



CAREER PROFILES

Plastics Processing Machine Operators:

Plastics Processing Machine Operators set up and operate plastic mixing, calendaring, extruding, and moulding processing machines used in the manufacture of plastic parts and plastic products.

Wage/Salary Information:

\$35,000 is the median annual salary found in local job-postings.

\$20.50/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Extrusion
- Detail oriented
- Manual dexterity
- Teamwork
- Computer use
- Critical thinking
- Forklift driving
- Microsoft Office
- Math
- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Work independently
- Oral and written communication

Job Duties:

Mixing Machine Operators weigh resins, colorants, and other chemicals according to formula. They place weighed materials in a mixing machine and operate the machine to blend plastic and other chemicals to a specified consistency or viscosity. Mixing Machine Operators also monitor operation, regulate material supply, and add chemicals and colorants to mixtures.

Calendaring Process Operators set up and operate calender machines which transform dough-consistent plastic mass into continuous sheets or films of specified thickness. They troubleshoot, maintain, and make minor repairs to equipment and adjust calendar rollers for production line change. Calendaring Process Operators also monitor quality of materials produced and maintain inventories of materials and clean working areas.

Extruding Process Operators set up and operate one or more extruding machines which extrude plastic composites products through a nozzle or die. They change dies on extruding machines according to production line change and troubleshoot, maintain, and make minor repairs to equipment. Extruding Process Operators also monitor quality of materials produced and maintain inventories of materials and clean working areas.

Moulding Process Operators set up and operate one or more moulding machines which mould plastic products according to specifications and change moulds and adjust equipment for production line change. They troubleshoot, maintain, and make minor repairs to equipment, and monitor quality of material produced and adjust machine settings as required. Moulding Process Operators also follow formulation cards to mix ingredient batches for injection moulding process.

Working Conditions:

Work takes place in a regular controlled indoor environment.

Work also takes place in an indoor setting where temperatures or humidity may vary greatly in some working areas.

The workplace may contain hazardous chemicals.

Working with equipment, instruments, machinery or power/hand tools may be a source of injury.

Workers may be exposed to fire, steam or hot surfaces that can cause injury.

The workplace may contain strong or toxic odours.

Noise in the workplace may cause distraction or hearing loss.

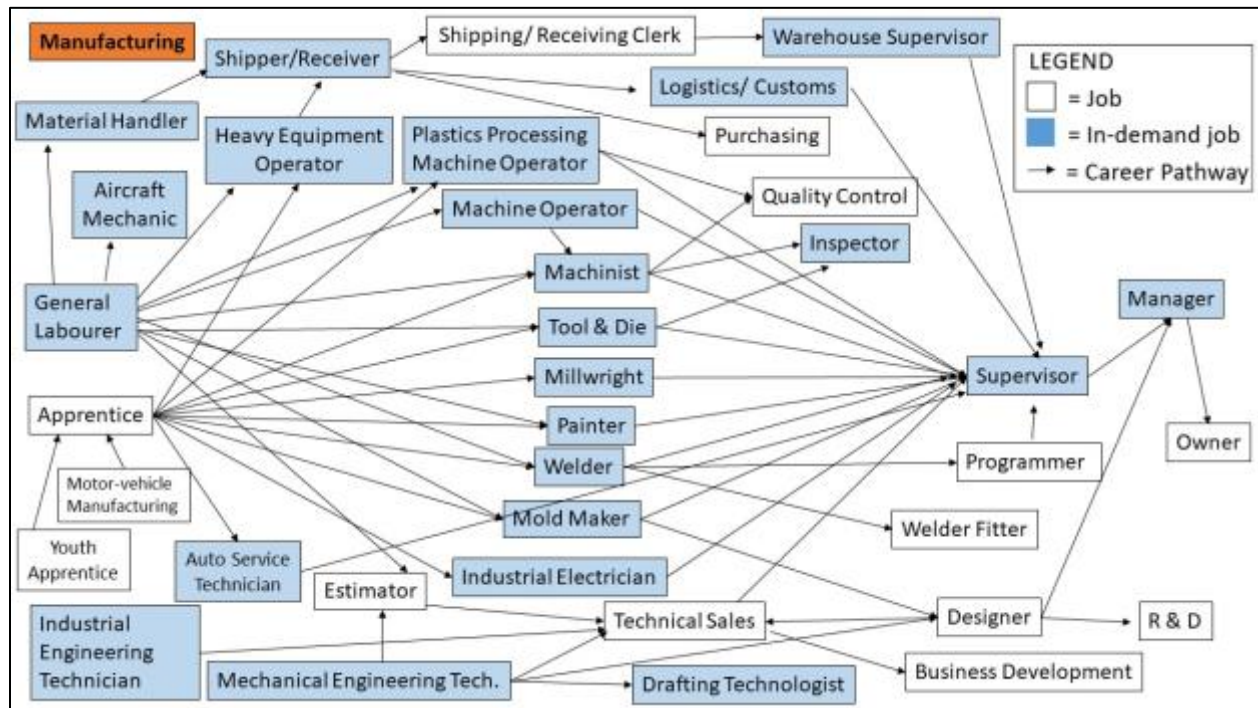
Career Pathways:

Movement along the various operators in this field is possible. Progression to supervisory positions is possible with experience, as well.

Plastics Processing Machine Operators are employed by plastic products manufacturing companies. Below are potential career pathways for Plastics Processing Machine Operators:

- Bag Machine Operator
- Banbury Operator – Plastic Manufacturing
- Blow Moulding Machine Operator – Plastic Manufacturing
- Calender Operator – Plastic Manufacturing
- Extruder Operator – Plastic Manufacturing
- Injection Mould Operator – Plastic Manufacturing
- Moulder, Printing Rollers – Plastic Manufacturing
- Plastics Press Operator
- Solution Mixer Operator – Plastic Manufacturing

- Thermoforming Operator



Education and Training Pathways:

If you're interested in becoming a Plastics Processing Machine Operator, you can begin your apprenticeship or attend a local training/education program.

Apprenticeship Details:

Draftsperson – Plastic Mold Design

- Certification: Voluntary (not required to practice this profession in Ontario)
- Red Seal: No
- On-the-job training: 7,400 hours
- In-class training: 600 hours

Individuals interested in pursuing an apprenticeship pathway, should follow these steps:

- 1) Get hired – by an employer/sponsor/union
- 2) Apply online to register as an apprentice at www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship
- 3) Sign a training agreement with your employer/sponsor and the Employment Ontario apprenticeship office.
- 4) Become a Member of the Ontario College of Trades Apprentices Class at www.collegeoftrades.ca/membership

- 5) Keep a record of the hours you work
- 6) Achieve the competencies listed in your training standard if required in your trade
- 7) Complete all of the training requirements in your trade and you will receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship (CoA).
- 8) Write the Exam for the Certificate of Qualification if required in your trade

If you are currently in high school and would like to begin an apprenticeship, visit oyap.com for more information about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Individuals unsure about whether to pursue an apprenticeship or not, can learn more by visiting www.ontario.ca/page/prepare-apprenticeship.

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