Production Worker

Other names for this job
Factory worker, processing machine operator

Do you see words in bold? You can look up these words at 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.

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.

How much does a production worker make?

A production worker usually makes between $12.00 and $29.06 per hour.

Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at 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.