Supply Chain Technicians in Virginia

National Center for Supply Chain Automation

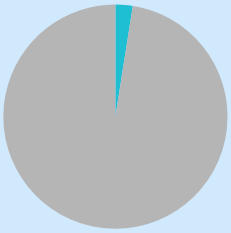
Who Are Supply Chain Technicians?

The National Center for SCA defines the job of a Supply Chain Technician as a person who installs, operates, supports, upgrades or maintains the automated material handling equipment and systems that support the supply chain.

Supply chain technician is an emergent occupation that does not currently exist in the federal Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

Why Supply Chain Technicians?

Virginia accounts for over 2% of the current supply chain technicians related workforce in the nation



— Schools in the United States are not producing enough supply chain mechanics and technicians with the requisite skills. **(University of Tennessee, 2015)**

— The supply chain field gets overlooked by new graduates, who think of supply-chain work as "a guy driving a forklift in a dusty old factory." That outdated image is a huge hurdle for an industry that badly needs new talent in high tech, analytics, robotics, and engineering. **(Fortune Magazine, 2014)**

Employment in Virginia*

In Virginia, supply chain related technicians and mechanics (defined using nine standard occupational codes) are currently estimated to number about 59,500. They are projected to grow by 10% by 2025. In addition to the new growth, companies are expected to replace about 21% of their current technician workforce, thus creating about 18,600 total job openings (both new and replacement) in the next 10 years.

Virginia is home to 120 distribution center facilities of over 250,000 square feet. (CoStar, 2014)

Studies suggest that 70% of warehouses will add more automated processes in a 5-year timeframe. (Motorola 2013 Warehouse Visions Report)

With an average need for 4-6 technicians per large automated distribution center, Virginia warehouses will need estimated 350 to 500 trained technicians to support their automated operations in a 5-year period.

10-year Employment Projections

2015 JOBS	+ 10%	2025 JOBS
59,500	→	65,300

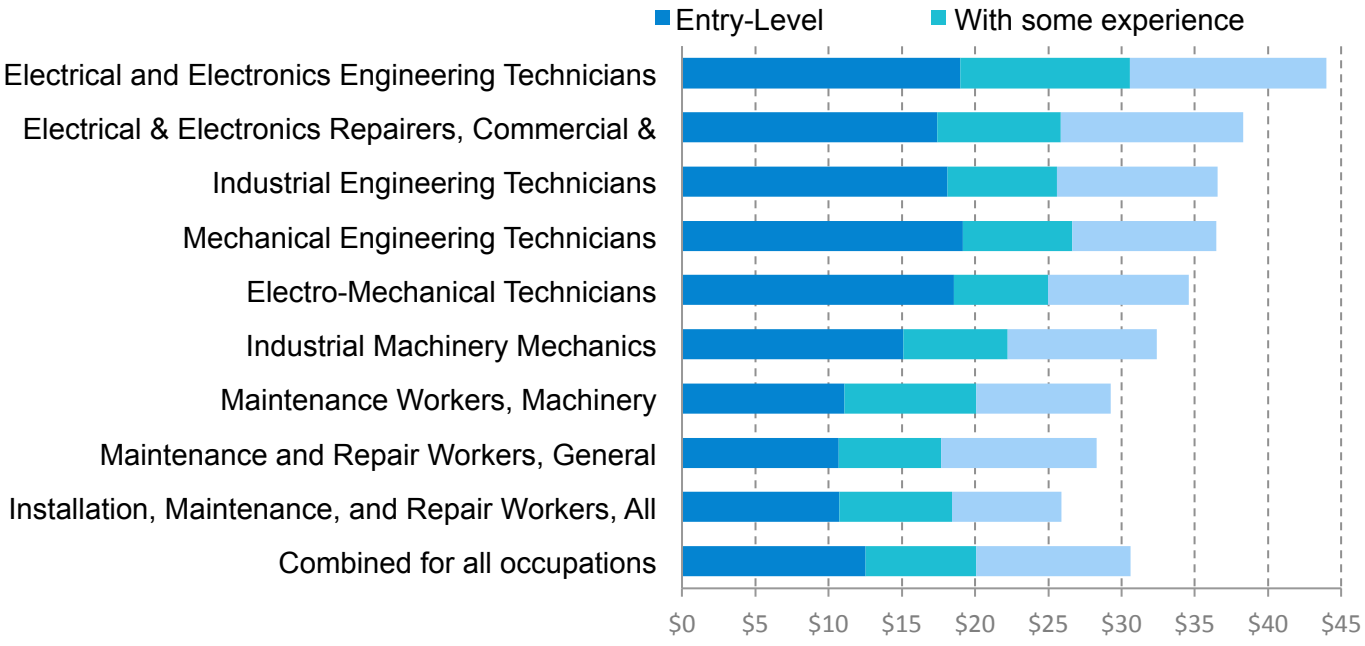
10-year Job Openings

NEW JOBS 5,800 + REPLACEMENT JOBS 12,800 = TOTAL PROJECTED OPENINGS 18,600

Employment Projections for Occupations Related to Supply Chain Technicians in Virginia, 2015-2025

Occupations (Standard Occupational Code)	2015 Jobs	2025 Jobs	Total Job Openings (new & replacement)	New Jobs	Replacement Jobs	% Growth	% Replacement
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General (49-9071)	35,494	39,433	11,159	3,939	7,220	11%	20%
Industrial Machinery Mechanics (49-9041)	8,454	9,398	3,503	944	2,559	11%	30%
Maintenance Workers, Machinery (49-9043)	4,675	5,089	1,235	414	821	9%	18%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other (49-9099)	4,731	4,907	1,180	176	1,004	4%	21%
Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians (17-3023)	1,390	1,513	423	123	300	9%	22%
Industrial Engineering Technicians (17-3026)	1,871	2,012	395	141	254	8%	14%
Electrical & Electronics Repairers, Comm. & Industrial Equipment (49-2094)	1,453	1,541	392	88	304	6%	21%
Mechanical Engineering Technicians (17-3027)	1,098	1,093	252	(5)	252	0%	23%
Electro-Mechanical Technicians (17-3024)	338	370	106	32	74	9%	22%

Hourly Earnings of Occupations Related to Supply Chain Technicians in Virginia, 2015**



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*As an emerging occupation, Supply Chain Technician (SCT) does not have a designated SOC code. Each SOC code listed in this brief includes SCTs as a primary segment of its workforce, as well as an unknown number not employed as SCTs. **Wages in the chart are represented for 10th, 50th, and 90th percentiles.