

## 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

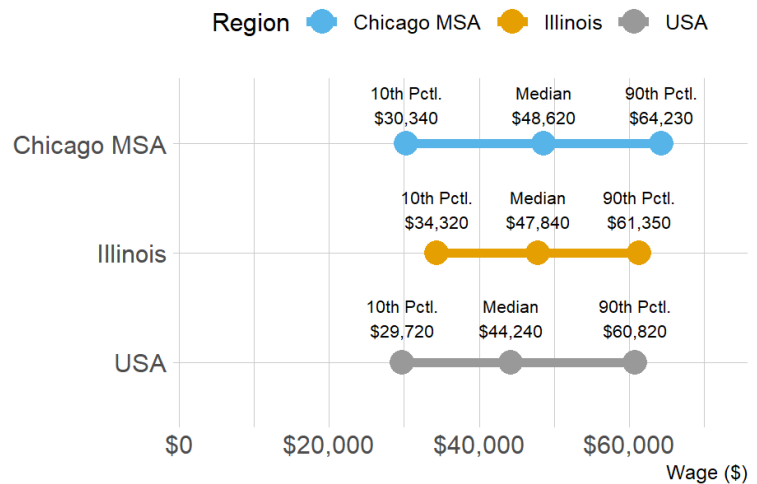
**Education:** Usually require a high school diploma.

**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	Frequency	Importance (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