

Why You Should Consider a Career in Manufacturing

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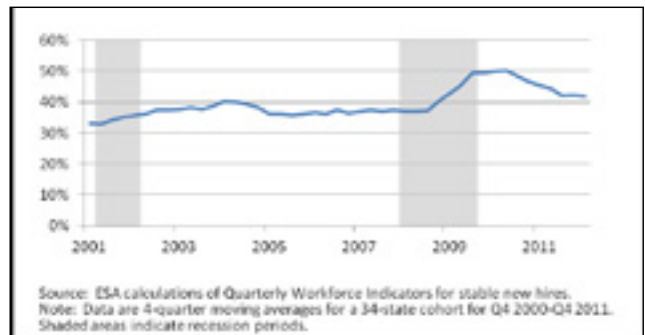
Part time employment in a low-paying field does not have to be your destiny. Mortgaging your future to enormous student loan debt, that may or may not assure you a job capable of paying off the loans, does not have to be your destiny either.

The U.S. Department of Commerce issued a report on the earnings of new hires in manufacturing which documents how much better the earnings of new hires in manufacturing are compared to alternatives.

Why should you consider a career in manufacturing?

The earnings are better, that's why. According to the report, which analyzed quarterly workforce indicators data and validated it against the current population survey:

1. New hires in manufacturing enjoy an earnings premium relative to other new hires. This premium peaked during the recession but has returned to near its prerecession average. At the end of 2011, the manufacturing earnings premium for new hires stood at about 38 percent.
2. Since the recession began, real average earnings for new hires in manufacturing grew 3.5 percent, while earnings of incumbents in manufacturing grew about 2.4 percent. Over the same time, real earnings for hires in other industries were flat, and earnings for incumbents in other industries declined.



3. Over time, the earnings of new hires relative to incumbents have been consistently higher in manufacturing. From 2000 to 2011, the earnings of new hires were about 70 percent of incumbents' earnings in manufacturing, compared to an average of 60 percent in other industries.

Earnings are better in manufacturing.

That is important, but what about what it takes to get hired? Unlike jobs requiring a four-year degree and the tens of thousands of dollars of college debt that most graduates owe (\$35,200 is the latest average amount of student debt outstanding for recent grads we've seen), a skilled job in manufacturing can begin from earning an operator's certificate from a local community college. Many of the new hires in precision machining found jobs during their first term of community college coursework. And many community colleges report that they have more open jobs posted on their bulletin boards than they have qualified students to fill.

CNC operators, multiple-spindle machine operators, set-up operators, grinders, quality control, lead men, estimators, process engineers, supervisors and engineering technicians are just a handful of the job titles that are available to grow into as part of a career in precision machining and manufacturing. Some people move from the shop to the office in purchasing, estimating, IT or CAD work.

Once on the job, opportunities to further one's skills and education, and get additional training, are widely

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available. Many employers offer supplemental training through on the job programs, including employer-sponsored courses from Tooling U, machine builders and tuition reimbursement arrangements for continuing education.

Why should you consider a career in manufacturing? Higher earnings to start. Challenging and worthwhile work using latest technologies including CNC machinery and CAD systems. Products that are essential to everyday life: airplanes, automobiles, medical devices, appliances, electronics...

The chance to grow your education along with your career without debt by learning as you earn is a singular opportunity.

To find out more about a career in precision machining: <http://pmpa.org/careers/overview>

To find machining training programs near you: <http://pmpa.org/docs/default-source/reference/training-database.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

To read the Department of Commerce report on earnings of new hires:

<https://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/theearningsofnewhiresin-manufacturingaugust2013.pdf>

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Darlene Miller Brings “Can-Do” Attitude and Optimism to PMPA Presidency

skilled workforce that we need, which is why I’m so adamant about educational, credentialed training programs that show there is a path to a skilled position.

“People are our most valuable assets in this industry. The topic of women in manufacturing is important to me because we are an asset in this field. Manufacturing shouldn’t be seen as a men-only industry; striking a good balance of men and women makes use of all of our industry’s assets,” Ms. Miller continues. “Along with showing our industry as a pathway to success to young people, we need to talk to young women, our daughters, high school students and college women. They can find value in this industry, from machinists to the C-suite. I see more daughters of our members coming into this industry and I want to continue encouraging that.”

Ms. Miller referred to the industry being at a “tipping point” with U.S. manufacturing beginning to grow.

“Growth has finally started and work is starting to come back from China,” Ms. Miller says. “We’re optimistic but cautious right now as the gloom and doom of previous years is diminishing. I am optimistic and believe that the industry will continue running with the lean practices that have developed and continue to be driven by technology.”

Another goal that Ms. Miller has is for the PMPA name

to be more widely recognized through collaboration with other organizations such as NAM, NIMS, chambers of commerce, etc.

“PMPA has been a resource for me from day one. It can be lonely to run a business and this organization takes that loneliness away and provides answers for any question,” Ms. Miller explains. “When joining PMPA, you gain access to the most up-to-date information on everything from equipment, technical questions from your department leads, HR to regulatory and governmental policies. But you also become a voice for change in the industry. Becoming a member helps precision manufacturers become engaged and make a difference in the industry.

“I volunteer a lot and serve on several boards, but I don’t do anything if I don’t love it. I am very blessed to have the most talented people in the industry, along with the best can-do attitude working with me which affords me the time to pursue opportunities. I’m looking forward to doing many of the things that I love in this role, including meeting people,” Ms. Miller summarizes. “I’m honored and humbled to have been chosen to represent the members of PMPA.”

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