

NATURE OF WORK

A machinist may use many tools such as lathes, milling machines, and machining centers, to produce precision metal parts. Sometimes machinists may produce large quantities of one part, precision machinists often produce small batches of one-of-a kind items. With their knowledge of the working properties of metals and their skill with machine tools they can make machined products that meet precise specifications. Accuracy is a must in this occupation.

WORKING CONDITIONS

To prevent accidents most shops are well lit and encourage their employees to keep their areas clean. Today, many computer-controlled machines are partially or totally enclosed, minimizing the exposure of workers to noise, debris, and the lubricants used to cool work pieces during machining. Machinists wear protective equipment, such as safety glasses to shield against the possibility of metal flying off of their work and earplugs to help with high noise levels. Though shops are ventilated, this job requires stamina, as machinists stand most of the day and, at times, may lift moderately heavy work pieces. Most machinists work a 40-hour week but evening and week-end shifts are becoming more common as companies justify investment in expensive machinery by extending hours of operation.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Machinists train informally on the job, and in high school, vocational schools, community or technical colleges. The person that is interested in becoming a machinist should be mechanically inclined, have good problem-solving skills, be able to work independently and be able to do highly accurate work that requires concentration and physical effort.

JOB OUTLOOK

Even though the projection is a slower-than-average employment growth, job opportunities for machinists should continue to be excellent. Machinists will become more efficient as a result of the expanded use of and improvements in technologies such as CNC machine tools, autoloading, and high speed machining.

CAREER OPTIONS

Machinists

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — Entry \$28,800 - \$54,660
Nationally — \$27,300 - \$52,600

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Tool and die maker, machine setters, operators, and tenders, computer control programmers and operators.

SJC Basic Program Information

- This program requires that the student has his/her own tools.
- A student must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses in order to receive a degree.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos223.htm

