

# About Production Workers



## Employment Outlook

Although projections from 2008 to 2018 show this occupation growing at a far slower rate (2.7%) in comparison with the statewide average of 9.1 percent for all occupations, reasonable employment opportunities still exist. An estimated 2,091 total job openings are projected between 2008 and 2018, largely due to the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation.

## Wages

In 2011, hourly wages for production workers range from \$10.66 for entry-level workers in the occupation to \$17.58 at the top end of the pay scale. The average hourly wage is \$14.05. This translates to \$29,220 for a full-time, year-round position.

## Selected Skills

- Follow set industrial and manufacturing machine operation procedures
- Inspect components during manufacturing
- Perform basic assembly
- Sort raw materials used in manufacturing

# Learn More About Green Jobs...

[QualityInfo.org/Green](http://QualityInfo.org/Green)



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GREEN JOBS

# PRODUCTION WORKERS

GREEN Jobs in Oregon



**P**roduction Workers may operate or tend machinery, perform basic assembly, and perform heavy work involving manual and machine assisted labor.

# GREEN JOBS

Not all production workers are "green." Green workers have essential job duties in at least one of the five categories included in the definition of a green job. Green jobs work to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Produce renewable energy
- Prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation
- Clean up and restore the natural environment
- Educate, consult, and provide other services that support the above

## Day in the Life of a Production Worker: Douglas Bruner

*What do you do in a typical day?*

I spend about seven or eight hours on the floor, and only an hour on the computer to check e-mails and orders. Every day we try to schedule the production of 20 heat pumps. Usually three will need additional attention, so we have to work more on those in order to get 20 quality-assured pumps moved out the door by the end of the day.

*What are the most important skills you use in your job?*

You really need to be a people person here. Problem solving is also a good skill, because problems show up every day. Some are easy and some are hard. You also need to be able to bring people together to resolve challenges, and be able to work one-on-one with folks to fix the smaller problems.

*How does your job benefit the environment? Why is it considered green?*

My job benefits the environment by using geothermal energy to get away from the use of oil and natural gas. Geothermal uses the ground's warmth and cold to heat and cool your house and our pumps rely on sustainable resources. The earth's temperature doesn't change much. Down under the surface of the earth, the ground is always between 40 to 50 degrees. So you either heat or cool from that temperature.



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## Education and Training

Workers must have moderate-term on-the-job training to gain the necessary skills for this occupation. Those with related work experience have a competitive advantage in this labor market.

Some training programs in Oregon geared toward this occupation include green courses or green components of courses. Selected green programs include, but are not limited to:

### **Agriculture: Production**

- Blue Mountain Community College

### **Biofuel Production Operations**

- Central Oregon Community College

### **Culinary Arts and Food Production**

- Lane Community College

Visit the Oregon Green Career Pathways website, [OregonGreenPathways.org](http://OregonGreenPathways.org), for more information on skills, opportunities, and training in manufacturing and production.

Visit [QualityInfo.org/Green](http://QualityInfo.org/Green) for more information about green jobs in Oregon.

