

Industrial Designers

SOC: 27-1021 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$79,450

Median Salary

30,600

Employment

+3.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Artistic ability, Computer skills, Creativity, Interpersonal skills, Mechanical skills, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Industrial Designers develop and create **concepts and designs for manufactured products**. They combine art, engineering, and user experience principles to produce functional, attractive, and marketable products. Their work is critical in manufacturing, consumer goods, transportation, and technology industries.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy creativity, problem-solving, and combining aesthetics with practical design.

What Do Industrial Designers Do?

These professionals conceptualize, develop, and refine product designs from initial ideas to finished products.

Common responsibilities include:

- Researching market trends, user needs, and competitor products
- Developing sketches, models, and prototypes
- Collaborating with engineers, marketers, and manufacturers
- Selecting materials, finishes, and production methods
- Testing product designs for functionality, usability, and safety
- Preparing technical drawings, specifications, and presentation materials
- Updating designs based on feedback and production constraints

Key Areas of Industrial Design

Designers may specialize in product types, materials, or user experiences:

- Consumer Products: Designing everyday items like electronics, appliances, and furniture
- Transportation Design: Creating vehicles, bicycles, or other transport solutions
- Medical and Safety Products: Designing devices that meet health and safety standards
- Packaging and Branding: Developing packaging that is functional and visually appealing
- Prototyping and 3D Modeling: Using digital and physical models to refine designs

Skills and Abilities Needed

Industrial designers combine artistic, technical, and problem-solving skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical training:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Industrial design, product design, or related field
- Internships or Co-op Programs: Gaining hands-on experience in product development
- Portfolio Development: Showcasing design concepts, prototypes, and completed projects
- Professional Development: Learning new design software, materials, and manufacturing techniques
- Continuous Learning: Staying current with industry trends, technologies, and consumer preferences

Where Do Industrial Designers Work?

They are employed in organizations that design, produce, and market products:

- Manufacturing and Product Companies
- Design and Innovation Firms
- Automotive, Technology, and Consumer Electronics Companies
- Medical Device and Safety Equipment Manufacturers

- Freelance or Consulting Design Services

Work environments include design studios, offices, manufacturing facilities, and prototyping labs.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires creativity, technical knowledge, and collaboration. Industrial designers must balance aesthetics, functionality, production feasibility, and user needs.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy creative problem-solving and design
- Are detail-oriented and user-focused
- Can collaborate with engineers, marketers, and manufacturers
- Have an interest in producing functional and aesthetically appealing products
- Want a career shaping the development of consumer, industrial, or technological products

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in art, design, engineering, and computer-aided design (CAD)
- Participate in internships, workshops, or design competitions
- Build a strong portfolio showcasing creativity, technical skills, and problem-solving
- Learn about materials, manufacturing processes, and user-centered design
- Stay informed on industry trends, emerging technologies, and market demands

Industrial designers combine creativity, engineering, and user-focused thinking to develop products that are functional, attractive, and innovative, shaping the way people interact with the physical world.

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

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-design/industrial-designers.htm>