing is no longer dirty smoke stacks and boring, repetitive work. Today's manufacturers are using cutting edge technologies such as 3-D printers, robotics, and computer-aided modeling.<sup>2</sup>

The manufacturing sector in Philadelphia is smaller than it used to be, but it has a lot of well-paying jobs. Annual wages for positions requiring some training start in the mid \$40,000s.<sup>3</sup> There is also a shortage of workers in manufacturing: 65 percent of employers surveyed by the National Association of Manufacturers said their inability to attract and retain employees was a primary challenge.<sup>4</sup>

There are three general career pathways for starting off in manufacturing: **machine operators, fabricators, and CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) precision machining**. Here are example careers for each:

### MANUFACTURING CAREERS

#### MACHINE OPERATOR

Metal and Plastic Machine Worker  
Tool and Die Maker  
Packaging/Filling Machine Operator and Tender

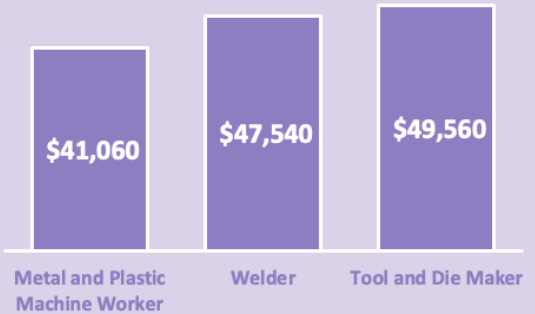
#### FABRICATOR

Welder  
Cutter  
Solderer & Brazier Fiberglass Laminator

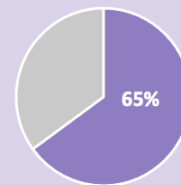
#### CNC PRECISION MACHINING

CNC Machinist

### Annual Wages<sup>3</sup>



### Worker Shortage



65 percent of manufacturers said their primary challenge was attracting and retaining employees.<sup>4</sup>

### Job Openings

4 million

Projected in manufacturing by 2030, 1.5 million from new growth and 2.5 million from retirements.<sup>5</sup>

## WAYS TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING

**#1.** Identify your strengths, talents, and interests as a way to think about what manufacturing careers might be best for you.

**ACTION STEP:** Check out [Career Cruising](#) for useful information on 16 career clusters (free with a library card).

**#2.** Look for training programs in manufacturing careers that you think might be a good fit for you.

**ACTION STEP:** Visit the [Career Training Database](#) and connect with programs.

**#3.** Seek guidance and support from a trusted friend, relative, or advisor as you launch your manufacturing career.

**ACTION STEP:** Find [PA CareerLink® events](#) at neighborhood libraries that offer one-on-one job search guidance.

Sources: 1- Definition adapted from [Investopedia](#). 2- [Future of Manufacturing in Philly Isn't Smoky Factories](#), Philadelphia Magazine (2/2/2016). 3- [BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Production Occupations](#) (5/2022). 4- [National Association of Manufacturers' Outlook Survey, First Quarter 2024](#) (3/2024). 5- [Creating pathways for tomorrow's workforce today: Beyond reskilling in manufacturing](#), Deloitte Insights (2021).