

**Welders and Cutters**  
**OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 93914**

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
490	590	390	440
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
100	20.4	50	12.8
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
No	1:1.5	No	1:2
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$10.41	\$10.09	\$8.48	\$7.82

**Job Description:**

Welding is used in shipbuilding, automobile manufacturing and repair, aerospace applications, and thousands of other manufactured products. Welding is also used to join beams when constructing buildings, bridges, and other structures, and to join pipes in pipelines, power plants, and refineries. Welders and welding machine operators use many types of welding equipment in a variety of positions, such as flat, vertical, horizontal, and overhead. They may perform manual welding, in which the work is entirely controlled by the welder, or semi-automatic welding, in which the welder uses machinery, such as a wire feeder, to help perform welding tasks.

**Average Education Required**

These occupations usually require a high school diploma and may require some vocational training or job-related course work.

**Related Occupations**

Welders and cutters are skilled metal workers. Other metal workers include blacksmiths, forge shop workers, [machinists](#), [machine-tool operators](#), [tool and die makers](#), [millwrights](#), [sheet-metal workers](#), [boilermakers](#), and metal sculptors.

**Skills Required**

- Product Inspection -- Inspecting and evaluating the quality of products
- Equipment Maintenance -- Performing routine maintenance and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed
- Operation and Control -- Controlling operations of equipment or systems
- Equipment Selection -- Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job
- Operation Monitoring -- Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly

Installation -- Installing equipment, machines, wiring, or programs to meet specifications

Industrial Employment Pattern		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
3440	Fabricated Structural Metal Products	12.6%
3530	Construction & Related Machinery	9.8%
1620	Heavy Construction, except Highway	7.9%
1790	Miscellaneous Special Trade Contractors	5.9%
7690	Misc. Repair Shops	5.5%
3730	Ship & Boat Building & Repairing	4.8%
3740	Railroad Equipment	4.7%
1380	Oil & Gas Field Services	4.5%
8820	Self-employed & Unpaid Family Workers	4.2%
3710	Motor Vehicles & Equipment	3.5%