

Assemblers and Fabricators

SOC: 51-2011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$43,570

Median Salary

11,200

Employment

-1.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 38.0% 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

6.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.4/10	Investigative	5.0/10
Artistic	3.8/10	Social	4.6/10
Enterprising	4.0/10	Conventional	8.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Color vision, Dexterity, Mechanical skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength, Technical skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Assemblers and Fabricators are production workers who build, assemble, and fit together **components and finished products according to detailed instructions and quality standards**. They play a critical role in manufacturing by transforming raw parts into usable goods across industries such as automotive, electronics, aerospace, appliances, and medical devices. Their work ensures products are constructed accurately, safely, and consistently.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy hands-on work, following precise procedures, and contributing directly to the creation of physical products.

What Do Assemblers and Fabricators Do?

Assemblers and fabricators put together parts using tools, machinery, and manual techniques. Their responsibilities vary by product and industry but always emphasize accuracy, efficiency, and quality.

Common responsibilities include:

- Reading and following blueprints, diagrams, or work instructions
- Assembling parts using hand tools, power tools, or automated equipment
- Aligning and fitting components to precise specifications
- Inspecting finished products for defects or errors
- Operating assembly-line machinery or robotic systems
- Recording production data and quality checks
- Maintaining a clean and safe work area

Types of Assemblers and Fabricators

This occupation includes many specialized roles depending on the product being built:

- Electronics Assemblers: Assemble circuit boards, wiring, and electronic components.
- Mechanical Assemblers: Build engines, machines, or mechanical systems.
- Structural Metal Fabricators: Assemble metal frameworks and structures.
- Product Assemblers: Assemble consumer goods, appliances, or equipment.
- Precision Assemblers: Work on small or highly detailed components, often in clean environments.
- Team or Line Assemblers: Perform specific tasks as part of an assembly line.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Assemblers and fabricators combine manual skill with attention to detail.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Most assemblers and fabricators enter the field with minimal formal education and receive job-specific training:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Required for many positions
- On-the-Job Training: Learning tools, procedures, and quality standards
- Technical or Vocational Training (helpful): Manufacturing, machining, or industrial skills
- Safety Training: Instruction on workplace and equipment safety
- Advancement Opportunities: Skill-based promotions to lead assembler or supervisor roles

Where Do Assemblers and Fabricators Work?

Assemblers and fabricators are employed across many manufacturing environments:

- Manufacturing Plants and Factories

- Automotive and Aerospace Facilities
- Electronics and Technology Companies
- Medical Device and Equipment Manufacturers
- Appliance and Consumer Goods Plants
- Defense and Industrial Equipment Manufacturers

Work environments may include assembly lines, clean rooms, or fabrication shops.

How Much Do Assemblers and Fabricators Earn?

Earnings depend on experience, industry, and specialization:

- Entry-Level Assemblers: Typically earn hourly wages with opportunities for overtime
- Skilled or Specialized Assemblers: Often earn higher pay due to technical complexity
- Lead Assemblers or Supervisors: May earn more with added responsibility

Compensation varies by region, shift, and employer.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career can be physically demanding and repetitive. Workers must maintain focus and precision over long periods while meeting production targets. The challenge lies in sustaining accuracy, following safety standards, and adapting to production changes.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Assembler or Fabricator?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on, practical work
- Like building or assembling physical products
- Can follow detailed instructions consistently
- Prefer structured, task-focused environments
- Want entry-level access to manufacturing careers

How to Prepare Early

- Take shop, technology, or vocational courses
- Practice using basic hand tools safely
- Develop attention to detail and patience
- Learn basic measurements and blueprint reading
- Explore manufacturing or production internships

Assemblers and fabricators turn individual parts into finished products, forming the backbone of modern manufacturing and industrial production.