

With criminal justice reform a part of the national dialog, preparing prisoners with meaningful employment skills is a growing priority within the corrections environment. Among the many initiatives to address this issue in Michigan, Michigan State Industries (MSI) is a manufacturer operating within the Michigan Department of Corrections that has been providing work opportunities to prisoners since 1943, one of fifty such programs in the country.

MSI is regulated under the Correctional Industries Act of 1968 and is authorized to engage in manufacturing, sales and service to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, governmental institutions, the federal government and tribal nations. MSI frequently turns down projects where they would compete with private sector businesses.

Michigan State Industries (MSI) provides products and services to customers as provided by law at prices that meet or exceed customer expectations, while providing professional growth opportunities for staff and marketable job skills to prisoners detained by the Department of Corrections.

MSI provides prisoners an opportunity to improve their workplace skills through employment assessments and certifications, and to participate in continuous quality improvement. MSI's focus is successful prisoner employment upon parole or release within Michigan with the goal to realize 0% recidivism through 100% employment for MSI parolees within 30 days.

MSI is self-supporting. It receives no funds from sources other than its own sales. Thus, MSI's success depends on producing quality goods and services delivered in a timely fashion to our customers at a fair price.

By decreasing recidivism rates, MSI's programs reduce costs to Michigan citizens, resulting in savings for both the judicial and corrections systems. And when adults in custody have productive activities to occupy their time, our prisons are safer. Perfecting marketable skills and being recognized for positive job performance are important components in rebuilding a person's character.



MICHIGAN STATE INDUSTRIES  
*Building Bridges to Success*

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# Dental Lab



MICHIGAN STATE INDUSTRIES  
*Building Bridges to Success*

## The MSI Dental Laboratory serves the needs of the MDOC population.

Located at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, the MSI Dental Laboratory provides all dentures, bite splints and dental appliance repairs for MDOC prisoners through the system's 35 dental clinics. Workers gain experience as dental lab technicians as well as dental appliance makers.

The Dental Lab training involves teaching the various techniques and systems used in creating well-fitting dental prosthetics and demands dexterity, numeracy, focus on detail and commitment on the part of the students. It can take up to five years to become proficient in the entire process.

The hire rate for MSI-trained dental lab technicians has been 100% for many years. Upon their release, many of the women who participated in our program have attained supervisory positions during their careers.

The MSI Dental Lab has the capability to provide the following services:

- **Full Dentures**
- **Partial Dentures**
- **Framework**
- **Denture Repairs**
- **Denture Rebase**
- **Denture Relines**
- **Soft Denture Relines**
- **Custom Tray**
- **Soft Bite**
- **UofM Bite Splint**

The Dental Laboratory employs ten prisoner workers.

**MSI is "Building Bridges to Success"** by providing real opportunities for Michigan adults in custody, educating and empowering them to become law-abiding, tax paying citizens through successful work skills training.

- *We instill and promote a positive work ethic.*
- *We provide opportunities for prisoners to learn marketable skills and gain from experience.*
- *We contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of working prisoners and their families.*

Through employment with MSI, prisoners at the Dental Lab develop both hard (industry-specific) and soft (social) skills, preparing them for employment after incarceration.

### **Soft Skills:**

Decision Making  
Communication  
Teamwork  
Reliability  
Accountability  
Punctuality  
Adaptability  
Listening  
Literacy/Numeracy

### **Hard Skills:**

Machine Operation  
Machine Maintenance & Repair  
Office Clerk  
Order Fulfillment  
Shipping & Receiving  
Dental Lab Technician  
Denture Product Manufacturing  
Quality Control

