

Occupational Profile
Machinists & Numeric Control Machine Operators
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 89108

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
320	380	270	280
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
60	18.8	10	3.7
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
No	1:1	No	0:5
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$10.42	\$9.28	\$10.75	\$10.36

Job Description:

Machinists use machine tools, such as lathes, drill presses, and milling machines to produce precision metal parts. Although they may produce large quantities of one part, precision machinists often produce small batches or one-of-a-kind items. They use their knowledge of the working properties of metals and their skill with machine tools to plan and carry out the operations needed to make machined products that meet precise specifications. Numeric Control Machine Operators set up and operate magnetic or punched-tape controlled machine tools that automatically mill, drill, broach, and ream metal parts.

Average Education Required

Employees in these occupations usually need several years of work-related experience, on-the-job training, and/or vocational training.

Related Occupations

Occupations most closely related to that of machinist and CNC (Computer numerically controlled) programmer are: tool and die maker, metalworking and plastics-working machine operator, tool planner, and instrument maker. CNC programmers apply their knowledge of machining operations, metals, blueprints, and machine programming to write programs that run machine tools. Computer programmers also write detailed programs to meet precise specifications.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
3590	Miscellaneous Industrial Machinery	20.6%
3530	Construction and Related Machinery	13.4%
3720	Aircraft & Parts	10.2%
3440	Fabricated Structural Metal Products	4.4%
7690	Misc. Repair Shops	4.3%
7360	Personnel Supply Services	4.3%

Skills Required

- Product Inspection -- Inspecting and evaluating the quality of products
- Testing -- Conducting tests to determine whether equipment, software, or procedures are operating as expected
- Operation and Control -- Controlling operations of equipment or systems
- Mathematics -- Using mathematics to solve problems
- Operations Analysis -- Analyzing needs and product requirements to create a design
- Equipment Selection -- Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job
- Operation Monitoring -- Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly