

# Occupational Profile: Sheet Metal Workers

## GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Fabricate, assemble, install, and repair sheet metal products and equipment, such as ducts, control boxes, drainpipes, and furnace casings. Work may involve any of the following: setting up and operating fabricating machines to cut, bend, and straighten sheet metal; shaping metal over anvils, blocks, or forms using hammer; operating soldering and welding equipment to join sheet metal parts; inspecting, assembling, and smoothing seams and joints of burred surfaces. Include sheet metal duct installers who install prefabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes.

Source: O\*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

## REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table to right, over 62% of interviewed employers reportedly required a high school diploma or less for this occupation. No employers reportedly required a 4-year degree or more.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	62.2%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	37.8%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## WAGES

Sheet Metal Worker is generally considered a medium to high-wage occupation, with excellent possibility for wage advancement with experience. Employers in the Greater Phoenix region and the State of Arizona as a whole generally pay less for this occupation. This is especially true at the upper end of the salary distribution (experienced) as compared with the overall United States.

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$9.98	\$12.90	\$17.50	\$24.35	\$31.23
	Yearly	\$20,800	\$26,800	\$36,400	\$50,600	\$65,000
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	\$10.83	\$11.86	\$13.62	\$17.59	\$21.47
	Yearly	\$22,537	\$24,681	\$28,343	\$36,605	\$44,679
Arizona	Hourly	\$9.67	\$12.22	\$15.68	\$19.26	\$22.11
	Yearly	\$20,100	\$25,400	\$32,600	\$40,100	\$46,000

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison of wages for this occupation by reveals Arizona ranks 38th in terms of median wages.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	Hawaii	\$28.88	\$60,100
2	Illinois	\$28.31	\$58,900
3	Alaska	\$27.72	\$57,700
4	Nevada	\$26.28	\$54,700
5	New Jersey	\$26.12	\$54,300
38	ARIZONA	\$15.68	\$32,600

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table below provides a comparison of wages by industry for the Greater Phoenix region (2005). As shown, only the “Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing” industry sub-sector hires sheet metal workers in appreciable numbers.

Wages by Industry: Greater Phoenix (2005)	Rounded Employment	Mean Wage	10th Percentile Wage	25th Percentile Wage	Median Wage	75th Percentile Wage	90th Percentile Wage
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	130	\$14.94	\$10.83	\$11.86	\$13.62	\$17.59	\$21.47
All others n/a							

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 34% growth over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There is an average projected 116 job openings each year, comprised of 68 new jobs and 48 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2004	2014				
<b>United States</b>						
Sheet metal workers	198,100	222,200	12%	7,160	n/a	n/a
<b>Arizona</b>						
Sheet metal workers	4,420	6,390	45%	300	n/a	n/a
<b>Greater Phoenix</b>						
Sheet metal workers	1,993	2,674	34%	116	68	48

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*N/A is displayed in cases where data is not available or cannot be published because of federal data privacy standards.

An additional source of information regarding this occupation can be provided by analysis of employer survey data collected for the Maricopa County Community Colleges by the ERISS Corporation in 2004. As shown, the ERISS survey data shows a projected 1-year growth rate of 11%, which is much higher than the average of 3.4% per year reflected by the BLS data above.

Additionally, the ERISS data provides an indicator of yearly turnover for this occupation, which is reported to be very high at 27%.

ERISS Occupational Survey Data (2004)			
Phoenix MSA	Growth	Turnover	Demand
Sheet Metal Workers	11.0%	27.0%	37.0%

Source: 2003 ERISS occupational survey

### Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Sheet Metal Worker

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison reveals Arizona ranks 1st in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation (45%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent Change
		2004	2014	
1	ARIZONA	4,420	6,390	45%
2	Colorado	3,650	5,230	43%
2	Wyoming	300	430	43%
3	Nevada	1,790	2,520	40%
4	Idaho	620	860	39%
5	Utah	2,370	3,110	31%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Sheet Metal Worker, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, "Plumbing, heating, and air conditioning contractors" account for the most employment (41.4%).

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
41.4%	Plumbing, heating, and air conditioning contractors
9.4%	Architectural and structural metals manufacturing
7.8%	Finish carpentry contractors and all other building finishing contractors
4.8%	Roofing contractors
4.7%	Self-employed workers, primary job
3.2%	Federal Government, excluding Postal Service
2.9%	Framing contractors and all other foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors
2.6%	Electrical contractors
2.6%	Ventilation, heating, air-conditioning, and commercial refrigeration equipment
2.3%	Aerospace products and parts manufacturing

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 25 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 98)

