

CAREER FACT SHEET

Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers

Snapshot

Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers cut, shape, join and repair metal components of iron and steel structures, boilers, pressure vessels and pipes, ships and other vessels.

How many are employed in this occupation?	82,600
What are the average weekly earnings for full time workers?	\$1,760
How does unemployment compare with other occupations?	Average
What are the job prospects for this occupation?	Medium
What will be the likely future employment growth for the next five years?	Relatively Steady

Main employing industries

Manufacturing; Construction; Mining

Tasks

This occupation may include associated occupations with varying tasks.

- studying blueprints, drawings and specifications to determine job requirements
- selecting, cleaning and preparing metal stock
- cutting marked-out metal sections and shapes using hand tools, flame cutting torches and metal cutting machines
- shaping and bending metal sections and pipes using hand and machine tools, and by heating and hammering
- aligning parts to be joined using hand tools and measuring instruments
- joining metal sections using various welding techniques, bolting and riveting
- examining welds for width of bead, penetration and precision
- finishing products by cleaning, polishing, filing and bathing in acidic solutions
- cleaning and smoothing welds by filing, chiselling and grinding

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Manufacturing

If you're a hands on sort of person who likes getting stuck into tasks involving the use of tools and machinery to create new items, or you like to work on projects that bring technical concept drawings to life, then a career in the Manufacturing industry could be right up your alley. Careers in Manufacturing are available in a variety of industries such as: aerospace, furnishing, laboratory operations, metal fitting, engineering and boating, process manufacturing, mineral products, plastics, rubber, recreational vehicles and textiles, clothing and footwear. Structural Steel and Welding Trades workers, and Metal Fitters and Machinists are the trades most in demand in Manufacturing at present. There are thousands of Manufacturing businesses in Australia, employing almost one million people. New developments in sustainable Manufacturing aim to produce goods in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way while at the same time maintaining, if not improving productivity. This makes it a very interesting time to join this sector.



Manufacturing

Possible job pathways

- Glaziers
- Graphic Pre-press Trades Workers
- Industrial Spraypainters
- Metal Fitters and Machinists
- Precision Metal Trades Workers
- Sheetmetal Trades Workers
- Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers
- Wood Machinists and Other Wood Trades Workers
- Chemical, Gas, Petroleum & Power Plant Operators
- Electrical Engineering Draftspersons, Technicians
- Electricians
- Electronics Engineers
- Metal Casting, Forging & Finishing Trades
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineers
- Engineering Production Systems Workers
- Engineers (Chemical and Material)
- Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers
- Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons, Technicians
- Food and Drink Factory Workers
- Production Managers
- Printers
- Printing Assistants and Table Workers
- Signwriters
- Jewellers
- Product Assemblers

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