

Industrial Production Managers

SOC: 11-3051 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$121,440 Median Salary	241,900 Employment	+2.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

7.4/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	Investigative	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Business skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Organizational skills, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Industrial Production Managers are operations leaders who oversee the **day-to-day manufacturing process to ensure goods are produced efficiently, safely, and on schedule**. They coordinate people, equipment, materials, and workflows across factories and production facilities, balancing quality standards with cost control and delivery deadlines. Rather than working directly on the production line, industrial production managers focus on planning, optimization, and continuous improvement.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy managing complex systems, leading teams, and improving how things are made at scale.

What Do Industrial Production Managers Do?

Industrial production managers plan, direct, and coordinate manufacturing operations. Their responsibilities span production scheduling, workforce supervision, quality control, and safety compliance.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning and scheduling production runs
- Supervising production workers and shift supervisors
- Monitoring output, quality, and efficiency metrics
- Ensuring compliance with safety and environmental regulations
- Managing inventory, materials, and supply flow
- Troubleshooting production problems and bottlenecks
- Coordinating with engineering, maintenance, and logistics teams

Types of Industrial Production Managers

Industrial production managers may specialize by industry or operational focus:

- Manufacturing Plant Managers: Oversee entire production facilities.
- Operations Managers: Coordinate multiple production lines or departments.
- Quality Control Managers: Ensure products meet specifications and standards.
- Lean or Continuous Improvement Managers: Focus on efficiency, waste reduction, and process optimization.
- Maintenance and Reliability Managers: Oversee equipment upkeep and uptime.
- Supply Chain–Focused Managers: Align production with materials and logistics planning.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Industrial production managers combine technical knowledge with leadership and analytics.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Most industrial production managers advance through a combination of education and hands-on experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: Commonly in industrial engineering, manufacturing, business, or operations management
- Production or Supervisory Experience: Progression from technician, supervisor, or engineer roles
- Advanced Education (optional): MBA or operations-focused graduate degree
- Professional Certifications (optional): Lean, Six Sigma, or operations management credentials
- Ongoing Training: Continuous improvement and technology updates

Where Do Industrial Production Managers Work?

Industrial production managers are employed across many manufacturing sectors:

- Manufacturing Plants and Factories

- Automotive and Aerospace Facilities
- Food and Beverage Production
- Pharmaceutical and Chemical Manufacturing
- Electronics and Technology Manufacturing
- Industrial Equipment and Materials Plants

Work environments are typically on-site within production facilities.

How Much Do Industrial Production Managers Earn?

Compensation reflects the responsibility and scale of operations managed:

- Mid-Level Production Managers: Typically earn strong professional salaries
- Senior or Plant Managers: Often earn higher compensation tied to performance and output
- Specialized Operations Leaders: May earn more in highly technical or regulated industries

Earnings vary by industry, facility size, and geographic location.

Is This Career Difficult?

Industrial production management is demanding due to constant operational pressures. Managers must meet production targets while maintaining safety, quality, and cost control. The challenge lies in balancing efficiency with workforce well-being and adapting quickly to equipment issues, supply disruptions, or demand changes.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Industrial Production Manager?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy managing processes and teams
- Like solving operational and efficiency problems
- Are comfortable making decisions with real-world consequences
- Prefer structured, results-driven environments
- Want leadership roles in manufacturing or operations

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in math, engineering, or business
- Learn basic manufacturing and quality concepts
- Develop leadership and communication skills
- Gain experience in production, logistics, or technical roles
- Explore Lean, Six Sigma, or operations certifications

Industrial production managers keep manufacturing systems running smoothly, transforming plans, people, and materials into reliable products that power modern industry.