

Timber and wood process workers

Average salary: \$49,400+

Career trend: some decline

Job description

Trees provide us with many things we can't live without including building materials, fuel, fences, furniture and books. Timber and wood process workers assist in the milling, processing and merchandising of timber products. You'll enjoy transforming felled trees into essential Timber and paper resources for many different industries.

What timber & wood process workers do

Timber and wood process workers work with trees and raw wood to create products such as treated timber, flooring and decking. They set up and operate all types of woodworking machines including saws, milling machines, lathes, sanders, planers, chippers, and kilns. Workers can work with simple hand tools, powered tools through to highly technical tools such as CNC-machines, Nesting Routers, Laser Cutting machines and highly complex automated Frame and Truss machinery. They also use forklifts, conveyor belts and cranes to move large logs or timber packs around their workplace. Some Timber and wood process workers strip raw logs of their bark and cut them to the required size and shape using mechanical saws. They then season the cut timber to keep the wood from shrinking or warping, and grade finished timber before sorting, labelling, packing, and shipping it.

Timber is also imported from overseas and workers unpack and pack containers, move timber through warehousing and distribution requirements.

The timber is ready to be sent to retailers including timber yards, hardware and direct to some construction projects.

Specialisation includes: kiln operator, production operator, timber truss and frame fabricator, and paper and pulp mill worker.

You'll like this job if...

You're good with your hands. You're a team player. You're organised. You're physically fit. You can lift heavy items. You're a good communicator. You work quickly and methodically. You can concentrate for long periods while doing repetitive tasks. You value accuracy. You have good eye-hand coordination. You're careful and patient. You're safety-conscious.

Will I get a job?

- Some decline in this occupation is predicted, with 1,500 less jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 4,800. Question this statistic when timber importation, timber warehousing and Frame and Truss are added.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Timber and wood process worker
- Paper and pulp mill worker
- Sawmill or timber yard worker
- Wood and wood products factory worker
- Timber Truss and Frame Designer
- Timber Truss and Frame Driver
- Timber forklift driver
- Timber Logistics

A day in the life...

Work as a timber and wood process worker may involve these tasks:

- operate sawmill machinery, log loaders and forklifts
- roll logs from trucks and conveyors to log decks, saw carriages and stacking bays
- place logs and wood billets onto conveyors and lathes for processing
- trim timber pieces to standard lengths or to order
- assist with the production of veneers, plywoods, laminates, and paper products, often using computerised equipment
- assemble fabricated products such as timber frames and trusses
- undertake specialist operations such as kiln drying and mechanical stress grading
- Undertake specialist operation such as shaping the timber into formatted template for bespoke work including ballustrades etc.
- sort, stack and grade timber
- check and maintain equipment
- package and wrap timber for delivery
- clean work areas, tools and equipment
- undertake administrative tasks such as record keeping, tallying and ordering.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

Certificate II in Sawmilling and Processing (FWP20316)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 86.2%*

Certificate II in Timber Manufactured Products (FWP20516)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 86.2%*

Certificate II in Timber Merchandising (FWP20616)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 74.9%*

Certificate III in Wood Machining (FWP30816)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate III in Wood Machining (MSF30313)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship

Certificate III in Timber Manufactured Products (FWP30516)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate III in Timber Merchandising (FWP30616)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 81.9%*

Certificate III in Timber Truss and Frame Design and Manufacture (FWP30916)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Main employing industries

- Warehousing
- Retail
- Timber Supply
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale trade
- Rental, hiring and real estate services

Other jobs you may like...

- Forestry and logging worker
- Carpenter and joiner
- Boat builder and shipwright
- Paper and wood processing machine operator
- Cabinetmaker

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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