

Manufacturing

What is the Manufacturing Sector?

Manufacturing refers to the workplaces and engineering facilities where physical products like machine components, textiles, and chemicals are made. Many people are involved in the design, production, and testing of these physical products.



Average annual salary
£33,600



Percentage of GM workforce working in this sector

8%

(103,200 employed)

Approximate number of GM employers

6,090



Who might you work for?

- [Johnson Controls](#)
- [Warburtons](#)
- [JW Lees](#)
- [Bakkavor](#)
- [ThermoFisher](#)
- [Luxfer](#)
- [Brooks Automation](#)
- [Nexperia](#)



Soft skills

- Customer service
- Digital: Microsoft Office
- Digital: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- Project Management
- Communication
- Time Management
- Teamwork
- Sales

Workplace trends

- Skilled engineers are in high demand across the city region.
- Employers are working to attract female and ethnic minority workers to jobs.
- Greater Manchester has a proud heritage in Manufacturing, particularly in Wigan, Rochdale, Bolton and Tameside.
- Much of the sector now features clean, safe, high-tech workplaces.
- Increasing use of robots, automation, and digital manufacturing has driven a need for digital skills.



Roles that GM employers are currently recruiting for

- Production Operative
- Maintenance Technician
- Operative Continuous
- Engineering Manager
- Software Engineer
- Improvement Engineer
- Welder
- Quality
- Machine Operator

Types of qualifications

- NVQs, BTECs, Diplomas, Degrees
- Many colleges and providers offer entry level (L1-2) Engineering courses
- L2-7 apprenticeships
- 3 different T-Level routes, focusing on Design, Maintenance, & Process/Control
- Degrees in Engineering (Chemical, Mechanical, Materials, etc.)

What do I need to start my career?

Generally, no experience for entry level roles is required and on-the-job training is possible.

Apprenticeships are very well respected within the sector for most roles.

Apprentices/Graduates often preferred for Engineering roles.

Shortage and in demand roles

- Welder
- Engineer
- Production Worker
- Machinist
- Production Control



What does the future hold for this sector?

- **Digitalisation** – increasing use of automated production scheduling and digital manufacturing.
- **Net Zero** – increasing use of zero/low-carbon production processes, carbon offsetting.
- **Additive Manufacturing** – shift towards 3D printing techniques, optimisation of raw material use.



Want to know more? - Look at [MakeUK](#), search for [Apprenticeships](#) or check the [National careers board](#)

