

# More South Dakota Hot Careers

Beyond the  
Top **30**

## High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Manufacturing



# Machinists

*Standard Occupational Code 51-4041*

## What They Do

Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. They may also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout and machining procedures.

## 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.

**Working Conditions** — Offer job security and good working conditions.

**Independence** — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

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

- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Finger Dexterity
- Manual Dexterity
- Control Precision
- Deductive Reasoning
- Near Vision
- Problem Sensitivity
- Selective Attention

## Basic Skills You Need

- Operation and Control
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring
- Operations Monitoring
- Active Listening
- Complex Problem Solving

## Education & Training

A high school diploma or equivalent is the minimum education recommended for machinists. Most training is done on the job.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com) or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of machinists are:

- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
- Machinery Manufacturing

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
805	921	116	14.4%	100	\$46,641	\$44,286

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://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

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers) to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

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