



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Advanced 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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Cautiousness — A tendency to be careful, deliberate, and risk-avoidant when making work-related decisions or doing work.

Attention to Detail — A tendency to be detail-oriented, organized, and thorough in completing work.

Dependability — A tendency to be reliable, responsible, and consistent in meeting work-related obligations.

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

Work Activities

- Getting Information
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events
- Handling and Moving Objects
- Monitoring Processes, Materials, or Surroundings

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

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
3,782	4,164	382	10.1%	422	\$49,440	\$51,980

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/>

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Provided By

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

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