Cutting, Punching and Press Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders, Metal and Plastic

What They Do
Set up, operate or tend machines to saw, cut, shear, slit, punch, crimp, notch, bend or straighten metal or plastic material.

Is This For You?
Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Support — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

Relationships — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

Achievement — Satisfy this work value are results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Control Precision
- Near Vision
- Manual Dexterity
Basic Skills You Need

- Operation Monitoring
- Operation and Control
- Monitoring
- Quality Control Analysis
- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Troubleshooting

Education & Training

A high school diploma or equivalent is the minimum education recommended for metal and plastic cutting, punching and press machine setters, operators and tenders. Most training for specific work tasks is done on the job. Prior work experience in a production facility is helpful.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

- Applied Math 3
- Workplace Documents 3
- Graphic Literacy 4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of cutting and slicing machine operators are:

- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
- Machinery Manufacturing
- Transportation Equipment Manufacturing
- Primary Metal Manufacturing

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
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<tr>
<td>817</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>$36,538</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center  
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop  
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online  
www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture  
https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

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