



OCTOBER 2026

2026 Welder Pay Guide

What US employers are offering welders, broken down by state, city, specialty, and career stage. Based on a sample of ~8,000 welding job postings that listed pay, April–October 2026.

\$26.50/hr

NATIONAL MEDIAN OFFER

\$55,100

ANNUALIZED, FULL-TIME

~8,000

POSTINGS ANALYZED

KEY FINDINGS

What welding jobs pay in 2026

Half of the welding jobs posted in the US between April and October 2026 offered more than \$26.50 an hour, and half offered less. The middle half of offers ran from \$22.50 to \$31.50.

NATIONAL MEDIAN ADVERTISED WAGE

\$26.50/hr

About \$55,100 a year at 40 hours a week, before overtime. For comparison, the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the median for all employed welders at \$25.84 an hour (May 2025).

Highest-paying specialties

Combo Welder	\$38.00/hr
Journeyman Welder	\$37.50/hr
Oil & Gas Welder	\$36.87/hr
Pipefitter / Welder	\$34.00/hr
Lead Welder	\$34.00/hr

- 1 Pipe work pays the most.** Combination welders (\$38.00), pipefitters (\$34.00) and pipe welders (\$33.00) all have median offers well above the national figure. Pipe welders were also among the most frequently posted roles, with 1,140 postings listing pay.
- 2 Pay climbs steeply with experience.** Journeyman postings offered \$17.50 an hour more than helper postings. Welder helper postings had a median of \$20.00, entry-level welder postings \$24.04, lead welders \$34.00, and journeyman welders \$37.50.
- 3 Process matters.** Stick (\$28.00) and flux-core (\$27.00) postings, common in structural and field work, paid more than MIG postings (\$24.50), which are concentrated in production manufacturing.
- 4 Washington leads the states.** Washington (\$32.50), Mississippi (\$31.50), New Jersey (\$30.10), California (\$30.00) had the highest median offers among the 37 states with enough data. Georgia (\$22.75), Arkansas (\$22.50), Michigan (\$22.24) had the lowest.
- 5 The spread is wide everywhere.** One in ten postings offered \$37.56 an hour or more, while one in ten offered \$20.00 or less. The state and city ranges later in this guide show a similar spread within each market.

PAY BY SPECIALTY

Median advertised wage by specialty

Specialties are matched on job title and the welding processes, materials, and certifications listed in the posting. A posting can fall into more than one category; for example, a "TIG Pipe Welder" counts toward both TIG and pipe welding.

 Middle 50% of offers
  Median

SPECIALTY	MEDIAN /HR	ANNUALIZED	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45	POSTINGS
BY PROCESS AND MATERIAL										
TIG Welder	\$27.00	\$56,200								2,409
MIG Welder	\$24.50	\$51,000								2,956
Stick Welder	\$28.00	\$58,200								935
Flux-Core Welder	\$27.00	\$56,200								762
Aluminum Welder	\$25.00	\$52,000								342
Stainless Steel Welder	\$27.50	\$57,200								91
Robotic Welder	\$22.50	\$46,800								158
BY ROLE										
Pipe Welder	\$33.00	\$68,600								1,140
Combo Welder	\$38.00	\$79,000								106
Pipefitter / Welder	\$34.00	\$70,700								411
Structural Welder	\$28.00	\$58,200								459
Welder / Fabricator	\$25.98	\$54,000								1,824
Travel Welder	\$32.00	\$66,600								79
BY INDUSTRY										
Aerospace Welder	\$29.28	\$60,900								40
Shipyard Welder	\$31.50	\$65,500								154
Oil & Gas Welder	\$36.87	\$76,700								64
Construction Welder	\$30.50	\$63,400								73
Manufacturing Welder	\$24.00	\$49,900								194
BY CAREER STAGE										
Welder Helper	\$20.00	\$41,600								84
Entry-Level Welder	\$24.04	\$50,000								192
Journeyman Welder	\$37.50	\$78,000								105
Lead Welder	\$34.00	\$70,700								145

Only specialties with at least 40 postings that listed pay are shown. Annualized figures assume 2,080 hours (40 hours × 52 weeks) and exclude overtime, per diem, and bonuses.

PAY BY STATE

Median advertised wage by state

Middle 50% of offers
 Median

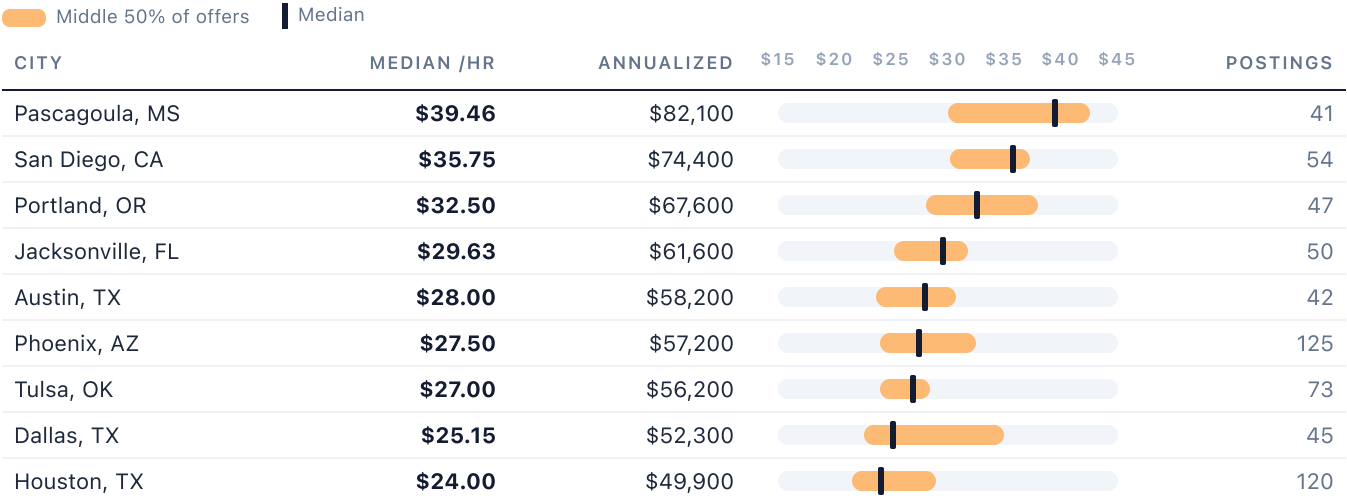
	STATE	MEDIAN /HR	ANNUALIZED	MIDDLE 50%	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45	POSTINGS
1	Washington	\$32.50	\$67,600	\$27.50–\$37.50								252
2	Mississippi	\$31.50	\$65,500	\$24.00–\$39.46								95
3	New Jersey	\$30.10	\$62,600	\$25.00–\$37.03								103
4	California	\$30.00	\$62,400	\$24.50–\$36.00								626
5	Oregon	\$28.62	\$59,500	\$25.00–\$33.00								164
6	Virginia	\$28.50	\$59,300	\$24.47–\$34.28								274
7	Maryland	\$28.43	\$59,100	\$25.50–\$32.34								138
8	Louisiana	\$28.36	\$59,000	\$25.00–\$34.75								117
9	Connecticut	\$28.00	\$58,200	\$24.00–\$33.00								73
10	Indiana	\$28.00	\$58,200	\$23.00–\$31.49								182
11	Massachusetts	\$27.64	\$57,500	\$24.95–\$35.75								87
12	Arizona	\$27.50	\$57,200	\$23.25–\$32.00								255
13	New York	\$27.50	\$57,200	\$24.04–\$32.00								234
14	Minnesota	\$27.00	\$56,200	\$25.00–\$30.00								303
15	Colorado	\$26.50	\$55,100	\$23.50–\$32.50								188
16	Iowa	\$26.50	\$55,100	\$22.50–\$30.00								84
17	Oklahoma	\$26.44	\$55,000	\$22.00–\$30.00								206
18	Idaho	\$26.00	\$54,100	\$22.00–\$34.25								72
19	Illinois	\$26.00	\$54,100	\$23.00–\$30.00								303
20	Utah	\$26.00	\$54,100	\$21.75–\$29.63								78
21	Kansas	\$25.75	\$53,600	\$22.00–\$31.61								114
22	Missouri	\$25.75	\$53,600	\$22.38–\$30.00								191
23	Pennsylvania	\$25.50	\$53,000	\$23.00–\$30.00								283
24	South Carolina	\$25.50	\$53,000	\$22.50–\$32.33								147
25	Wisconsin	\$25.50	\$53,000	\$22.88–\$28.49								326
26	South Dakota	\$25.45	\$52,900	\$23.00–\$27.73								68
27	Florida	\$25.24	\$52,500	\$22.00–\$30.00								367
28	Kentucky	\$25.14	\$52,300	\$22.45–\$30.00								96
29	Alabama	\$25.00	\$52,000	\$20.00–\$29.00								181
30	Ohio	\$25.00	\$52,000	\$21.00–\$28.23								320
31	Texas	\$25.00	\$52,000	\$21.57–\$31.16								794
32	Nebraska	\$24.47	\$50,900	\$22.52–\$28.22								60
33	North Carolina	\$24.27	\$50,500	\$21.34–\$28.75								138
34	Tennessee	\$22.90	\$47,600	\$20.42–\$27.00								152
35	Georgia	\$22.75	\$47,300	\$20.00–\$28.50								221
36	Arkansas	\$22.50	\$46,800	\$20.00–\$28.06								67
37	Michigan	\$22.24	\$46,300	\$20.00–\$26.00								222

States with fewer than 40 postings listing pay are not ranked: Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming. Medians for states with fewer than 100 postings are more sensitive to a few listings and should be read as directional.

PAY BY CITY

Cities with the most postings listing pay

City-level samples are smaller than state samples, so treat these as a guide to local offers rather than a precise ranking. Only cities with at least 40 postings listing pay are shown.



BENCHMARK

How job postings compare with government data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys employers about what their current welders earn. This guide looks at what employers are offering new hires. The two line up closely, which suggests advertised pay is a reasonable guide to the market.

SOURCE	10TH PCT.	25TH PCT.	MEDIAN	75TH PCT.	90TH PCT.
Welding Pros job postings, April–October 2026	\$20.00	\$22.50	\$26.50	\$31.50	\$37.56
BLS, employed welders, May 2025	\$18.87	\$22.50	\$25.84	\$30.29	\$37.28

BLS figures are for Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (SOC 51-4121), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2025, covering about 416,210 jobs.

METHODOLOGY

How this guide was built

Welding Pros is a job board for the welding trade. Every day it collects welding job postings from major job sites and directly from employer and staffing-agency career pages. This guide uses every posting first seen between April 1 and October 15, 2026 that listed a wage. That includes postings that have since closed.

What counts as a welding job

The job title has to name a welding, fitting, or fabrication role (welder, fabricator, pipefitter, boilermaker, ironworker, brazer, and so on). Welding engineers, inspectors, instructors, and sales roles are left out because they are paid on a different scale.

How pay is calculated

Where a posting gives a range, the midpoint is used. Annual salaries are converted to hourly at 2,080 hours a year. Overtime, per diem, sign-on bonuses, and benefits are not included, so total earnings for many welders, especially travelers and pipeline crews, will be higher than these figures.

Salaries estimated by a job site rather than stated by the employer, implausible wages, and duplicate postings that appeared on several sites are removed.

What this guide is not

These are advertised wages for open positions, not a survey of what working welders earn, and postings that do not list pay are not represented. Union scale is included only where a posting stated it.

Where the postings came from

Indeed
LinkedIn
Adzuna
Jooble
Craigslist
USAJOBS (federal jobs)
Employer and staffing-agency career sites
Jobs posted directly on Welding Pros

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Source: Welding Pros 2026 Welder Pay Guide
<https://www.weldingpros.co/welding-salary>