

# Woodworkers

SOC: 51-7011 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$43,720**

Median Salary

**3,400**

Employment

**-2.0%**

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

**4.9/10** - Fair 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

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

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Woodworkers construct, repair, and finish **wooden products, furniture, cabinets, and structures**. They measure, cut, assemble, and finish wood materials using hand tools, machinery, and computer-aided equipment. Their work is critical in manufacturing, construction, and custom woodworking.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy craftsmanship, attention to detail, and working with their hands.

## What Do Woodworkers Do?

These professionals create wooden products, ensure quality craftsmanship, and maintain tools and equipment.

Common responsibilities include:

- Measuring, cutting, and shaping wood according to specifications
- Assembling components and constructing finished products
- Sanding, staining, and finishing wood surfaces
- Reading blueprints, drawings, or technical specifications
- Operating hand tools, power tools, and woodworking machinery
- Inspecting materials and completed work for quality and accuracy
- Maintaining workshop safety and equipment upkeep

## Key Areas of Woodworking

Woodworkers may focus on specific types of products, techniques, or production methods:

- Furniture and Cabinet Making: Constructing custom or mass-produced pieces
- Joinery and Assembly: Creating durable connections and structural elements
- Finishing and Detailing: Applying stains, paints, or protective coatings
- Blueprint and Specification Interpretation: Understanding design plans and technical drawings
- Tool and Machinery Operation: Using saws, drills, sanders, and CNC equipment

## Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine technical, manual, and artistic skills.

### **Core Professional Skills**

### **Personal Qualities That Matter**

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal or vocational training and hands-on experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, technical, and woodworking skills
- Vocational or Technical Training: Woodworking, carpentry, or cabinetry programs
- Apprenticeships or On-the-Job Training: Practical experience in woodcraft and manufacturing
- Certification (optional): Credentials in woodworking, furniture making, or CNC operation
- Continuing Education: Learning new techniques, tools, and safety standards

## Where Do Woodworkers Work?

They are employed in organizations producing, repairing, or customizing wood products:

- Furniture Manufacturing and Cabinet Shops
- Construction and Building Firms
- Custom Woodworking and Craft Studios
- Shipbuilding or Specialty Wood Industries

- Self-Employed or Independent Workshops

Work environments include workshops, factories, construction sites, and studios.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires manual skill, precision, and attention to safety. Woodworkers must handle tools and materials carefully while producing high-quality, durable products.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on work and craftsmanship
- Are detail-oriented and patient
- Have problem-solving skills and creativity
- Can operate tools and machinery safely
- Want a career producing functional and artistic wood products

## How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in woodworking, carpentry, or industrial arts
- Practice hands-on projects and develop craftsmanship
- Participate in vocational or technical programs
- Learn to read blueprints, plans, and technical drawings
- Gain experience with tools, machinery, and finishing techniques

**Woodworkers craft and assemble wooden products with precision and skill, supporting construction, manufacturing, and custom design industries.**

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/woodworkers.htm>