

**Architecture  
&  
Construction  
Cluster**



*Careers in  
designing,  
planning,  
managing,  
building and  
maintaining the  
built  
environment.*

**Data Sources**  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
CareerInfoNet  
CareerClusters  
The College Board  
Tracer

# Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet metal workers have the best of both worlds. They are craftworkers who work in the shops, doing the fine work of laying out, measuring, and cutting sheets of metal. And then they often join construction teams, putting the metal pieces together to make heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems in new buildings.

If you are interested in both designing and installing your work, a career as a **sheet metal worker** may be for you.

**Sheet metal workers cut and shape sheet metal for heating, air-conditioning, and ventilation systems, as well as outdoor signs, gutters, spouts, and other products using sheet metal. They also install and maintain sheet metal constructions.**

## **Are You Ready To...?**

- See a project through from start to finish
- Make exact measurements
- Handle sharp tools and materials
- Lift heavy equipment and materials

- Use computers
- Work in a noisy environment
- Stand for long periods of time

## **It Helps To Be...**

Strong, good with your hands, focused, and careful. This is a job where measurements must be exact, so it's important to pay attention to details.

## **A Day In The Life...**

- Convert blueprints into shop drawings to be followed in the construction or assembly of sheet metal products.
- Determine project requirements, such as scope, assembly sequences, or required methods or materials, using blueprints, drawings, or written or verbal instructions.
- Trim, file, grind, deburr, buff, or smooth surfaces, seams, or joints of assembled parts, using hand tools or portable power tools.

## **Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area**

**Median Hourly Wage: \$23.99**

*That comes out to more than  
\$49,895 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
841 Sheet Metal Workers.  
By 2026, we'll need 1,002.**

*Could you be one of the 161?*

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# Sheet Metal Workers

## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for sheet metal workers who have participated in a **formal apprenticeship program**. Additionally, many sheet metal workers **learn informally on the job**.



## Top 5 Industries for Sheet Metal Workers

1. Building Equipment Contractors
2. Architectural and Structural Metals Manufacturing
3. Foundation, Structure and Building Exterior Contractors
4. Nonresidential Building Construction
5. Federal Government, Except Education

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

[http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/  
CareerPlanning.aspx](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx).

## Postsecondary Education/ Training

- Apprenticeship program
- On-the-job training

## **Related Industry Certifications**

- NCCER Sheet Metal—Level 1
- NCCER Sheet Metal—Level 2
- NCCER Sheet Metal—Level 3
- NCCER Sheet Metal—Level 4

## Related Careers

- Carpenters
- Construction Managers
- Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Technicians
- Ironworkers
- Welders

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