



CAREERS

IN THE **WOOD** PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY

- ▶ **Primary** -- Sawmill and forestry operations, extracting and milling of logs
 - ▶ **Suppliers** -- Companies that make the machinery and supplies used in wood products manufacturing such as CNC routers, saws, edgebanders, wood panels, flooring, veneers, hardware, soft goods such as upholstery and bedding materials
 - ▶ **Secondary** -- Wood products manufacturing such as cabinets, millwork, furniture and other wood products
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ALL SECTORS NEED SKILLED WORKERS

Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machinists, technicians, operators --Estimated 100,000 unfilled CNC jobs for mfg. in general; in 10 years, it will be 600,000

▶ Sampling of job titles:

Product designer

Software engineer

Mechanical operator

Technician

Plant manager

Finisher

Quality manager

Shipping/handling

*“IT’S NOT A MATTER OF IF I WILL
HIRE THEM BUT **HOW SOON**
CAN I GET THEM?”*”



THE REALITY OF TODAY'S MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

- ▶ Jobs at every skill and education level
- ▶ Modernized and high-tech
- ▶ Transferrable skills
- ▶ Light, bright, ergonomic plants
- ▶ Competitive salaries
- ▶ Advancement opportunities



Pictured here:
Blum Inc
Stanley, NC



MODERN WOOD MANUFACTURING INVOLVES...

1. Hi-tech equipment
2. Problem-solving
3. Flexibility
4. LEAN solutions



FUTURE TRENDS – TODAY!

1. More automation
2. Faster production runs
3. Increased specialization





SKILLS & TRAITS NEEDED FOR WOOD INDUSTRY CAREERS

- 1. Follow standard safety procedures**
- 2. Produce high-quality products efficiently**
- 3. Visualize and complete projects that meet expectations**
- 4. Interpret technical drawings**
- 5. Communicate clearly and effectively**
- 6. Work both collaboratively and independently**
- 7. Engage in lifelong learning**

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A PROFESSIONAL WOODWORKER?

1. Post-secondary opportunities in the U.S. & Canada
2. Continuing education:
 - a. Trade shows
 - b. Regional events & seminars
 - c. Training through machine manufacturers



SAMPLE SALARY SURVEY

Occupation

Hourly Rate

Cabinetmaker	\$13-40
Computer Controlled Machine Operator	\$16-17
Designer	\$13-40
Drafter	\$20
Estimator	\$13-40
Finisher	\$15
Shop Foreman	\$18-40
Inspector	\$18-20
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	\$23-25
Project Manager	\$28
Sales, Mfg. Technical Products	\$36-40
Supervisor of Production and Workers	\$22-28

Sources: Occupational Employment Statistics
AWI Cost of Doing Business Report
Cabinet Makers Association member business survey

CAREER PROFILE

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY:

JORDAN,
MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE (WI)



CAREER PROFILE: MACHINERY SALES SPECIALIST

HEATHER, STILES MACHINERY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- ▶ Customer relationship management, focusing on various woodworking machinery.
- ▶ Educational background: Electrical certificate at community college, company training



RESOURCES

- ▶ Wood Manufacturing Skill Standards: WoodworkCareer.org
- ▶ MFG Day: MFGDay.com
- ▶ SkillsUSA: SkillsUSA.org or booth #134
- ▶ Database of schools: WoodIndustryEd.org
- ▶ Career videos and info: CueCareer.com
- ▶ Career listings:
 - ▶ WoodworkingNetwork.com
 - ▶ WMIA.org
- ▶ Post Secondary Schools:
 - ▶ Pittsburg State (KS) – [Arch. Mfg. Mgmt & Tech](#)
 - ▶ The MiLL (CO) – [National Training Center](#)
 - ▶ Madison College (WI) – [Cabinet & Millwork](#)



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MEET THE NEW FACE OF MANUFACTURING

PROFILE: **THOMAS, MACHINERY SALES**

Watch this 3 minute video about Thomas, a young professional in woodworking machinery sales:

<https://youtu.be/T4CwcDsxxV0>

