

Occupational Profile



Sheet Metal Workers

WHAT THEY DO

Fabricates, assembles, installs and repairs sheet metal products and equipment, such as ducts, control boxes, drainpipes, and furnace casings. Work may involve any of the following: setting up and operating fabricating machines to cut, bend, and straighten sheet metal; shaping metal over anvils, blocks or forms using hammer; operating soldering and welding equipment to join sheet metal parts; inspecting, assembling, and smoothing seams and joints of burred surfaces. Belongs to the Architecture and Construction cluster and Construction pathway.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

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

- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.

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

- **Working Conditions**—It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your work tasks.
- **Support** – It's very important to you to know the company stands behind its workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Form Perception**
- **Manual Dexterity**

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Mathematics
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers): Medium level

- Assembling equipment and products
- Boring holes with cutting tools
- Cutting and slicing with tools
- Grinding or cutting with abrasives
- Making large fixed structures and objects
- Repairing large fixed structures and objects
- Using precision measuring instruments
- Using simple hand and power tools
- Using welding and soldering machines and equipment

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Coordination

Medium level

- Equipment Maintenance
- Equipment Selection
- Installation
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Time Management
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Construction & Extraction Occupations	75,710	93,145	17,435	2.3	2,980
Sheet Metal Workers	2,020	2,415	400	2.0	80

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Construction & Extraction Occupations	20.49	42,624	13.28	27,621	24.10	50,125
Sheet Metal Workers	24.20	50,333	15.38	31,995	28.61	59,502

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
High School Diploma	None	Apprenticeship

Sheet metal workers learn their trade through both formal apprenticeships and informal on-the-job training programs. To become a skilled sheet metal construction worker usually takes between four and five years of both classroom and on-the-job training. While there are a number of different ways to obtain this training, generally the more formalized the training received by an individual, the more thoroughly skilled they become, and the more likely they are to be in demand by employers. One way is to get a job with a contractor who will provide training on the job. Entry-level workers generally start as helpers, assisting more experienced workers. Some employers, particularly large nonresidential construction contractors with union membership, offer formal apprenticeships. These programs combine paid on-the-job training with related classroom instruction. Usually, apprenticeship applicants must be at least 18 years old and meet local requirements. Approved apprenticeship programs/sponsors in Iowa can be found at http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_apprenticeship/4722110.htm

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	4
Locating Information	4
Reading for Information	3

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Sheet Metal Workers Employed?)

Specialty Trade Contractors
Self Employed
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg
Machinery Mfg

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>