

# Production manager

Average salary: \$70,000+

Career trend: steady

## Job description

Production managers boost a manufacturing business's bottom line by making it leaner and more efficient. They have a passion for systems, symmetry and productivity while analysing and managing the operation and efficiency of production.

## What production managers do

From vehicles and electronics to garments and energy production, manufacturing industries need production managers. They ensure the manufacturing process runs smoothly, is cost-effective and delivers quality products on time.

They plan what materials and machines are needed to meet an order, set quality standards, and estimate turn-around times and costs.

They make important decisions in high-pressure situations such as machinery breakdowns and worker injuries, and provide clear direction to supervisors and workers. On the factory floor, they monitor and motivate staff to ensure output and production rates are met.

They analyse production data and write reports for senior managers and clients. They may also hire and evaluate workers, ensure facilities meet safety requirements and develop strategies to make the production process more efficient.

## You'll like this job if...

People energise you. You focus on possibilities and the big picture. You enjoy a quick pace. You work in a logical, systematic manner. You're good at multi-tasking. You're diplomatic. You're organised. You adapt easily to challenges. You're a motivator. You're a problem solver. You communicate clearly and persuasively. You work well under pressure.



## Will I get a job?

- While this occupation has grown moderately over the last five years, job numbers are expected to remain steady at 58,000 in Australia over the next four years.

## What will I earn?

- \$1,351–\$1650 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- Production manager

## A day in the life...

Work as a production manager may involve these tasks:

- determine, implement and monitor production strategies, policies and plans
- plan details of production activities in terms of output quality and quantity, cost, time available, and labour requirements
- control the operations of production plant and quality control procedures through planning maintenance, choosing operating hours and supplying parts and tools
- monitor production output and costs and adjust processes and resources to minimise costs
- inform other managers about production matters
- oversee the acquisition and installation of new plant and equipment
- direct research into production methods and recommend and implement initiatives
- prepare production records and reports
- coordinate the implementation of occupational health and safety requirements
- direct staff activities and monitoring their performance.

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

### **Certificate IV in Food Processing (FDF40110)**

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94.8%\*

### **Diploma of Underground Coal Mining Management (RII50915)**

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92%\*

## VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



[www.vet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vet.nsw.gov.au)

**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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## Main employing industries

- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Aerospace and defence
- Automotive
- Chemical engineering
- Electronics
- Food processing
- Pharmaceuticals
- Printing
- Textiles

## Other jobs you may like...

- Supply and distribution manager