

## Manufacturing ENGINEERING TRADES - MECHANICAL

### Related jobs:

**Fitters:** Fit and assemble metal parts and sub-assemblies.

**Machinists:** Set up and operate machine tools to cut, shape and form simple to complex metal components.

**Maintenance mechanics:** Periodically service and repair faults in production machinery and equipment.

**Toolmakers:** Make and repair moulds, dies, jigs, fixtures, press tools and other special equipment.

**Metal casters:** Produce patterns and moulds to cast metals into shapes.

**Mechatronics workers:** Combine mechanical, electronic and computer technologies to make automated, 'intelligent' machinery and robotics.

### What does a mechanical tradesperson do?

In manufacturing industries, mechanical tradespeople are qualified technical specialists who help set up, operate and maintain manufacturing operations.

And there's never a dull moment because the mechanical trades are all about designing and making products we use in our daily lives.

You could work on a variety of interesting jobs including:

- Fuel systems for engines that are environmentally friendly
- Plastics components for aircraft
- Robots to do manual work
- Medical equipment that saves lives

### Life is for living

Qualified engineering mechanical tradespeople are in high demand both in Australia and overseas.

Consequently, wages are rising and there are opportunities to travel with your skills. Engineering trades provide great job security.

You can also do further training and skill development to pursue various career pathways including becoming a mechanical specialist, an engineering generalist.

You may choose to explore other avenues like product design and development or management.

There's also the opportunity to become an independent contractor or establish your own business venture.

### What types of organisations could I work for?

Mechanical tradespeople can work for a wide range of companies, locations and work places.

They can work for large companies as part of the production team or help to set up and maintain production facilities.

They can also work for small engineering workshops that undertake a wide range of mechanical work for industrial customers.



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## What are employers looking for?

Employers look for young people who can:

- Show an interest and enthusiasm for working with engineering technology
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake and complete a hands on training program
- Listen, understand and follow instructions
- Work with others in a team
- Plan and organise their own activities
- Contribute to problem solving
- Use their own initiative

## How do I get started?

### **Australian Apprenticeship**

You can become an Engineering Tradesperson in Mechanics by completing an Australian Apprenticeship.

An apprenticeship combines paid employment and a training course to develop technical knowledge and practical skills. As you progress and develop skills and competence your wage increases.

Apprenticeships are available through Group Training Companies, which arrange placements with host companies or directly with an individual company.

### **For more information:**

Phone: 1300 798 199  
Email: [caa@aigroup.asn.au](mailto:caa@aigroup.asn.au)  
[www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au](http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au)

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The training course is provided by a TAFE institute or other registered training provider. When you are assessed as fully competent you become a tradesperson with the qualification of Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical). This is generally achieved within four years.

### **Further career opportunities**

Once you have finished your apprenticeship, you can undertake further education and training to specialise in other areas of interest or take advantage of opportunities that arise such as company development programs, TAFE courses or university degrees.

### **Get a head start at school**

Choose subjects like maths, science, communications and computer subjects to give you a head start for your apprenticeship.

Do work experience with manufacturing companies or an engineering related Vocational Education and Training (VET) program at school. You may even take on an apprenticeship part time through an Australian School-based Apprenticeship.

### **Websites to visit for more information:**

Find out more online from:

[www.zoomplus.aigroup.asn.au](http://www.zoomplus.aigroup.asn.au)  
[www.makeit.net.au](http://www.makeit.net.au)  
[www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au)

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**WWW.CAREERSCONNECTED.COM.AU**

## How much can I earn?

On average, weekly wages are:

Engineering Tradesperson	\$900
Engineering Associate/ Technician	\$1,120
Self employed Tradesperson	\$1,460
Operations Manager	\$1,675
Professional Engineer (University Degree)	\$2,300

### **Apprenticeship wages**

Starting with Yr 12	\$307
Starting with Yr 11	\$288
Starting with Yr 10	\$254
Final year (4th year)	\$550

Apprentices are also eligible for a range of Government financial assistance. Details are available from Australian Apprenticeship Centres: [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

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*Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative as at May 2008.*