

## 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 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> According to a 2016 survey of manufacturers in the Philadelphia, most of their workers do not have a college degree (86 percent) and are racially and ethnically diverse (62 percent of workers were a race or ethnicity other than white).<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  
Operators and Tenders

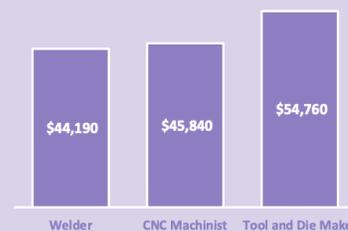
#### FABRICATOR

Welder  
Cutter  
Solderer & Brazier Fiberglass  
Laminator

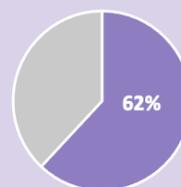
#### CNC PRECISION MACHINING

CNC Machinist

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



### Workforce Diversity<sup>4</sup>



62 percent of workers were reported to be African American, Hispanic, Asian or another race or ethnicity that was not white, according to a 2016 survey of manufacturers Philadelphia

### Projected Job Openings

2.6 million

2.6 million Baby Boomers in manufacturing are expected to retire in the next 10 years.<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:** Connect with a Workplace Librarian through [a one-on-one appointment](#) to learn about resources and support for career seekers.

Sources: 1- Definition adapted from [Investopedia](#). 2- From [Future of Manufacturing in Philly Isn't Smoky Factories](#), Philadelphia Magazine (2/2/2016). 3- From [BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Production Occupations](#). 4- From [The State of Urban Manufacturing: Philadelphia City Snapshot](#) (11/7/2017). 5- [The jobs are here, but where are the people?](#) Deloitte Insights (11/14/2018)