



Explore a Career as a **WELDER**

What do Welders do?

Welding is a method of permanently joining two or more metal parts. It involves applying heat to metal pieces which melts and fuses them, creating a strong bond upon cooling. Welders use many different welding methods for specific purposes including maintenance and repair. Given the importance of welding as an industrial process, it is not surprising that welders are employed across a broad range of industries including construction, car racing, oil and gas, mining and manufacturing. Welding is used to join steel beams in the construction of buildings, bridges and other structures and to join pipes in pipelines, power plants and refineries. Arc welding, the most common type of welding today, uses electrical currents to create heat and bond metals together, but there are more than 100 different processes that a welder can use. Welders commonly also cut, solder and braze.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a welder, but first you will have to complete specific training and earn a certificate or associate degree. By completing courses in blueprint reading, shop mathematics, mechanic drawing, physics, chemistry and metallurgy, you will learn the skills necessary to get a job as a welder.

As a Welder you will:

- Inspect welds to verify quality and specifications
- Read and interpret blueprints
- Set up and maintain specialized tools and equipment
- Use welding knowledge base to choose appropriate tools and materials
- Weld components in flat, horizontal, vertical or overhead positions
- Work around equipment and materials
- Work on assembly lines performing welding tasks

Welders are in demand in Livingston County!

Livingston County employment of welders is expected to increase through 2032! Explore your options for a career in welding today.

Welder

Training Providers

The following certified training providers offer programs and certifications to train for a career as a welder:

- Heartland Community College
- Illinois Central College
- Illinois Valley Community College
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Midwest Technical Institute

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire welders in Livingston County, including:

- Commercial machine repair companies
- Construction and building companies
- Manufacturers
- Railroad companies
- Ship and boat builders
- Utility and energy companies

Wages & Openings

Welder Employment Data for Livingston County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$18.28
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$26.88
Average Annual Job Openings Livingston County	24
Annual Job Openings Bloomington Peoria Region	105



Opportunities

After you receive your certificate or degree as a welder, you will have many opportunities for additional certification and specialization including:

- Certified Robotic Arc Welder
- Certified Welding Educator
- Certified Welding Engineer
- Certified Welding Inspector



Livingston Workforce Services
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