



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. Some workers specialize in welding; others perform all disciplines or a combination of them.

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.

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

Working Conditions — Offer job security and good working conditions.

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

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

Basic Skills You Need

- Quality Control Analysis
- 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 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 first line supervisors of production and operating workers are:

- Machinery Manufacturing
- Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing
- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
- Self Employment

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
3,412	3,802	390	11.4%	387	\$46,300	\$46,700

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

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

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.

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Provided By

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

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