



| NSW Department of Education

# Structural Steel and Welding Trades Worker

Structural steel and welding trade workers cut, shape, join and repair metal components of iron and steel structures, boilers, pressure vessels and pipes, ships and other vessels.

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## Job title examples

- Metal Fabricator
- Pressure Welder
- Welder (First Class)

## What structural steel and welding trade workers do

- study blueprints, drawings and specifications to determine job requirements
- select, clean and prepare metal stock
- cut marked-out metal sections and shapes using hand tools, flame cutting torches and metal cutting machines
- shape and bend metal sections and pipes using hand and machine tools, and by heating and hammering
- align parts to be joined using hand tools and measuring instruments
- join metal sections using various welding techniques, bolting and riveting
- examine welds for width of bead, penetration and precision
- finish products by cleaning, polishing, filing and bathing in acidic solutions
- clean and smooth welds by filing, chiselling and grinding.

## Main employing industries

- Manufacturing
- Mining

## Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

**Certificate III in Steelfixing** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Apprenticeships and traineeships:** Find out how to get an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

**Course fees:** You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

## Job prospects and pay

- There are around 13,506 structural steel and welding trade workers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report shortages of sheetmetal trades workers in Sydney across a number of skill sets including airconditioning duct fabrication and installation, light metal welding, general sheet metal fabrication and customised work from samples.

### Average weekly full-time earnings (before tax):

- Structural steel and welding trade worker: \$1,200
- All occupations: \$1,200

## Related jobs

- Metal Casting, Forging and Finishing Trades Worker
- Sheetmetal Trades Worker



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides](https://education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides).

### Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, [joboutlook.gov.au](https://joboutlook.gov.au), based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014