

Woodworkers

SOC: 51-7011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$43,720 Median Salary	3,400 Employment	-2.0% Growth Rate
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■ 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.

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

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