

Make or  
Fix Things

# Production Worker

## Other names for this job

Factory worker, processing machine operator

### tip

Do you see words in **bold**?  
You can look up these words at  
[alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary](http://alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary).

## What do production workers do?

Production workers use machines. They help to make products for sale. For example, plastic products or food products. They may work on a **production line**.

## Meet a production worker

Mario is a production worker. He works for a beer **processing plant**. Mario works on a production line. Workers on the production line bottle the beer.

Here are things that Mario does:

- He operates machines. For example, one machine cleans the beer bottles. Another machine fills the bottles. Another machine puts labels on the bottles.
- He cleans and checks the machines when he starts his **shift**. He cleans the machines when he finishes his shift, too.
- He checks the quality of the bottled beer. For example, he looks for mistakes. Some labels may be crooked.
- He passes the beer bottles to a **co-worker** on the production line.
- He keeps a **record** of his work in a **log book**.



## What is Mario's work like?

Mario works an 8-hour shift.  
 Sometimes he works days.  
 Sometimes he works the night shift.  
 Sometimes he works extra hours.

Mario stands while he works.  
 The machines are noisy. Mario must wear earplugs. They protect his ears.  
 He must wear safety glasses and other safety equipment. Mario's employer taught him about safety.

Mario has to pay attention all the time.  
 The beer bottles move very fast on the production line. He watches the machines. He makes sure the machines work correctly.

Mario works with other workers on the production line. They are a team.  
 Sometimes workers change jobs.  
 Mario may do a different job on the production line.

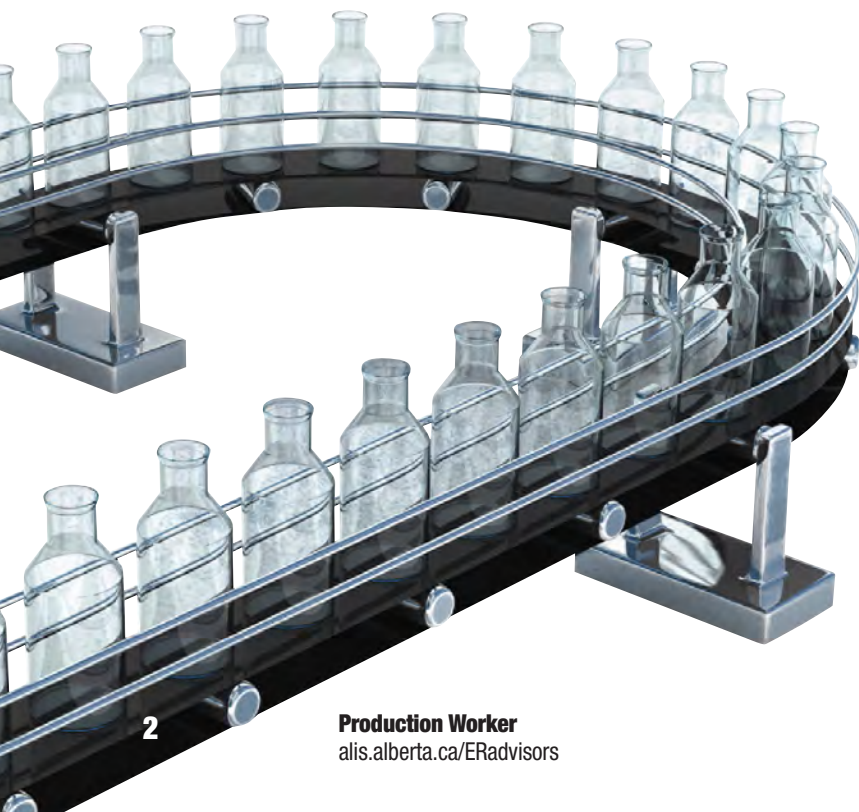
## Do you want to be a production worker?

- You must be healthy.
- You must be good at working with your hands. You must be careful.
- You need to do the same work again and again. You must pay attention.
- You have to work quickly. You have to work as fast as your co-workers.
- You need to read and understand **instructions**. You may have to read dials and computer screens on machines. You write in a log book.
- You must be good with machines. Sometimes you need to solve (find answers to) problems. For example, sometimes a machine isn't working well. Then Mario decides what to do. Sometimes he can fix it himself.

## What education do production workers need?

- Production workers usually learn on the job. They learn to operate machines. They learn to solve problems. They learn about safety.
- Production workers may need a high school **diploma** for some jobs.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a production worker.





## What can production workers do in the future?

Production workers can work for many different kinds of businesses. For example, window factories, plastics processing plants or food processing plants.

Production workers with **experience** can learn to operate other machines. They may become team leaders or shift **supervisors**.

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### How much does a production worker make?

A production worker usually makes between \$18.06 and \$25.17 per hour.

## Other jobs to think about

**Book binders** operate binding and finishing machines. The machines do many different things. For example, they cut, fold, glue and stitch paper. Binders make books and other things.

**Electronics assemblers** work with electronic parts. They put parts together. For example, they make computer parts, medical equipment and car parts.

**Feed mill workers** work with wheat, oats and other grains. For example, they operate machines that clean grain. The grain will be food for animals.

**Meat cutters** cut meat and fish.

They prepare sausages and other meat products. They work in meat processing plants, meat shops and grocery stores.

### Printing machine operators

operate machines that print or photocopy. They set up the machines. They check the printing. They clean and repair the machines. They answer customers' questions.

**Sawmill machine operators** work with wood. They make logs into boards. They use different kinds of saws and trimmers. They make products. For example, fence posts. They work in sawmills.

## Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo). Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile: Agricultural Products Processing Machine Operator
- Videos: Meat Cutter, Printing Press Operator
- Easy Reading Dictionary

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Production Worker.

