

Logging Workers

SOC: 45-4020 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$49,540

Median Salary

1,000

Employment

-2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 42.0% 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

5.7/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	9.0/10	Investigative	7.0/10
Artistic	3.8/10	Social	5.6/10
Enterprising	5.6/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Decision-making skills, Detail oriented, Physical stamina, Physical strength

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Logging Workers harvest, cut, and prepare **timber and other forest products for transport and processing**. They operate chainsaws, heavy machinery, and other equipment to safely fell, trim, and move trees. Their work is critical in forestry, lumber production, and natural resource management.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy outdoor work, physical labor, and working with machinery in forest environments.

What Do Logging Workers Do?

These professionals carry out logging operations, ensure safety, and prepare timber for transportation.

Common responsibilities include:

- Felling trees using chainsaws and mechanical equipment
- Trimming, cutting, and preparing logs for transport
- Operating heavy machinery, such as skidders, loaders, and harvesters
- Transporting logs to collection or processing sites
- Inspecting and maintaining equipment for safety and efficiency
- Following safety protocols to prevent accidents and injuries
- Working with supervisors and team members to coordinate logging activities

Key Areas of Logging Work

Logging workers may focus on specific equipment, techniques, or forest management practices:

- Tree Felling and Cutting: Safely cutting trees to minimize risk
- Log Preparation and Handling: Trimming, stacking, and loading logs
- Heavy Machinery Operation: Operating harvesters, skidders, and loaders
- Safety and Risk Management: Following protocols to prevent accidents
- Environmental and Forest Management: Ensuring sustainable practices and compliance with regulations

Skills and Abilities Needed

Logging workers combine physical strength, technical skills, and safety awareness.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires technical training and hands-on experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, reading, and safety skills
- On-the-Job Training: Learning chainsaw operation, machinery use, and logging techniques
- Apprenticeships or Forestry Programs: Gaining field experience in logging operations
- Safety Certification (optional): Training in chainsaw safety, first aid, or heavy machinery operation
- Continuing Education: Staying current on forestry regulations and sustainable practices

Where Do Logging Workers Work?

They are employed in organizations that harvest timber and manage forest resources:

- Forestry and Logging Companies
- Lumber and Timber Processing Facilities
- Government or Public Land Management
- Private Forest Operations

- Environmental and Conservation Programs

Work environments include forests, logging sites, and outdoor areas with rugged terrain.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires physical strength, technical skill, and attention to safety. Logging workers face hazardous conditions, heavy machinery, and physically demanding tasks.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy outdoor work and physical activity
- Have mechanical and technical skills
- Can prioritize safety and attention to detail
- Work well in teams and follow directions
- Want a career in forestry, timber harvesting, or natural resource management

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in forestry, environmental science, and mechanics
- Develop physical fitness and stamina
- Gain experience through internships or volunteer work in forestry operations
- Learn to operate tools and machinery safely
- Explore vocational programs or apprenticeships in logging and timber management

Logging workers harvest and prepare timber, ensuring safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible forest operations.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/farming-fishing-and-forestry/logging-workers.htm>