

INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE WORKERS

Nature of the Work

Most craft workers specialize in one kind of work, such as plumbing or carpentry. General maintenance and repair workers, however, have skills in many different crafts. They repair and maintain machines, mechanical equipment, and building and work on plumbing, electrical, and air-conditioning and heating systems. They also maintain and repair specialized equipment and machine found in cafeterias, laundries, hospitals, stores, offices, and factories. Typical duties include troubleshooting and fixing faulty electrical switches, repairing air-conditioning motors, and unclogging drains. New buildings sometimes have computer-controlled systems, requiring workers to acquire basic computer skills. For example, new air-conditioning systems often can be controlled from a central computer terminal. In addition, light sensors can be electronically controlled to turn off lights automatically after a set amount of time.

General maintenance and repair workers inspect and diagnose problems and determine the best way to correct them, frequently checking blueprints repair manuals, and parts catalogs. They obtain supplies and repair parts from distributors or storerooms. Using common hand and power tools such as screwdrivers, saws, drills, wrenches, and hammers, as well as specialized equipment and electronic testing devices, these workers replace or fix worn or broken parts, where necessary, or make adjustments to correct malfunctioning equipment and machines.

General maintenance and repair workers also perform routine preventive maintenance and ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, and the physical condition of buildings does not deteriorate. Following a checklist, they may inspect drives, motors, and belts, check fluid levels, replace filters, and perform other maintenance actions. Maintenance and repair workers keep records of their work.

Employees in small establishments, where they are often the only maintenance worker, make all repairs, except for very large or difficult jobs. In larger establishments, their duties may be limited to the general maintenance of everything in a workshop or a particular area.

Working Conditions

General maintenance and repair workers often carry out several different tasks in a single day, at any number of locations. They may work inside of a single building or in several different buildings. They may have to stand for long periods, lift heavy objects, and work in uncomfortably hot or cold environments, in awkward and cramped positions, or on ladders. They are subject to electrical shock, burns, falls, cuts, and bruises. Most general maintenance workers work a 40-hour week. Some work evening, night or weekend shifts or are on call for emergency repairs.

Those employed in small establishments often operate with only limited supervision. Those working in larger establishments frequently are under the direct supervision of an experienced worker.

Employment

Industry Maintenance Mechanics held 332,000 jobs in 2014. They held employment in almost every industry. Employment in Ohio projections are from 16,780 jobs in 2014 to 19,800 jobs in 2024, which is an 18% increase. www.careeronestop.org

Job Outlook

Job openings should be plentiful. General maintenance and repair is a large occupation with significant turnover, and many job openings should result from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or stop working for other reasons.

Employment of general maintenance and repair workers is expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through 2024. Employment is related to the number of buildings – for example, office and apartment buildings, stores, schools, hospitals, hotels, and factories – and the amount of equipment needing maintenance and repair. However, as machinery becomes more advanced and requires less maintenance, the need for general maintenance and repair workers diminishes.

Earnings

Median hourly earnings of general maintenance and repair workers were \$24.06 in 2016. The range was between \$14.60 and \$33.44. Median hourly earnings in the industries employing the largest number of general maintenance and repair workers in 2016 are shown in the following tabulation:

Local government	\$17.76
Elementary and secondary schools	\$21.88
Activities related to real estate	\$18.50
Traveler accommodation	\$11.22

Some general maintenance and repair workers are members of unions, including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the United Automobile Workers.

49-9041.00 - Industrial Machinery Mechanics

Repair, install, adjust, or maintain industrial production and processing machinery or refinery and pipeline distribution systems.

Sample of reported job titles: Fixer, Industrial Machinery Mechanic, Industrial Mechanic, Loom Fixer, Machine Adjuster, Maintenance Mechanic, Maintenance Technician, Master Mechanic, Mechanic, Overhauler

Additional Information About this Job Classification is Available Online at:

<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-9041.00>

Including:

Wages & Employment Trends

National

Median wages (2016) \$24.06 hourly, \$50,040 annual

Employment (2014) 332,000 employees

Projected growth (2014-2024) ■■■ Much faster than average (14% or higher)

Projected job openings (2014-2024) 145,900

Top industries (2014) [Manufacturing](#)
[Other Services \(Except Public Administration\)](#)

And Information about Related Occupations

Related Occupations

- 17-3029.09 [Manufacturing Production Technicians](#) 🌟🌱
- 49-2092.00 [Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers](#)
- 49-2094.00 [Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment](#) 🌱
- 49-3023.01 [Automotive Master Mechanics](#) 🌟
- 49-3042.00 [Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines](#)
- 49-9043.00 [Maintenance Workers, Machinery](#)
- 49-9044.00 [Millwrights](#) 🌱
- 49-9071.00 [Maintenance and Repair Workers, General](#) 🌟 **Bright Outlook** 🌱 **Green**
- 51-4041.00 [Machinists](#) 🌟🌱
- 51-8021.00 [Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators](#) 🌱