

## **INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANIC**

**Job Description:** Large industrial machinery is a common feature of North Dakota's energy development activity. Industrial machinery mechanics are needed to ensure that this machinery operates smoothly and that any needed repairs are handled quickly and efficiently. These mechanics repair and maintain machinery and equipment in accordance with blueprints, schematic drawings, operations manuals, and manufacturer's specifications. They may set up and operate metalworking machinery and tools, such as lathe, drill press, and grinder to make or repair parts. A person in this career:



- Cleans, lubricates, and adjusts parts, equipment, and machinery
- Adjusts and tests repaired machinery and equipment to verify the adequacy of repairs
- Confers with operators, and analyzes test results and error messages to diagnose problems
- Enters codes and instructions to program computer-controlled machinery
- Examines parts for defects, such as excessive wear and breakage
- Welds broken metal parts or fabricates replacement parts as needed for repair
- Reassembles equipment after completion of inspections, testing, or repairs

**Needed Skills and Education:** High levels of skill are needed for observing and diagnosing mechanical problems and repairing mechanical objects. An industrial machinery mechanic needs to be able to follow both manufacturing blueprints and diagrams, as well as written repair work orders. He or she should have knowledge of computerized diagnostic equipment in mechanics, and of using machinist instruments and mechanics' hand and power tools. Industrial machinery mechanics usually need a year or more of formal education and training after high school to learn a growing range of mechanical and technical skills. Two-year associate degrees from community colleges and vocational-technical schools in industrial maintenance are good preparation for this occupation. Some employers offer apprenticeship programs that combine classroom instruction with on-the-job training.

**Wages:** In North Dakota, the average annual wage for an industrial machinery mechanic is \$54,570. This is a fair amount above the national average annual wage of \$48,690. The average hourly wage in North Dakota is \$26.23.

**Other Information:** An industrial machinery mechanic's job can be hard work and sometimes done in challenging and somewhat hazardous conditions. He or she needs to be safety conscious and the job requires the use of protective clothing and other safety items. In North Dakota and nationally, this is a high demand occupation with a strong growth rate. Military services employ a large number of mechanics for many different purposes, including industrial machinery.

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