

OPERATIONS MANAGER

ALSO KNOWN AS:

MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS MANAGER

PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER

PLANT MANAGER

FACILITY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS MANAGER

ENGINEER THE BLUEPRINT OF MANUFACTURING SUCCESS.

As an Operations Manager in manufacturing, you'll be at the helm of production processes, aligning resources, technology, and personnel to achieve operational excellence. This role combines strategic thinking with hands-on leadership to drive productivity and quality across the manufacturing floor.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a operations manager include:

- ✔ Financial management
- ✔ Leadership
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Process optimisation
- ✔ Strategic planning

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Team Leader
- Business Manager
- Human Resource Manager
- Chief Operating Officer

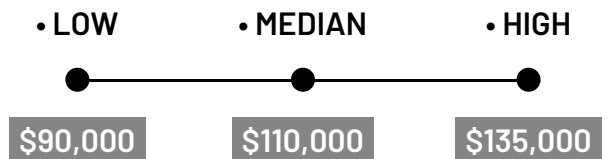
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a operations manager include:

- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Decisiveness
- ✔ Integrity
- ✔ Innovative
- ✔ Results-oriented
- ✔ Enterprising – “Persuader”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for an Operations Manager can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

- ▶ Aerospace and Defence ▶ Chemicals, Hydrocarbons and Refining ▶ Food and Beverage ▶ Furniture and Other Products
- ▶ General Manufacturing and Engineering ▶ Meat and Seafood Processing ▶ Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology
- ▶ Polymers, Plastic and Rubber ▶ Printing and Graphic arts ▶ Pulp, Paper and Packaging ▶ Renewables ▶ Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- ▶ Timber and Wood ▶ Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Business • Business studies • Design • Digital Solutions • Information and Communication Technology • Mathematical Methods

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- General Mathematics • Essential English

JOB OVERVIEW

Operations Managers in manufacturing play a pivotal role in overseeing and optimising the entire production process. They are responsible for ensuring that manufacturing operations run smoothly, efficiently, and cost-effectively while maintaining high quality standards. Their work is crucial in translating organisational goals into operational realities, balancing production targets with resource management and regulatory compliance.

These professionals utilise a wide range of management tools and methodologies, from lean manufacturing principles to advanced analytics and enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems. They need a combination of technical knowledge, leadership skills, and strategic thinking abilities. A typical day might involve analysing production metrics, coordinating with various departments, implementing process improvements, managing budgets, and addressing operational challenges.

Operations Managers often work across multiple areas of the manufacturing facility or plant, adapting their approach to different production lines and product types. They play a key role in fostering a culture of continuous improvement, driving innovation in manufacturing processes, and ensuring that operations align with broader business objectives. Their expertise is essential in navigating the complexities of modern manufacturing, from supply chain management to workforce development and technological integration.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Oversee daily manufacturing operations to ensure efficiency and quality
2. Develop and implement operational strategies and policies
3. Manage budgets, resource allocation, and cost control measures
4. Lead and motivate cross-functional teams to achieve production targets
5. Analyse and optimise production processes for continuous improvement

HOW TO BECOME A OPERATIONS MANAGER

Becoming an Operations Manager in manufacturing typically requires a combination of education, experience, and leadership skills. Here are steps to pursue this career:

1. Obtain a bachelor's degree in business administration, engineering, or a related field
2. Gain experience in manufacturing, starting in entry-level or supervisory roles
3. Develop expertise in various aspects of manufacturing operations and management principles
4. Pursue ongoing professional development in areas like lean manufacturing and technology integration

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

While a university degree is often preferred for senior roles, vocational education can provide valuable skills for aspiring Operations Managers.

Relevant VET qualifications include:

- Certificate IV in Competitive Systems and Practices (MSS40322)
- Diploma of Production Management (MSM50316)
- Diploma of Competitive Systems and Practices (MSS50322)
- Diploma of Leadership and Management (BSB50420)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

A university degree is highly beneficial for Operations Manager roles in manufacturing. Relevant bachelor's degrees include Business Administration, Industrial Engineering, or Manufacturing Engineering. Many universities also offer specialised programs in operations management or manufacturing systems.

These programs typically cover advanced topics such as supply chain management, operations research, quality management systems, and strategic planning. Graduates develop analytical and leadership skills crucial for managing complex manufacturing operations. Some universities also offer postgraduate courses or MBAs with a focus on operations management, which can enhance career prospects for senior leadership roles in manufacturing organisations.