

# Sheet Metal Workers

SOC: 47-2211 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$60,850**

Median Salary

**127,000**

Employment

**+2.0%**

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 35.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■■ Work-Life Balance

**6.2/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	9.4/10	Investigative	5.8/10
Artistic	4.0/10	Social	5.0/10
Enterprising	5.0/10	Conventional	6.0/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Detail oriented, Dexterity, Math skills, Mechanical skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Sheet Metal Workers fabricate, assemble, and install **metal products such as ducts, roofing, siding, and structural components**. They measure, cut, shape, and join metal sheets to create functional and durable installations. Their work is critical in construction, manufacturing, and industrial settings.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy hands-on work, mechanical tasks, and precision craftsmanship.

## What Do Sheet Metal Workers Do?

These professionals create, install, and maintain metal structures and components according to specifications and safety standards.

Common responsibilities include:

- Measuring, cutting, and shaping metal sheets using tools and machinery
- Assembling and installing ducts, roofs, siding, and other metal products
- Reading and interpreting blueprints, sketches, and specifications
- Performing welding, soldering, and fastening operations
- Inspecting work for quality, accuracy, and compliance with safety standards
- Maintaining tools, equipment, and work areas
- Collaborating with other tradespeople, contractors, and supervisors

## Key Areas of Sheet Metal Work

Sheet metal workers may specialize in certain applications or tasks:

- HVAC Ductwork: Fabricating and installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Roofing and Siding: Installing metal roofing, siding, and architectural elements
- Structural Fabrication: Creating metal components for buildings and industrial projects
- Welding and Joining Techniques: Applying soldering, brazing, or welding to assemble metal
- Blueprint and Specification Interpretation: Ensuring installations meet design and safety requirements

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Sheet metal workers combine technical, mechanical, and physical skills.

### **Core Professional Skills**

### **Personal Qualities That Matter**

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires technical training and on-the-job experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, reading, and mechanical skills
- Apprenticeship or Vocational Training: Learning sheet metal techniques, welding, and blueprint reading
- On-the-Job Training: Gaining practical experience in fabrication and installation
- Certifications (optional): Welding, safety, or specialized metalwork credentials
- Continuous Learning: Staying current on materials, tools, and safety standards

## Where Do Sheet Metal Workers Work?

They are employed in organizations that fabricate, install, and maintain metal structures:

- Construction Companies
- HVAC and Mechanical Contractors
- Metal Fabrication and Manufacturing Firms
- Industrial Plants and Facilities

- Architectural and Specialty Design Projects

Work environments include construction sites, workshops, factories, and industrial facilities.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical skill, precision, and physical endurance. Workers must follow specifications, operate machinery safely, and adapt to diverse work environments.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on mechanical work and fabrication
- Are detail-oriented and precise
- Have physical stamina and manual dexterity
- Can interpret technical drawings and follow instructions
- Want a career in construction, manufacturing, or industrial metalwork

## How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in metalworking, welding, and technical drafting
- Gain experience through vocational programs, apprenticeships, or part-time work
- Develop skills in tool handling, measurement, and assembly
- Learn safety practices and compliance standards
- Explore certifications in welding, HVAC, or sheet metal techniques

**Sheet metal workers fabricate and install metal components, contributing to construction, manufacturing, and industrial projects through precision, skill, and craftsmanship.**

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*Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/sheet-metal-workers.htm>*