

# VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS



**VOCATIONAL ROUTES  
INTO MANUFACTURING**



# WHAT IS MANUFACTURING?

**Do you enjoy working with technology?**

**Do you love knowing how things are made and work?**

**Do you like routine and like to be part of a team?**

**If so, a job in manufacturing could be the perfect job for you.**

Manufacturing is the production of goods and can either mean transforming raw materials into finished goods, or the creation of more complex items by selling basic goods to manufacturers for the production of items such as automobiles, aircraft, or household appliances.

Manufacturing jobs tend to be in factories, these can be large scale with hundreds of workers or quite small

with just a few workers depending on the product being made.

There are a wide range of roles within manufacturing, most are directly involved in the production however there are also roles such as administration, finance, sales or distribution.

You may start as an apprentice or a trainee and there are lots of opportunities to progress.



# WHY MANUFACTURING?

**WE WILL ALWAYS NEED ITEMS TO BE PRODUCED  
SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE JOBS IN MANUFACTURING.**



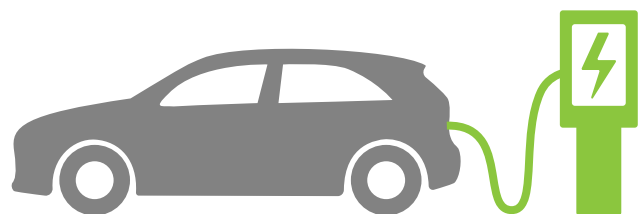
The UK is currently the  
**NINTH LARGEST**  
MANUFACTURING NATION  
in the world



UK Manufacturing employs  
**2.7 MILLION PEOPLE**  
- earning an average of  
**£32,500**



In the North East  
Manufacturing  
**ACCOUNTS  
FOR 11.3% OF  
EMPLOYMENT**



**ONE IN THREE** cars and  
**26% OF ALL ELECTRIC**  
vehicles made in the UK are  
produced in the North East.

# WHAT KIND OF JOBS EXIST IN MANUFACTURING?

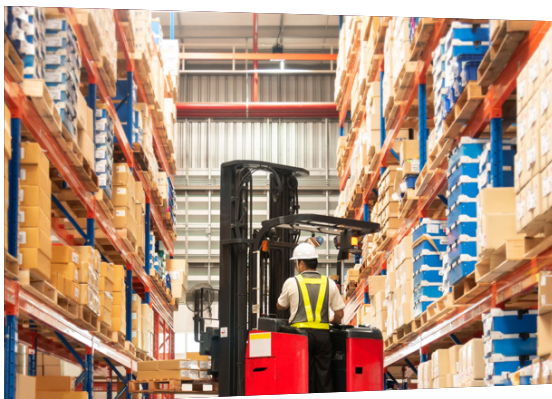


## FOOD PROCESSING WORKER

Works on a production line to pack or process food.

## TRAINEE FURNITURE ASSEMBLY OPERATIVE

Puts together furniture in a factory.



## WAREHOUSE OPERATIVE

Stores, moves and loads goods with a fork lift truck ready for dispatch.

## WINDOW FABRICATOR

Produces windows by cutting, aligning, and ensuring that pieces of the products fit together before welding.



### Where these jobs may take me?

The skills you learn from these jobs can help you to progress into many other roles in the following areas: Engineering, Production, Management.





# IS IT FOR ME?

**SEE HOW MANY OF THE SKILLS BELOW  
YOU ARE GOOD AT:**

- Logical
- Good at problem solving
- Attention to detail
- Operating computers / machinery
- Reliable
- Good at multitasking
- Disciplined
- Good coordination / good with hands
- Patient
- Enjoy repetitive jobs
- Happy to work in factory setting
- Don't mind noisy environments
- Don't mind wearing overalls, uniform or safety equipment



# TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

- You'll need to work quickly and safely and, on some production lines, you'll need to be physically active.
- Shift work is common in manufacturing production. For example, you may need to work early in the morning or at night.
- Factory conditions can vary from hot, noisy and smelly to clean, cold and quiet.

## HOW TO DEVELOP SKILLS

To begin with, employers wouldn't expect you to have experience in actual manufacturing but if you can show that you have a keen interest in making things or seeing how things work and if you are any good at any of the skills on the previous page, this helps show the employer that you may have what they are looking for in a future employee.

Examples:

- "I like to fix my own bike and find out how the mechanics work."
- "I have a keen eye for detail and I'm very patient. This helps when I do jigsaw puzzles which I really enjoy."
- "I enjoy doing the same task again and again."



# CASE STUDY: UNIPRES

If you do not achieve the grades you want in English or Maths, some employers or training providers may allow you to redo and complete these as part of your qualification. This is what Robbie has been allowed to do in his apprenticeship at Unipres.



**Robbie, 17**

**Level 2 Diploma  
in Manufacturing  
(Lean  
Manufacturing  
Operative)**

## **What drove you to pursue a career in the automotive industry and how old were you?**

I have always been interested in the automotive industry and manufacturing, as well as this I also took a big interest in cars and the way they are made and the production process.

## **Since you've been at Unipres, what's the best piece of advice you have been given?**

Stick in and make sure you give 100% to get the best possible version of yourself, if you push yourself hard enough you will reach your goals and eventually get what you want.

## **What is your proudest career achievement so far?**

My proudest achievement so far is learning to run a press myself and learning to speak to people in general. I believe my communication skills have developed a lot compared to the start of my apprenticeship.

## **What's the best thing about being on an apprenticeship programme?**

You get lots of support throughout the apprenticeship to help and guide you in the right direction in order to pass. As well as this, you also earn money as you learn.

## **What is your morning routine once you arrive at the factory/office?**

Before my shift on the morning, I normally go to the changing rooms, put my PPE on, and wait for the shift to start at 6:45.

## **What do you hope to have achieved within the next 5 years?**

Within the next 5 years, I hope to have worked my way up Unipres and potentially become a part of the maintenance team after completing the 4-year apprenticeship.


## **Any wise words, advice or tips for someone looking to pursue a career in manufacturing?**

If you work hard, you will eventually get what you want in life and it will be more rewarding than just being handed it.

## **How has your apprenticeship benefitted you personally?**

I have gained a lot of confidence socially and this has allowed me to take on challenges I wouldn't have beforehand. As well as this, my knowledge of the environment and job has increased massively and is still expanding to this day. I also believe that I have matured a lot since the start of this course. When I left school I didn't achieve the grades I wanted regarding my maths, this apprenticeship has allowed me to complete my maths by going to college as part of my apprenticeship and gain the grades I wanted.





# ROUTES INTO MANUFACTURING

**In many cases, GCSE-level qualifications will be enough to get you started but if you do not have these there may also be some alternative routes you can take. Practical subjects like design technology, ICT, art and engineering will help you to test out your interest in this type of work. Maths and sciences, particularly physics and chemistry, are always useful.**

Apprenticeships or further qualifications at Level 2 or 3 should help you move on to become a technician or supervisor. Your employer might support part-time study alongside your work.

If you can't find a job, full-time vocational qualifications like diplomas or certificates in manufacturing engineering or food manufacture could help you get your foot on the career ladder. The following Pathway Map (page 9) will help you understand the different levels and options available.

There are many apprenticeships and courses available in the manufacturing sector and from September 2022 there are also T Levels available in the following:

- Maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control

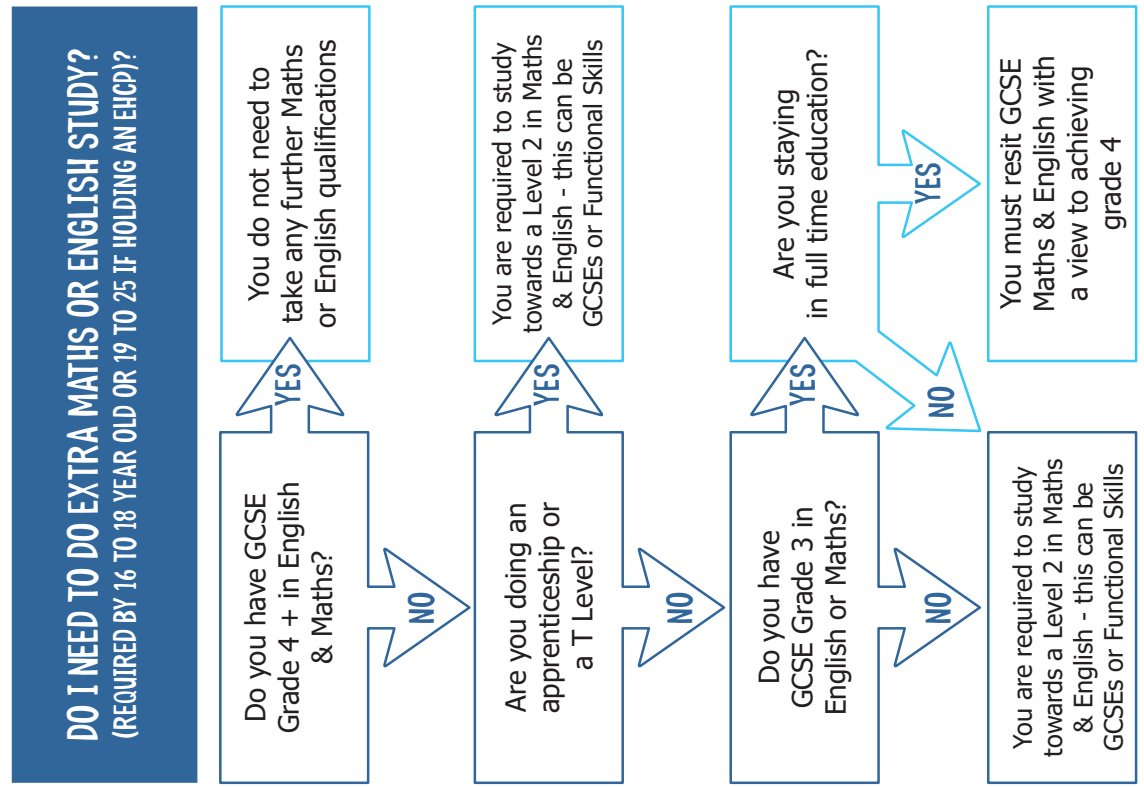
## **Vocational qualifications in manufacturing include:**

- Performing Manufacturing Operations
- Manufacturing & Engineering
- Food Safety Manufacturing
- Food and Drink
- Lean Manufacturing Operative

**To search for courses, go to  
[www.findcourses.co.uk](http://www.findcourses.co.uk)**



# VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS



\*there maybe some exemptions to this - always check with providers

LEVEL ONE	LEVEL TWO	LEVEL THREE	LEVEL FOUR +
Functional Skills	GCSEs	BTEC Level 3 / NVQ 3	Higher Apprenticeship
Supported Internships / Study Programmes	Intermediate Apprenticeship	A Levels	Higher Technical Qualifications
Traineeships	BTEC Level 2 / NVQ 2	T Levels	University / Degree
Pre-Apprenticeships	Supported / Inclusive Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	
		Paid Employment - if over 18	

	Description	Entry Requirements	What it could lead to
Functional Skills	An alternative to GCSEs for maths, English & ICT with a more practical and real life context	None	Apprenticeship Traineeship
Supported Internships / Study Programmes	A structured study programme/ partnership based mainly with an employer	ECHP	Paid employment Supported apprenticeship
Pre-Apprenticeships	A programme of study aimed at exploring different industries and job roles	Up to the training provider / employer	Traineeship
Traineeship	A work focussed study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work	Have little or no work experience and qualifies below Level 3	Apprenticeship Supportive employment
Supported Inclusive Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary	ECHP	Paid employment
Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary	Employer dependent. Age 16+ Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Higher level or degree apprenticeship University or college Paid Employment
BTECs / NVQs - Technical / Vocational qualifications	Qualifications that teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in	Course dependent	Apprenticeship University or college Paid employment
T Levels	A technical study programme similar to 3 A levels with an industry placement which takes up 20% of the course	Set by each school/ college	Apprenticeship University or college Paid employment



# FIND OUT MORE

**To find out more about technical and vocational training and support for additional needs:**

[https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/Your%20Options\\_FINAL%20VERSION.pdf](https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/Your%20Options_FINAL%20VERSION.pdf)

## OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

### **Apprenticeships:**

<https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

This includes a link to the Find an Apprenticeship Service, where apprenticeship vacancies are listed and can be applied for. Where an employer is Disability Confident, the logo will display on their vacancies in the service: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

### **Further information is also available here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guidetoapprenticeships#history>

For more information on the English and maths flexibilities available for some people with learning disabilities and difficulties, see here: <https://resources.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/changes-to-english-and-maths-requirements-forapprenticeships/>

For more information on Access to Work and apprenticeships, visit this webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

### **Traineeships:**

[www.getingofar.gov.uk/traineeships](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk/traineeships)

[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship) to search for traineeships near you

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/traineeship-providers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traineeship-providers)

Supported internships - <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/downloads/supported-internships/fact-sheet-supportedinternships.htm>

### **Manufacturing Careers:**

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/manufacturing>

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/engineering-and-manufacturing](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/engineering-and-manufacturing)



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