



## Processing Wool

### CLOTHING PRODUCTION WORKER

#### ALSO CALLED

- Machinist
- Garment maker
- Custom garment worker
- Leading hand
- Sample machinist
- Seamstress
- Piece worker
- Dressmaker
- Tailor



#### WHAT'S THE JOB ABOUT?

- **Operating one or more machines as part of a team on a production line in a clothing factory. The range of jobs that turn material into a finished garment include:**
  - o **PATTERN MAKING** – Master patterns are produced from design sketches often using Computer Aided Design (CAD) packages. The master pattern is then graded to produce a set of patterns in different sizes.
  - o **SPECIFICATION** – Details of how the garment is to be made are set out on a specification sheet.
  - o **CUTTING** – Copies of the garment pattern are arranged on multiple layers of cloth. Pieces of the garment are cut out using electric saws or lasers.
  - o **MATERIAL HANDLING / BUNDLING** – Parts of garments are sorted according to style, size and colour and stacked and bundled for the machinists.
  - o **GARMENT MAKING** – Sewing machinists assemble garment pieces and attach zippers and pockets. Each machinist sews one part of the garment or may make through the whole garment.



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- o **TRIMMING** - The garment is hemmed and buttons, elastic, hooks and eyelets attached.
  - o **PRESSING** – Garments are pressed using heat, steam, vacuum and pressure depending on the fabric and garment type.
  - o **PRODUCT EXAMINATION** – Work is examined both during and after manufacture for faults and sizes are checked against tickets and labels.
  - o **QUALITY CONTROL** – Final garments are checked against the specification sheets.
- **Dressmakers are experienced in all of the stages of clothing production, fit and make customised garments for individuals and carry out repairs and alterations.**
  - **Tailoring involves the manufacture of clothing for formal and business wear and uniforms.**

### WORK CONDITIONS

- Clothing production workers work indoors in a factory or small business.
- Hours are usually set and overtime and shift work may be required.
- Workers may encounter Occupational Health and Safety issues such as noise and machines with many moving and sharp parts.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided as necessary.
- Some routine maintenance or adjustment of the machinery may be required.
- Piece workers carry out a range of the above tasks from their home or business.
- Most large scale clothing production has moved offshore and opportunities exist for overseas employment as supervisors and managers.
- Dressmakers may work independently from home, in a small designer's studio or for formal wear hire companies and outlets.
- Independent dress makers work their own hours and set their own rates according to the type of garment, repair or alteration.
- Small business management skills are essential for the successful operation of a small clothing production business.



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### EXPERIENCE AND RELATED TRAINING

- Training and induction of operators is usually provided on the job.
- Some employers may map an individual skill development plan for each operator.
- Gaining a formal qualification will help you to develop the knowledge and skills that you need to progress in the clothing production industry.
- If you are already working at this level you can have your skills recognised by applying for a qualification with a training provider.
- Significant and relevant industry experience is essential at each level of management.
- Offshore work often requires proficiency in the language of the host country.





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Career path	Training Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing Operator</li> </ul> <p>You operate a machine in one of the above processes.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate 2 in Clothing Production (Intermediate Processes)</li> <li>• Certificate 2 in Clothing Production (Complex or Multiple Operations)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing Tradesperson</li> </ul> <p>You work in cutting, garment construction and pressing and may be employed as a leading hand.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate 3 in Clothing Production</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor / Junior Pattern Maker / Fabric and Trim Sourcer</li> </ul> <p>You may be responsible for the workers in one section of the factory, train as a junior pattern maker or work sourcing fabrics and trim.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate 4 in Clothing Production</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager</li> </ul> <p>You are responsible for an area of management such as production, human resources, sales and marketing, merchandising, supply and distribution and quality assurance.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diploma of Textiles, Clothing and Footwear</li> </ul>

### Related Jobs

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- [Fashion designer](#)
- [Fashion sales associate](#)

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