Structural steel and welding trade workers cut, shape, join and repair metal components of iron and steel structures, boilers, pressure vessels and pipes, ships and other vessels.

**Job title examples**
- Metal Fabricator
- Pressure Welder
- Welder (First Class)

**What structural steel and welding trade workers do**
- study blueprints, drawings and specifications to determine job requirements
- select, clean and prepare metal stock
- cut marked-out metal sections and shapes using hand tools, flame cutting torches and metal cutting machines
- shape and bend metal sections and pipes using hand and machine tools, and by heating and hammering
- align parts to be joined using hand tools and measuring instruments
- join metal sections using various welding techniques, bolting and riveting
- examine welds for width of bead, penetration and precision
- finish products by cleaning, polishing, filing and bathing in acidic solutions
- clean and smooth welds by filing, chiselling and grinding

**Main employing industries**
- Manufacturing
- Mining
Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Steelfixing available as a traineeship or qualification

Apprenticeships and traineeships: Find out how to get an apprenticeship or traineeship

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the Course Finder to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider

Job prospects and pay

- There are around 13,506 structural steel and welding trade workers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report shortages of sheetmetal trades workers in Sydney across a number of skill sets including airconditioning duct fabrication and installation, light metal welding, general sheetmetal fabrication and customised work from samples.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):
- Structural steel and welding trade worker: $1,200
- All occupations: $1,200

Related jobs

- Metal Casting, Forging and Finishing Trades Worker
- Sheetmetal Trades Worker

To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit the Job Guides Homepage.

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0
Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16
Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23