

Opportunities in the U.S. Plastics Industry

JOB PROJECTIONS BY KEY OCCUPATIONS*

There are thousands of jobs in the U.S. plastics industry.



Aside from engineering positions, many job openings in plastics don't require a bachelor's degree, with companies providing on-the-job training.

*% CHANGE FROM 2023 AND PROJECTED JOBS BY 2033 FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS.

WAGES

Wages for plastics workers routinely outpace national averages.

Median Annual Wage in U.S. in All Industries
(w/High School Diploma or Equivalent)

\$46,748

Median Annual Wage in Plastics
(w/High School Diploma or Equivalent)

\$60,459

(29.3% higher than wages nationally)

National Average Wage by Job Type in Plastics**

(Currently in Demand)

ENGINEERS	MACHINISTS	PRODUCTION WORKERS	MACHINE OPERATORS	MECHANICS
\$97K+	\$60K+	\$41K+	\$46K+	\$62K+

National 90th Percentile Wage by Job Type in Plastics**

(Currently in Demand)

ENGINEERS	MACHINISTS	PRODUCTION WORKERS	MACHINE OPERATORS	MECHANICS
\$131K+	\$78K+	\$58K+	\$60K+	\$79K+

**Wage varies by state and occupation type

WORKFORCE

28.3%

of the plastic product manufacturing workforce is aged 55 and older

10.3%

of the plastics product manufacturing workforce is aged 16 to 24 years

That's approximately **84,000** potential job openings in plastics product manufacturing in the next **2-12** years.

Chemical Engineers are paid the highest median salary in the U.S. plastics industry. **Engineering** jobs are poised to grow between 2023 and 2033.

Students in plastics engineering should expect a robust job market when they graduate regardless of economic conditions.

