

Top  
30  
to  
30

South Dakota  
High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Manufacturing



## Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers

*Standard Occupational Code 51-4121*

### What They Do

Use hand-welding or flame-cutting equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

### Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Realistic (Doers)** — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

**Conventional (Organizers)** — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

**Support** — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Working Conditions** — Offer job security and good working conditions.

**Relationships** — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Near Vision
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Control Precision
- Manual Dexterity
- Finger Dexterity
- Problem Sensitivity

## Basic Skills You Need

- Monitoring
- Critical Thinking
- Quality Control Analysis
- Active Listening
- Operations Monitoring

## Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in welding is recommended. Without that education, job seekers would need on-the-job experience to be competitive. Demonstrated skill is the most important qualification for welders.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com) or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	3
Graphic Literacy	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of welders are:

- Machinery Manufacturing
- Transportation Equipment Manufacturing
- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
- Repair and Maintenance
- Self Employment

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,612	3,016	404	15.5%	336	\$39,301	\$42,559

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers) to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

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