



Careers in Metalforming and Manufacturing

Solid Opportunities You May Have Overlooked

Are you looking for more than just a job? How about a career in a fast-paced, technologically advanced, forward-looking environment?

Then look into the metalforming industry! It's a world of opportunities for developing high-paid skills. Thousands of secure, well-paid career positions in the industry are going unfilled as students and re-careering adults pursue jobs that appear more glamorous but often pay less.

Read more below! You'll find that:

- The metalforming industry is fundamental to our economy—and growing!
- Job security in the industry is better than ever!
- Compensation packages including benefits are fair and competitive!
- Opportunities exist to grow and keep pace with new technologies!

What is Metalforming?

The text book definition of metalforming is, "giving utility to sheet metal by shaping it using tooling in machines." What does this mean? It's the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating, spinning, slide forming and roll forming technologies, and other value-added processes that produce metal parts which touch our lives every day. With production valued at more than \$113 billion each year, it is a strong, thriving industry with deep roots in our culture.

Why Should You be Interested?...

- Entry-level toolmakers can average \$32,000 a year during a four-year training program.
- Experienced precision metalworkers' earnings range from \$40,000 to \$78,000 annually.
- The industry has thousands of unfilled, high-paying, secure jobs that do not require a four-year degree.
- The gloomy rooms and greasy machines of the past are replaced by computers and high technology.
- Precision machining provides a practical basis for an engineering or business degree.
- Many toolmakers eventually own their own shops.

Note: The average incomes in all categories include base pay plus overtime and vary, in some cases substantially, based on location and skill level.

Sources:

Agie Charmilles - *Career Opportunities in Tooling & Machining*, Precision Metalforming Association - *2013 Wage and Benefit Report*

More Questions?

Is it Safe?

Gone are the days of "dark, dirty and dangerous" manufacturing! Today's manufacturing has a whole new look. Thanks to the continuing efforts of manufacturers, workplaces are safer than any other time in history with a trend toward declining injury and illness rates on the job, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Is it Stable?

Manufacturing employment in the United States remains strong at 17.4 million, about one-sixth of all private-sector jobs. (National Association of Manufacturers 2013 *Facts About Manufacturing*)

What is the Growth Potential?

The world of manufacturing is brighter than ever—productivity and compensation continue to accelerate; workplaces are safer and workers are healthier; employment is improving; inflation remains at an all-time low; and our economy is continuing to perform better than many believed possible. Workers with the right skills are prospering in today's high-tech, skilled-trade-oriented economy.

What is the Earning Potential?

In 2013, total compensation in high-tech, high-trade manufacturing averaged 8.9 percent higher than the average total compensation in the country according to the National Association of Manufacturers' *Facts About Manufacturing*. Today's metalforming companies offer fair and competitive compensation packages. These packages include a variety of employee benefits such as health care, pension plans, profit sharing, paid vacations, etc. With average industry annual income of more than \$48,000, plus substantial benefits packages, you can begin carving out your career path in metalforming and building your earning power now.

Bottom Line, What's the Salary?

Following is the average annual income for a number of occupations in the metalforming industry. These averages are based on a nationwide survey of Precision Metalforming Association member companies; actual income will undoubtedly fluctuate due to regional cost of living differences.

Senior Tool & Die Maker	\$70,300
Machinist	\$55,500
CNC Machine Programmer	\$68,600
Press Brake Setup and Operator	\$52,500
Roll Forming Machine Setup and Operator	\$45,400
Slide Forming Machine Setup	\$56,700
Automatic Spinning Machine Setup/Programmer	\$59,600
Stamping-Transfer Press Die Setter	\$55,200
Laser Machine Setup and Operator	\$50,600
Turret Press Setup and Operator	\$53,500
Automatic Press Setup and Operator	\$48,500
Maintenance Group Leader	\$74,000
Electrician	\$67,600
Inspector	\$51,100
Scheduler/Production Control Clerk	\$53,900
Manufacturing Engineer	\$68,400
Maintenance Supervisor	\$70,700
Tooling Supervisor	\$80,900
Production Supervisor	\$65,200
Quality Supervisor	\$66,600
Senior Tooling Designer	\$73,500

Based on a 50-hour week (with time-and-a-half calculated after 40 hours).

What are the Benefits?

- **Early Earning Potential?** In many cases apprenticeships and internships allow students to begin earning money while they're still in high school or immediately upon graduation. This can put them far ahead of their classmates who choose to go to college.
- **Mobility of Job Skills?** The skills you learn in a metalforming career go with you wherever you choose to live.

Solid Benefits Packages? Today's metalforming companies offer fair and competitive compensation packages. These packages include a variety of employee benefits such as health care, pension plans, profit sharing, paid vacations, etc.

What Education is Needed?

The basic building block is a high school diploma with a STEM concentration. More and more advancement is driven by two- and four-year degree programs and industry certifications. Many companies offer apprenticeship programs and on-site training. Other training resources include community colleges and area career centers, as well as some universities.

What are the Costs?

A great many metalforming companies have tuition reimbursement programs for industry-related training and education as well as apprenticeship and on-site training programs that will pay a young person to "earn and learn."

So What Kind of Careers are There?

Skilled jobs fall into the following three basic categories but there are many paths within the industry. [Access this chart](#) to learn more about training requirements and career growth opportunities.

Production Associates

These are the "hands on" operators of stamping presses, press brakes, metal spinning machines, roll formers, slide formers, metal fabrication machines and a variety of other equipment used to form metal parts. In a typical team environment "Production Associates" take greater responsibility for their work and are involved with problem solving. This makes their jobs more exciting and challenging than ever before. These positions generally require good basic math skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to work and communicate with others in teams. Production Associate positions offer strong, stable job opportunities.

Machinists and Tool & Die Makers

These are the skilled operators of machine tools who create and maintain the tooling, fixtures and equipment which are at the heart of metalforming. While these journeyman positions have been in existence since the industrial revolution, the machine tools and work practices have evolved with space age technology. From computerized machine tools to exotic materials, today's machinists/tool & die makers take advanced theories and put them into practice. These positions generally require above average math skills, problem solving skills, and the completion of an apprenticeship program.

Manufacturing Technology Associates

These are the people trained to provide engineering solutions to problems in manufacturing design and production. Their training in the areas of manufacturing-related design, problem solving skills and software tools is applied in disciplines such as tool design, quality systems, production planning, operations management, CNC programming, product development, project management, technical service and training. These positions require knowledge of engineering principles, the ability to develop solutions to problems, appropriate software identification and usage, and experience in an area of specialization.

Why Should YOU Choose a Metalforming Career?

Start Earning Now! In many cases apprenticeships and internships allow you to begin earning money while you're still in high school, or immediately upon graduation. This can put you far ahead of your classmates who choose to go to college.

Let's Get Real! According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 59% of those who start college complete their degree within five years. By choosing a career in metalforming you'll be on your way to a solid career with opportunities to advance to engineering or even management—while your friends may still be deciding what their majors will be.

Your Job Skills Move With You - The skills you learn in a metalforming career go with you wherever you choose to live. Skill standards have been established and are accepted throughout the nation.



The Bottom Line - Today's metalforming companies offer fair and competitive compensation packages. These packages include a variety of employee benefits such as health care, pension plans, profit sharing, paid vacations, etc. These benefits coupled with your initial earning potential can put you far ahead of many college graduates.

With average industry annual income of more than \$48,000, plus substantial benefits packages, you can begin carving out your career path in metalforming and building your earning power now. If you have a high school diploma and a motivation to succeed, regardless of sex or race, there's a career waiting for you!

There are many paths to success in building a career in metalforming. But training is the one common theme. Check out these success stories!

Advancement through Press Operator Training

Cross-Training Benefits

From Co-op Student to Vice President

From Farmhand to Master Roll Operator

From Guyana to Shop Floor Leadership

From Press Operator to Technical Trainer

From Shipping Clerk to Department Lead

From Temp to Full Time - Training Pays Off

From Temp to Production Manager

From the Pressroom to the Front Office

From the Shipping Department to Quality Leadership

From Trainee to Trainer

NIMS Certification Leads to Advancement

Taking Advantage of Training Opportunities