



Career Pathway Spotlight: Discover a Career as a Battery Industry Machine Operator



Discover your career in clean energy!

Well-paying roles like Machine Operators work in all sectors of the battery industry:

Upstream, where minerals are extracted and refined, Machine Operators are involved in running plant equipment to crush, grade, and treat raw minerals for processing into useful forms.

Midstream, where battery cells are manufactured, Machine Operators work on production lines refining, mixing and preparing materials, testing components, and manufacturing battery cells.

Downstream, where batteries are integrated and recycled, Machine Operators run equipment that connects individual cells into packs and separates and refines used battery minerals.

CAREER PATH

Start With:

- A high school diploma or GED

Get Educated:

- An apprenticeship through a union or industry
 - United Auto Workers (UAW) Joint Apprenticeship Program
 - Partnership for Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship
 - Society of Manufacturing Engineers Apprenticeships
- A 2-year college program
- Military service (e.g., Computer Numerically Controlled Machinist)

Specialize With:

- Certificates or credentials
 - Community College: Advanced Manufacturing Certificate
 - PMMI: Mechatronics Certification Program
 - Manufacturing Skills Institute: Manufacturing Technician Certificate
 - New Energy New York: Battery Technician Microcredential
- On-the-job training

OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Reading comprehension and writing ability
- Social awareness and willingness to follow direction
- Communication and team-oriented attitude
- Time management
- Attention to safety, industrial hazards, and process risks

BENEFITS

These energy industry careers offer:

- Varied opportunities
- Upward and continued career growth
- Work-life balance—your work stays at work
- Opportunities for skill development
- Unionization and leading benefits
- Good pay and interesting work

What Might You Do As A Machine Operator?



ENTRY LEVEL

1-4 Years

What you will do:

- Read gauges and check equipment
- Report operational issues to management
- Ensure safety of immediate work area
- Prepare battery materials for various factory processes
- Read instrumentation schematics to diagnose basic problems
- Operate and maintain equipment based on process procedures and manufacturer's specifications

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- Be able to read and write proficiently
- Ability to work in a team
- Listen and follow directions
- Be comfortable working in a noisy environment
- Physical ability to lift and carry heavy loads, climb stairs and ladders, operate power equipment, and operate stiff manual valves
- Ability to retain and apply knowledge from on-the-job training
- Be able to work with various types of industrial equipment
- Come to work on time and prepared

MID-CAREER

5-8 Years

What you will do:

- Perform basic troubleshooting of equipment using technical guides and manuals
- Inspect equipment for defects
- Ensure safety of workplace
- Operate industrial control systems for manufacturing processes
- Communicate perceived risks in process safety to management
- Supervise junior employees and provide advice or guidance
- Working with repairers, use hand and power tools to take apart machines for repair

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- Be adept at written and verbal communication and documentation
- Be able to read and interpret technical equipment manuals and process guides
- Ability to understand entire industrial systems and how they interoperate
- Be able to foresee system implications of poor maintenance, user actions, or malfunctions
- Understand mechanical principles

EXPERIENCED

8+Years

What you will do:

- Ensure safe working environment and injury-free plant operation for all employees
- Supervise team, providing feedback on performance
- Prepare and oversee adherence to budget and production schedules
- Report to senior leadership, communicating critical plant needs
- Ensure continued and timely completion of production schedules

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- People management skills
- Financial acumen
- Workflow management skills to determine most efficient use of time and resources
- Coordination and communication skills to communicate with staff and management
- Computer skills to prepare evaluations and reports

GET PAID!

Years 1-4 Entry Level:

- \$40,000-\$50,000 / year*

Years 5-8 As You Gain Seniority:

- \$50,000-\$60,000 / year*

Years 8+ Later in Your Career:

- \$70,000-\$90,000 / year*

**Compensation figures should be used as a guide; actual compensation may vary depending on education, experience, and many other factors.*



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