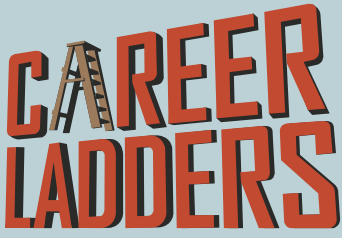


ASSEMBLY SPECIALIST

Assembly specialists assemble products and verify that products will operate to the customer's satisfaction.



JOB TITLES COMMON TO THIS CAREER OCCUPATION INCLUDE:

Assembler
Control System Assembler
Pneumatic Assembler

Hydraulic Assembler
Machine Builder
Special Machine Assembler

Electrical Technician
Electronic Technician
Service Technician
Systems Integrator

SAGINAW VALLEY

Each ladder depicts a series of work experiences that leads to more challenging and higher paying opportunities. While every level of the ladder can provide a satisfying job, some employees will choose to gain even more skills and responsibilities that will advance them in their careers. To do so, they will need more education, training, and work experiences. Some jobs will require a certificate, a license, or an advanced degree.

CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

ADVANCED LEVEL

Bachelor's degree or proven technical skills that can be demonstrated through industry experience

Manufacturing Engineer

\$19.50-\$26.75/hour

Supervisor

\$19.00-\$27.00/hour

MID LEVEL

Associate's degree or equivalent training and experience

Assembly Specialist

\$12.50-\$22.10/hour

Machining Specialist

\$16.00-\$23.50/hour

Fabricating Specialist

\$14.50-\$19.75/hour

ENTRY LEVEL

High school diploma and completion of the Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Career Pathway requirements and/or appropriate career and technical education classes

Co-op/Internship Student

\$6.00-\$8.00/hour

Machinist Trainee

\$8.10-\$12.00/hour

Welding Trainee

\$8.10-\$12.00/hour

Wages will vary within this occupation based on the ability of the employee to perform the more technical and difficult assembly operations. The ability to perform multiple assembly tasks will also increase the wage and the employee's value to the company.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Each occupation is described in terms of specific tasks and typical job duties.

AN ASSEMBLY SPECIALIST MUST BE ABLE TO:

- Read and understand blueprints, manuals, and other needed job information
- Understand and use precision measuring and testing tools and equipment
- Apply mathematics and perform calculations to determine if dimensions are correct for the job specifications
- Develop a variety of assembly skills to produce quality products, and find mistakes in a part or product before it is sent to the customer
- Communicate with coworkers, supervisors, and customers to give and receive information and instructions

WAGES

Wage information was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and from local employers to give a general idea of the wages and salaries for this occupation.

WAGE RANGE

\$12.50-\$22.10/hour

WORKING CONDITIONS

The working conditions for assemblers vary from plant to plant. Most plants are relatively clean, well lit, and ventilated. Work areas may be noisy. Assemblers may have to sit or stand for long periods. Working conditions have improved in the past several years due to improved workstation design and increased use of power-lifting equipment.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses, programs, and certificates that are needed for employment are offered by local education and training providers.



HIGH SCHOOL

- Completion of high school's Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Career Pathway and/or appropriate career and technical education classes
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Physics
- Career studies, such as electricity, engineering/computer-aided drafting, and automotive technology
- Co-op work experience
- Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works! automation certificate

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Machining certificate
- On-the-job training
- Corporate training
- Transfer credits for associate's degree
- Manufacturing technology
- Delta College: individual coursework; associate's degree; first through fourth year
- apprentice education and training

UNIVERSITY

- Saginaw Valley State University: bachelor of science, engineering technology, and management; master of science, technological processes

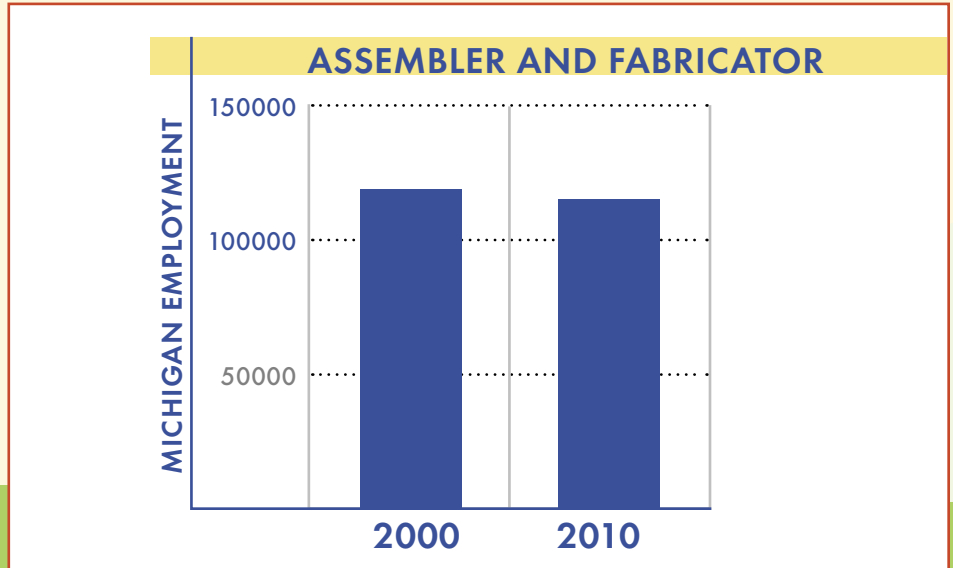
LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Local school districts
- Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Saginaw Career Complex
- Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works!
- Delta College
- Delta Corporate Services
- Davenport University
- Davenport Corporate Services
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Saginaw Valley State University Center for Manufacturing Improvement

JOB OUTLOOK

The rate of growth within this occupation is projected by data from local employers and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

In the next 10 years, there is a projected decline in the total number of jobs in this profession. It is important to know, though, that this occupation is still a strong career option since there are many opportunities for employment due to retirements, promotions, and other job changes.



ADVANCEMENT

Assembly specialists are employees who assemble products or specialized machines and verify that they will operate to the customer's satisfaction. Many assembly operations require knowledge of electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, and control systems. As customers expect higher levels of reliability, the value of good assembly specialists becomes more important. With continuing education and training, assembly specialists can advance to become engineers or supervisors.

WHAT THE EMPLOYER SAID



WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE FOR THIS POSITION?

"An assembly specialist at Wright-K Technology must have a journeyman's card or eight years of experience in a similar job. This person must have a good mechanical aptitude and be able to work independently or as a team player. We are looking for someone who is personable, has a good attitude, and can communicate well with coworkers and management."

Bob Paul, operations manager
Wright-K Technology Inc.

STAR PROFILE

This interview is intended to show you what is needed to be a star employee.



EMPLOYEE:
GERALD DIETZEL

OCCUPATION:
MACHINE TOOL
MECHANIC

COMPANY:
WRIGHT-K
TECHNOLOGY INC.

TELL US HOW YOU ATTAINED YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I worked in the welding and fabricating field for the first 10 years of my career. I then earned my journeyman's card in machine repair while I worked at a local brewery. After that, I earned top-class-mechanic status and then came to work for Wright-K Technology.

DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

There is no typical day. Because we make specialized machines, job assignments are constantly changing here. I work with the supervisors and engineers to put the machines together so they are on time, at cost, and to customer specifications.

WHAT TRAINING AND EDUCATION DID YOU NEED TO ENTER THIS POSITION?

I have a journeyman's card and have participated in specialized training at each of the companies where I was employed. All of the training was beneficial. Probably the most important thing, though, is to be able to utilize the information on a daily basis.

WHAT QUALITIES MAKE SOMEONE A "STAR" IN THIS OCCUPATION?

Hard work and being creative make someone a star employee. Also, employers are looking for people who stay at work and get the job done.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST/LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The part about my job that I like best is being able to build things with my own hands and make them work. It is an art form of its own. The part that I like least is the stress that comes when you are working to get the job assignments done quickly to meet the customer's deadlines. That can require a lot of work in a short period of time.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE SOMEONE SEEKING A JOB IN YOUR FIELD?

Be as competent as you can at electrical, mechanical, and computer work. Employers are looking for employees who are diversified and can do the job.

ARE THERE ANY LICENSES OR CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUR POSITION?

I had to have a journeyman's card to be hired for my position at Wright-K Technology.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Career Ladders project began as a Saginaw County Vision 2020 initiative. To date, more than 300 individuals have been involved in the project. It is impossible to list them all, but the Comprehensive Education and Workforce Development Committee appreciates each one and the incredible participation by our major employers and educational institutions, as well as the support from the Arnold and Gertrude Boutell Memorial Fund, The Dow Chemical Company, The Dow Corning Foundation, the Fordney Club, the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the National Tooling and Machining Association – Saginaw Valley Chapter, the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Saginaw County's local school districts, Saginaw County's Promise, the Saginaw County Vision 2020, the Saginaw Future Inc., the Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works!, the Saginaw Township Business Association, the Saginaw Valley Manufacturers' Association, and the Saginaw Valley Tech Prep Partnership. We also want to thank NOVA for their guidance.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.