

Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic

51-4034.00



Description: Set up, operate, or tend lathe and turning machines to turn, bore, thread, form, or face metal or plastic materials, such as wire, rod, or bar stock.

Other Resources:

[ONET Link](#)

[MyNextMove Link](#)

Sample of Reported Job Titles: Computer Numerical Control Lathe Operator (CNC Lathe Operator)

Job Zone

Title: 2 - Some Preparation Needed

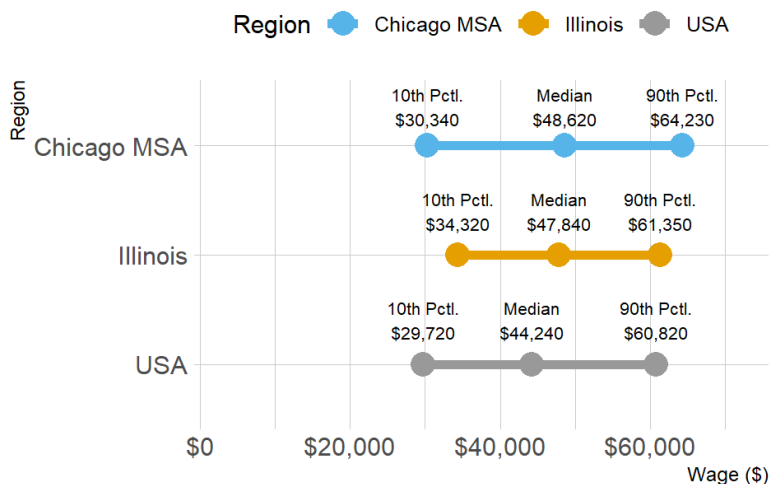
Education: Usually require a high school diploma.

Experience: Some previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed.

Training: A few months to one year of working with experienced employees needed. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations.

Core Certifications: Machining Level I - CNC Milling; Programming Setup & Operations, Machining Level I - Milling, Machining Level I - Job Planning, Benchwork

| Region | Employment | Location Quotient | Median Wage |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Chicago MSA | 420 | 0.71 | \$48,620 |
| Illinois | 800 | 1.02 | \$47,840 |
| USA | 19,690 | — | \$44,240 |



Top 5 Core Tasks According to Current Job Holders

Importance
Frequency (out of 100)

Adjust machine controls and change tool settings to keep dimensions within specified tolerances.

Several times daily

94

Replace worn tools, and sharpen dull cutting tools and dies, using bench grinders or cutter-grinding machines.

Several times daily

91

Inspect sample workpieces to verify conformance with specifications, using instruments such as gauges, micrometers, and dial indicators.

Hourly or more

90

Start lathe or turning machines and observe operations to ensure that specifications are met.

Daily

89

Position, secure, and align cutting tools in toolholders on machines, using hand tools, and verify their positions with measuring instruments.

Several times daily

88