Can Women be Welders?

**YES!**

*Idaho Employment*
- 1,703 jobs — Very Large occupation
- 18% — annual growth
- 79 — very high annual openings

Nationally, women make up 5.9% of the labor force.
*Source: US Dept. of Labor (2006)*

**Idaho Wages**
- Hourly wage: $9.82 to $22.00
- Median wage: $14.60

**Physical Demands**

Regardless of Gender a Welders need to:
- Be sure that all details are done and their work is exact. Errors could endanger workers' safety.
- Repeat the same physical activities.
- Allow work pace to be determined by the speed of equipment.
- Usually make decisions and set daily tasks and goals with input from a supervisor first.
- Must meet strict weekly and daily deadlines.

**Job Outlook**

The outlook for welders varies by industry. Many manufacturing jobs are moving overseas, so employment in that field is expected to decline. In contrast, construction is expected to grow.

The increasing use of robots to do tasks will have the most impact on low-skilled manual welders. Welders who work on construction projects or in equipment repair are less likely to be affected. This is because their jobs are not as easily automated.

Job prospects should be excellent for welders with the right skills. Many employers report difficulty finding qualified applicants. In addition, other openings will arise as workers retire or leave the occupation for other reasons.

**College of Southern Idaho**
**Center for New Directions**
**Non Traditional Occupations Program.**
To contact call 732-6688

Information about the CSI Welding Program
Call John Peterson—732-6372

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