

Manufacturing Cluster



Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering.

Data Sources

Bureau of Labor Statistics
CareerInfoNet
CareerClusters
The College Board
Socrates

Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators

The machines that computer-controlled machine tool operators work with may be controlled by computers, but it's the humans who really run the show—by controlling the computers. Operators plot out, step by step, the way a machine will do its job of making auto, machine or other parts that need to meet extremely exact standards. Once the programming is done, the operators step in to keep an eye on the machine all the way through the manufacturing process.

If you are interested in a career building machines with computers, a career as a **computer-controlled machine tool operator** may be for you.

Computer-controlled machine tool operators work with CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines, which cut and shape metal, plastic or glass to form a finished product.

Are You Ready To...?

- Check blueprints
- Plan each step of the operation
- Enter information into machines
- Load machines with metal
- Monitor and troubleshoot machines

It Helps To Be...

A problem solver who's good with machines and tools. Operators also need a good eye for detail.

A Day In The Life...

- Adjust production equipment/machinery setup
- Clean equipment or machinery
- Confer with engineering, technical or manufacturing personnel
- Determine specifications
- Examine products or work to verify conformance to specifications
- Install equipment or attachments on machinery or related structures

Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

Median Hourly Wage: \$21.92

That comes out to more than \$45,587 a year.

In 2016, we had 569 Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators. By 2026, we'll need 667.

Could you be one of the 98?

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Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators

After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for computer-controlled machine tool operators with an **apprenticeship**, a **technical degree**, or a **bachelor's degree**.



Top 5 Industries for Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators

1. Machine Shops; Turned Product; and Screw, Nut and Bolt Manufacturing
2. Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
3. Agriculture, Construction and Mining Machinery Manufacturing
4. Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing
5. Plastics Product Manufacturing

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

[http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/
CareerPlanning.aspx](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx).

Related College Majors

- Machine Tool Technology (technical degree)
- Apprenticeships (in-shop training and classwork)
- Engineering (bachelor's degree) is preferred for some specialized types of programming.

Related Industry Certifications

- Slide Forming Level II—Slide Forming Operations
- Slide Forming Level III—Slide Forming Set Up and Operations

Related Careers

- Computer Programmers
- Industrial Machinery Repairers
- Industrial Production Managers
- Machinists
- Tool and Die Makers
- Welders

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