

Transcript: [Show 15 December 19, 2011](#)

Up next of ATE TV: A look under the hood at the career of a welding technician. Take a look around and you'll see that most of the physical world involves welding. It's not just auto manufacturing and ship building. Welding is a highly technical field that involves lasers, robotics and computer programming skills.

Welding is virtually in every industry imaginable. 92% of the manufactured goods have a welded component to them: The automotive industry, ship building, construction industry, buildings, bridges, roads. Looking at projected employment through 2019 we actually show that there's a need for 238,000 people in the welding industry. Welders, inspectors, technicians, engineers.

That's showing the cycles per second that the weight form is putting out.

Cool

Starting out as a welder doesn't mean you always have to be a welder. There are a lot of career advancement opportunities that would allow you to get into more of a management role, or maybe you aspire to own your own company. There's a lot of small companies that have a welding focus, whether it's a distributor, or they're in welding sales, so there are opportunities to have more of a typical 9 to 5 kind of a job but then there are a lot of opportunities to be on location. A lot of welders work project by project, they may work 60 hours a week for a couple of months and then they're off where they're back home with their families until the next project ramps up and then they're offsite again so there's so many opportunities for whatever type of lifestyle it is that you're looking for and it is changing just like many other technologies, it's not the welding of yesterday.

There is a lot of new advancements in the area of materials, there's new equipment in addition to new processes. It's understanding what makes a good weld and then how to program perhaps a robot to complete that weld. A technician in the welding industry today would have a knowledge of manufacturing processes, would have an understanding of programmable logic controllers so they have to have a lot of math and a lot of science background.

It is not something that we can outsource, it's an industry and an occupation that's gonna be here for the long term.

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Thanks for watching.