

# Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators

51-8031.00



**Description:** Operate or control an entire process or system of machines, often through the use of control boards, to transfer or treat water or wastewater.

## Other Resources:

[ONET Link](#)

[MyNextMove Link](#)

**Sample of Reported Job Titles:** Plant Operator, Process Operator (Process Op), Relief Operator

## Job Zone

**Title:** 3 - Medium Preparation Needed

**Education:** Require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree.

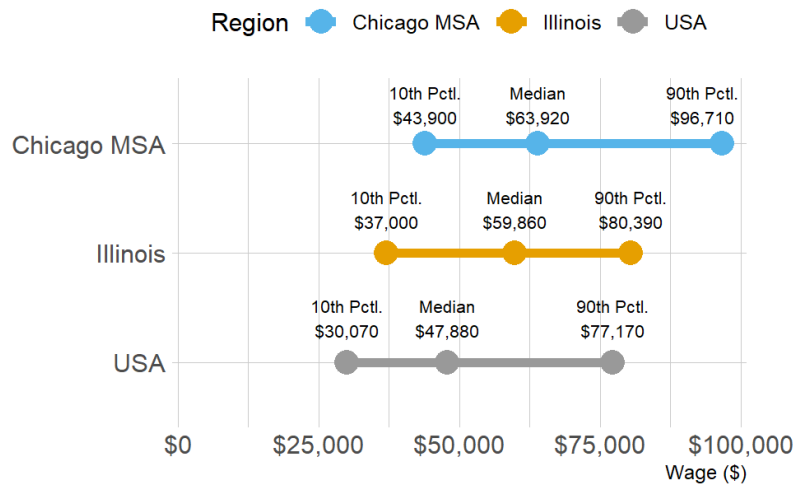
**Experience:** Previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required.

**Training:** One or two years of training involving both on-the-job experience and informal training with experienced workers needed. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations.

**Core Certifications:** Certified Biosolids Land Appliers Class I, Water Lab Analyst Class II, Water Lab Analyst Class III, Water Lab Analyst Class IV

**Hot Technologies:** Database software, Microsoft Office Suite, Supervisory control and data acquisition SCADA software

Region	Employment	Location Quotient	Median Wage
Chicago MSA	2,560	0.7	\$63,920
Illinois	4,850	1.0	\$59,860
USA	121,150	—	\$47,880



Top 5 Core Tasks According to Current Job Holders	Frequency	Importance (out of 100)
Add chemicals, such as ammonia, chlorine, or lime, to disinfect and deodorize water and other liquids.	Hourly or more	93
Collect and test water and sewage samples, using test equipment and color analysis standards.	Several times daily	91
Operate and adjust controls on equipment to purify and clarify water, process or dispose of sewage, and generate power.	Daily	88
Record operational data, personnel attendance, or meter and gauge readings on specified forms.	Daily	88
Inspect equipment or monitor operating conditions, meters, and gauges to determine load requirements and detect malfunctions.	Daily	87