



South Dakota  
High Demand  
&  
High Wage  
Career



**Career Cluster:**  
**Architecture & Construction**

# Structural Iron and Steel Workers

*Standard Occupational Code 47-2221*

## What They Do

Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings.

## Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Realistic** (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

**Conventional** (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

**Support** — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Relationships** — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

**Working Conditions** — Offer job security and good working conditions.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Multi-limb Coordination
- Static Strength
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Manual Dexterity
- Near Vision
- Visualization

## Basic Skills You Need

- Coordination
- Operation and Control
- Operations Monitoring
- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Complex Problem Solving

## Education & Training

The minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent is recommended for structural iron and steel workers, followed by learning the trade on the job.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com) or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Applied Math        | 3 |
| Workplace Documents | 3 |
| Graphic Literacy    | 3 |

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of structural iron and steel workers are:

- Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors
- Self Employment

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

| 2022<br>Employment | 2032<br>Employment | Numeric<br>Change | Percent<br>Change | Average<br>Annual<br>Openings | Annual<br>Median<br>Wage | Annual<br>Average<br>Wage |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 891                | 993                | 102               | 11.5%             | 90                            | \$49,070                 | \$52,210                  |

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers) to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

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July  
2024