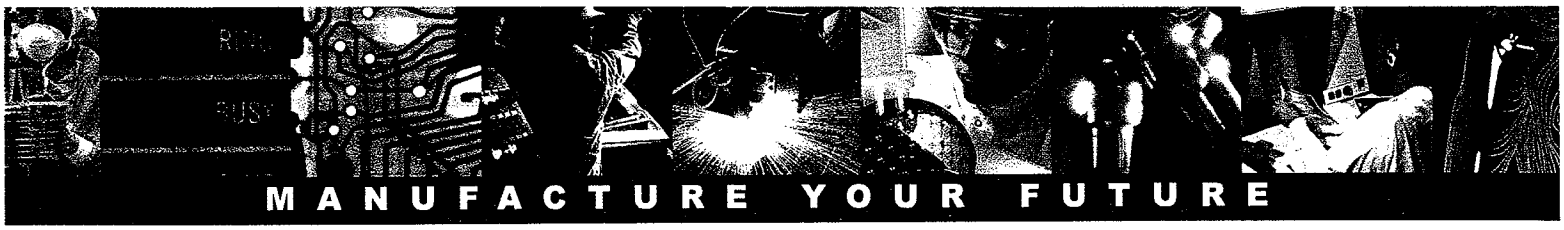

Employment Outlook in Connecticut

Did you know that:

- The median age of workers in Connecticut is 37.4.*
- Connecticut's workforce is the seventh-oldest in the nation.*
- According to the 2005 Survey of Current and Future Manufacturing Jobs in Connecticut:
  - The majority of manufacturers (84 percent) expect up to a quarter of their employees to retire within five years.
  - Eleven percent expect to replace more than half of their workforce by 2010 due to employee retirements.
  - Twenty percent expect a quarter to one-half of their workers to retire by 2010.
- More than half of the top 100 companies headquartered in Connecticut are manufacturing firms.
- Many of them have current and continuing demand for skilled employees, but they can't find job candidates with the qualifications and skills needed to fill the positions.
- The average annual pay for manufacturing jobs in Connecticut ranges from $43,000 for production workers to well over $100,000 for engineers. (CT Dept. of Labor, 2006)
- According to the 2005 Survey of Current and Future Manufacturing Jobs in Connecticut, positions that are extremely difficult to fill include:

  - **CNC programmers**
  - **Machinists**
  - **Tool and die makers**
  - **Engineers**
  - **Technicians**
  - **Welders**

Turn over this page to find out about these jobs in high demand.

**Connecticut Economic Resource Center Inc. (CERC) Report - Benchmarking Connecticut's Economy: A Comparative Analysis of Innovation and Technology," October 2005.*

Manufacturing Jobs in Demand

Manufacturing Engineers

Salary Range: $54,000 - $92,000*

Design, develop, test and help manufacture machines, consumer products, computer software, communications systems and many other things. As businesses try to make products better and at less cost, it turns to manufacturing engineers to find out how. Manufacturing engineers work with all aspects of manufacturing from production control to materials handling to automation. You'll be using math, science, problem solving ability, business principles, design skills, and creativity. Depending on your engineering specialty, you could be in charge of building everything from bridges and solar panels to computer chips and medical lasers. You'll create a plan, and execute it, manage people and budgets, and report everything back to your bosses. **Education: 4-year college.** *(Source: National Association of Manufacturers and Discoverengineering.org)*

Manufacturing Engineering Technician

Salary Range: $37,000 - $60,000*

Every product you see and use must be made — cars, computers, refrigerators, music systems, bicycles, video games, sports equipment, aircraft, medical devices are all manufactured. As a manufacturing engineering technician you will operate, install, maintain, and continuously improve the machinery, processes, and production systems that produce these products. You will work in clean, modern facilities with high tech devices such as robots, highly automated systems, computer controlled machining systems, and intricate assembly machinery. *(Source: National Association of Manufacturers)* **Education: High school plus associate's degree.**

Machinists

Salary Range: $32,000 - $59,000*

Basically, you'll be making things with metal. Lathes, milling machines, shapers, and grinders will all be part of your daily work. You'll run computer-controlled machining tools that are accurate down to a few micrometers. And you'll work with finish tools to perfect each piece you've made. When you're working with this much metal, you'll become familiar with different types of material. And you'll be in charge of metalworking projects from planning and fabrication through assembly, inspection, and testing, using knowledge of machine functions, metal properties and mathematics. *(Source: National Association of Manufacturers)* **Education: High School plus apprenticeship (2-5 years).** Machinist training varies from a formal apprenticeship and post secondary programs to learning the trade informally on the job. A high school or vocational school education, including mathematics, blueprint reading, metalworking, physics, and drafting is desirable. *(Source: nhmachine.org)*

Drafters (CAD — Computer Aided Design)

Salary Range: $31,000 - $61,000*

CAD drafters transform initial rough product designs using computers to transform the design into working documents. They review engineering drawings and designs to ensure that the right specifications and standards are used. **Education: High school, associate's degree preferred.**

Welders

Salary Range: $28,000 - $64,000*

You might be working on anything from a custom motorcycle or mountain bike frame, to the wings on a private jet or even part of a bridge. Precise hand-eye coordination and a great attention to detail are a necessity to get those welds looking smooth as butter. You'll also be creating parts from scratch, using all kinds of other tools, and checking tolerances to make sure your welds are perfect. *(Source: National Association of Manufacturers)* **Education: High School, often requires apprenticeships.**

CNC programmers and operators

Salary Range: 33,000 - $48,000 (to $68,000 with 4-year degree)*

Work with CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines, which cut and shape metal, plastic, or glass to form a finished part. They 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, CNC operators step in to keep an eye on the machine all the way through the manufacturing process. **Education: high school, some post secondary desirable.** *(Source: CollegeBoard.com)*

**Source: Salary.com*