

# MILL MECHANIC

## WHO ARE THEY?<sup>1</sup>

Mechanics are professionals who can identify why necessary equipment is not working properly and use their tools and understanding to fix it. These mechanics work in mines where metals such as copper are uncovered and extracted for use in our everyday life. They likely work with heavy equipment, like mills, conveyors and screens. Mechanics at the mill may be required to lift heavy machinery and likely work in both indoor and outdoor conditions. If you love tinkering with machines or systems and enjoy solving problems, you might make a great mechanic at the mill!

## WHAT DO THEY DO?<sup>1</sup>

This type of mechanic is responsible for making sure equipment and processes run smoothly at the mill—and if anything is no longer running smoothly, it's their job to fix it. Mechanics are responsible for performing preventative measures that can keep the equipment from breaking or malfunctioning, such as keeping the equipment well-lubricated. When repairs are necessary, they must assess what has gone wrong, prioritize what equipment needs to be repaired and decide on the best course of action for repair. Mechanics become the experts who know the equipment and processes inside and out.

## JOB OUTLOOK<sup>2,3</sup>

The metal mining industry currently employs almost 190,000 people in America, and that number is projected to grow. Job opportunities for mechanics working on heavy vehicles and mobile equipment also are expected to increase at approximately the average rate of growth for all occupations nationwide. Most individuals in this industry work full time, with many working nights and weekends. Overtime is common in this industry.

## HOW DO I BECOME ONE?<sup>1,2</sup>

Industries like mining often offer opportunities for apprenticeships, which give people interested in becoming mechanics a chance to receive excellent on-the-job training. The ability to troubleshoot, fluency in reading and interpreting blueprints, and excellent communication and decision-making skills will be beneficial in this role. A mechanic at the mill may not need a high school diploma, or equivalent, but those credentials will make an applicant more competitive. To prepare for this career, students should focus on mechanical engineering, mathematics and industrial arts.

## SALARY RANGE<sup>2</sup>

**\$41,000—  
\$63,000**

## EDUCATION/TRAINING

- High school diploma or GED preferred
- Internships and/or apprenticeships
- Prior mechanical work experience
- On-the-job training upon hiring

<sup>1</sup> "Diesel Diagnostic Mechanic." Freeport-McMoRan. <https://jobs.fcx.com/job/Morenci-Diesel-Diagnostic-Mechanic-AZ-85540/621793300/>. Accessed 4.14.2020.

<sup>2</sup> "Occupational Outlook Handbook." Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/heavy-vehicle-and-mobile-equipment-service-technicians.htm>. Accessed 4.14.2020.

<sup>3</sup> "Industries at a Glance." Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag212.htm>. Accessed 4.14.2020.