



# Production Operators

## **JOB OUTLOOK<sup>1</sup>**

Overall employment of production operators is projected to remain stable.

## **SALARY RANGE<sup>3</sup>**

Median annual range is \$37,440.

## **WHO ARE THEY?<sup>1,2</sup>**

Production operators are conscientious, alert, safety-oriented, independent professionals who visit oil and gas sites to ensure their efficient operation. They have sound mechanical knowledge and abilities and are able to work effectively with their hands. They understand how to use a variety of technology applications for measuring oil and gas output. They are observant and able to focus on a single sound in the presence of distracting sounds and to see details at close range. Production operators are willing to travel regularly and work outdoors in a wide variety of weather conditions.

## **WHAT DO THEY DO?<sup>1,2</sup>**

Production operators travel to oil and gas wells to monitor fuel production. They carefully check tanks, meters, pipelines, and production equipment to gather information and detect issues such as blocked pipes. As needed, they take steps to maintain the site's productivity, such as restarting gas compressors when they are shut down or adding chemicals to water during cold weather to prevent freezing. They create and maintain records related to well production and ensure that digital applications for monitoring production work correctly. They ensure that site equipment is used in accordance with safety and environmental rules and report spills. Production operators must be available at a moment's notice to help resolve equipment failures and other issues.

**CAREER PROFILE**

## Production Operators (Continued)

### EDUCATION/ TRAINING<sup>4,5</sup>

- High School Diploma.
- Several months to a full year working with experienced operators.

### HOW DO I BECOME ONE?<sup>4,5</sup>

Although some positions require only a high school diploma and moderate to long-term on-the-job experience, other positions require an associate's degree or training in a vocational school. Operators must gain understanding of the operation, adjustment, and repair of machines and tools used in oil and gas production facilities. They need a knowledge of policies and regulations for oil and gas production and must be able to use computers and electronics. They need critical thinking skills for weighing alternative solutions to problems that might arise at a site.

<sup>1</sup> "Production Operators." Video from the American Petroleum Institute.

<sup>2</sup> "Job Duties for Lease Operator in the Oilfield." Career Trend. <https://careertrend.com/oilfield-operator-job-description-34620.html>.

<sup>3</sup> "Production Occupations" Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/home.htm#:~:text=The%20median%20annual%20wage%20for,%20all%20occupations%20of%202441%2C950>.

<sup>4</sup> "Gas Plant Operators." Onet OnLine. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-8092.00>.

<sup>5</sup> "Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers." Onet Online. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-8093.00>.