

PRODUCTION DRILLER

Production Drillers are critical to mining production. They are mechanically inclined, follow protocol and procedure, and figure out the best way to complete a drill pattern.

Job Description

- Move, set up and operate drilling rigs and related equipment above or underground to drill holes for blasting and mineral excavation
- Use a variety of drills and hammers including hydraulic drills, rotary, in-the-hole, and top hammer, diamond drills and other drilling machines
- Prepare the drill site, move and set up drill following site plans and layouts, position drills and set angles and depths
- Start and stop drills, and coordinate with other workers on the site
- Conduct pre-operational checks and monitor conditions by checking water flow, components, fluid levels, fittings, safety equipment, as well as depths and alignments of boring positions
- Regulate air pressure, rotary speed, and downward pressure, according to the type of rock being drilled
- Operate secondary equipment, such as pumps and equipment used to prevent and correct problems or make minor repairs and refuel, inspect, lubricate and replace components to maintain drill
- Meet all drill production targets without damaging the drill
- Read and maintain daily drill report and drilling logbook and report issues to Supervisor
- Collaborate closely with mechanics, the production team and supervise Driller Helpers and Mine Helpers

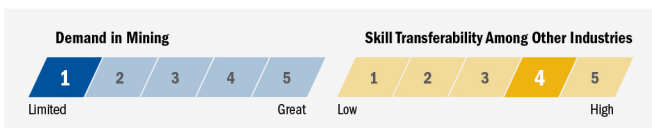
Compensation

\$30.53/hour

\$48.24/hour

(Source: Canadian Mine Salaries, Wages & Benefits: 2018 Survey Results InfoMine USA, 2018).

Job Prospects



Why are People Attracted to this Career?

Production Drillers have physical stamina and like to work outside. They work well under pressure with minimal supervision, and enjoy challenging work that requires them to plan their actions carefully.

What is it Like to Work as a Production Driller in Mining?

Note: conditions vary according to employer and region.

Production Drillers work alone for hours at a time, and team up with blasters and other operation and production crews in order to meet production targets and ensure safety. They look after valuable drill equipment, work underground or outside – sometimes in severe environmental conditions – and are required to lift up to 25 kg (55 lbs) (based on job research, 2014). In mines with a short production phase, they may work for contractors and may travel to work at different mining locations.

Success Profile

- ☒ Communicates using signals
- ☒ Follows and implements procedures and safety policies in daily work
- ☒ Stays focused, dependable, reliable, responsible and adaptable
- ☒ Visualizes three-dimensional layouts
- ☒ Embraces new techniques and technologies
- ☒ Good vision and manual dexterity
- ☒ Strong risk management and trouble-shooting skills
- ☒ Strong understanding of mechanical systems
- ☒ Works well with minimal supervision as well as with others

Job Entry Requirements

Note: The requirements listed below illustrate what it takes to start the career and do not take into account on-the-job training given to new employees.

Fixed Requirements

- Must be able to read and understand manuals and written instructions in language of operation
- Two to five years of experience in production mining such as Driller Helper, Heavy Equipment Operator or Underground Miner
- Physically fit and mobile
- Willing to work in a diverse workplace
- Must pass a medical and drug test
- Proficiency in language of operation

May be Required

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Training and certification in mining production modules
- Drill specific training (often on-the-job)
- Undergo a criminal record check

Assets

- Willing to relocate
- Other languages