

# FOCUS ON

# COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

1 OF 4

Houston Gulf Coast Region\*

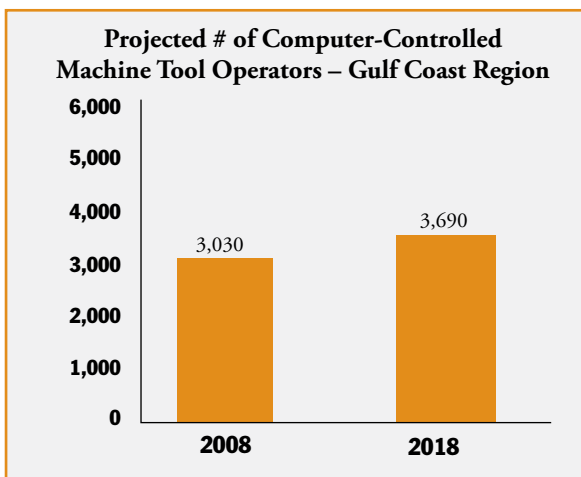
## HIGH-TECH, HANDS-ON AND HEADED FOR A GREAT CAREER ... COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

Do you like crafting things? Operating machinery? Working with computers and high-tech tools? If you do, then consider a career as a computer-controlled machine tool operator (often referred to as computer numerical control operators or CNC Operators). The Gulf Coast region is one of the top markets in the nation for machine operator-related jobs.



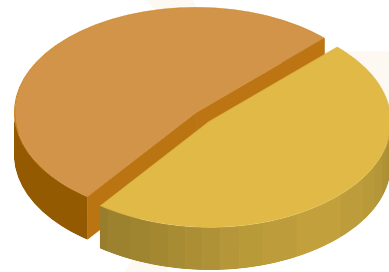
Computer-controlled machine tool operators are skilled manufacturing workers. They operate computer-controlled machines that cut away material from a solid block of metal or plastic to form a finished part. As technology improves, more and more machines are controlled by computers which require workers operating those machines to have more skills. Houston's position as world headquarters for oil and gas production translates to a shortage of qualified computer-controlled machine tool operators. This shortage offers outstanding career opportunities for individuals who are just entering the workforce.

## THE NUMBER OF COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS IN THE GULF COAST REGION IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO NEARLY 3,700 BY 2018.



\*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Due to Growth  
65 Jobs



Due to Replacement  
60 Jobs

## Annual Job Openings – Gulf Coast Region

**CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES SHOW THE REGION NEEDS TRAINED PEOPLE TO FILL 125 NEW JOB OPENINGS EACH YEAR.**

Brought to you by the Education Committee of The Gulf Coast Workforce Board.  
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Latest data available. May 2011.

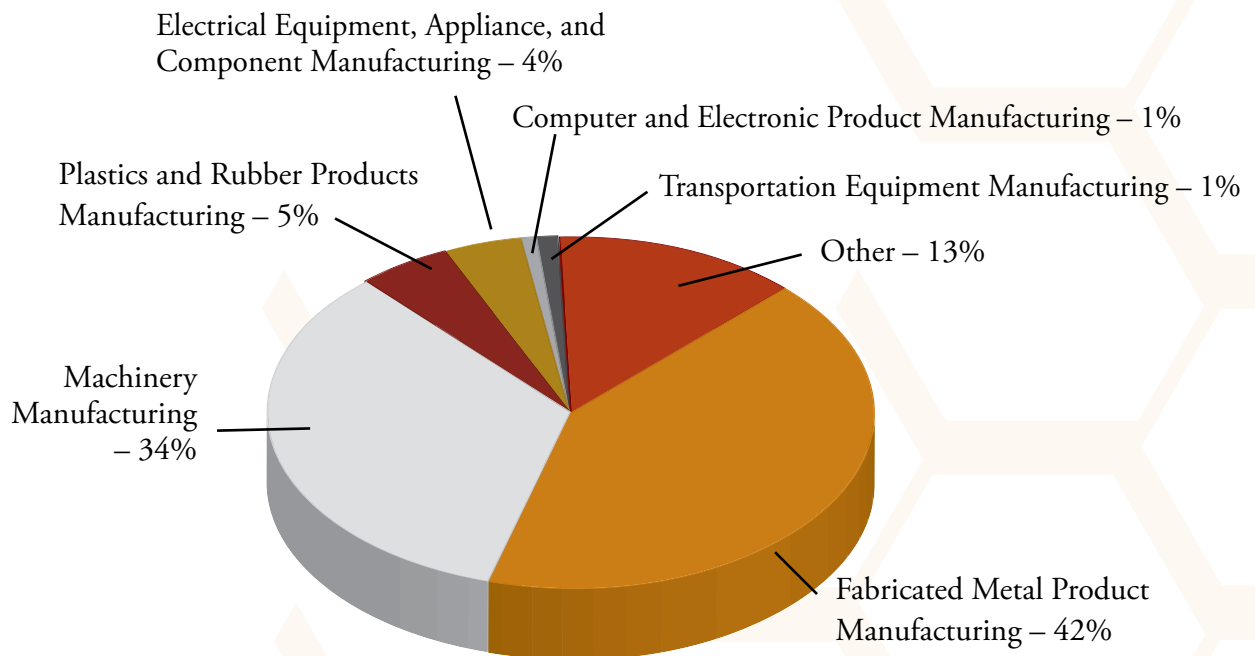
# FOCUS ON COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

**THE AVERAGE COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATOR EARNS MORE THAN \$37,000 PER YEAR AND MANY EARN IN EXCESS OF \$45,000 OR EVEN \$50,000 PER YEAR!**



**A LARGE PORTION OF COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATOR JOBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION ARE AT COMPANIES THAT MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS SUPPORTING OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION.**

## Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators in the Gulf Coast Region 2018



# FOCUS ON

## COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

### ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER SPECIALIZATIONS

- CNC programmer
- Tool-and-die maker
- Advancement to supervisor or administrative position
- A few open their own shops

### HOW DO YOU BECOME A COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATOR?

Many computer-controlled machine tool operators entering this occupation have experience or training as machine setters, tenders, and operators and have some basic knowledge of computers, electronics, and machine shops. They achieve the skills necessary for specific applications after one to 12 months of combined on-the-job and classroom training. People interested in this career should be mechanically inclined, have good problem-solving abilities, be able to work independently, and be able to do highly accurate work. High school or vocational school courses in trigonometry, blueprint reading, metalworking and drafting are recommended. In the Gulf Coast region, there are two primary options for training:

- Training programs at community colleges
- Training programs at vocational-technical institutes

### PREPARING FOR A COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CAREER

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Technology Systems (Modular Lab Based) or Introduction to Precision Metal Manufacturing or Machine Shop or Welding
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Engineering Principles or Engineering Graphics or Electricity/Electronics Technology or Metal Trades
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Principles of Technology I	Technology Applications	
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Energy, Power, and Transportation Systems or Manufacturing Systems
	Mathematical Models with Applications	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Research Design and Development or Problems and Solutions in Technology or Manufacturing Technology
	Algebra II	Fine Arts	
	Engineering		

\*Source: AchieveTexas.org

# FOCUS ON COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS

## GULF COAST REGION

### COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINE TOOL OPERATOR AND MACHINIST-RELATED TRAINING

#### COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT MAY OFFER TRAINING (DEPENDING ON DEMAND)

- Brazosport College
- College of the Mainland
- Houston Community College System
- Lee College
- Lone Star College System

#### MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- ABB Vetco Gray Inc
- Ameri-Forge Corp
- Baker Oil Tools
- Cameron
- Dresser-Rand
- Dril-Quip Inc
- FMC Energy Systems
- Goodman Manufacturing
- National Oilwell
- NCI Building Systems
- Oceaneering International
- Schlumberger
- Smith International
- Wyman-Gordon Forgings



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