Textile, clothing and footwear (fashion)

Career Choices 2013
Employment prospects

The South Australian Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry employs 1,400 people, which is around 0.2% of the State’s workforce.

In recent years, textile, leather, clothing and footwear manufacturing production has increased its emphasis on high value, capital intensive and niche products, and less on labour intensive and standardized products. This shift in focus has led to an increase in opportunities in the design, marketing, wholesale and logistics areas.

Most of the jobs are in the metropolitan area, but there are also opportunities in the south east of South Australia.

Quick facts about this industry

- Three quarters of workers are employed full-time in this industry.
- Most people working in the industry do not have a qualification, but if you want to get ahead a qualification is highly recommended.
- More men than women work in the industry, and women are encouraged to join.
- People working in the industry are generally older than those in other industries.
- To work in this industry, you need to have good drawing and visualisation skills, be able to understand and approach the use of colour and design creatively, and have good communication skills.
- While some Fashion Designers and Fashion Coordinators can earn a lot more than $2,000 per week, Footwear Tradespeople, Canvas and Leather Goods Makers, and Sailmakers average between $400 and $800 per week.

Top skilled job openings in SA, 5 years to 2016–17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canvas and Leather Goods Maker</td>
<td>0-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing Trades Worker</td>
<td>0-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textile Manufacturer</td>
<td>0-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textile Production Manager</td>
<td>0-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upholsterer</td>
<td>0-500</td>
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School options

Ask your VET Coordinator at school for information about undertaking vocational education during the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), including the Training Guarantee for SACE students. See the vocational education and training (VET) section of the SACE website [www.sace.sa.edu.au](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au) for training options in the following industry:

- Clothing and Textiles.
Vocational qualifications include:

- Qualifications at Certificate II and III level including textile production and fabrication, clothing production, footwear production and repair, laundry operations, dry cleaning operations, applied fashion design and technology.
- Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications that build on the specialist areas listed above.


Check [www.skills.sa.gov.au](http://www.skills.sa.gov.au) to see what courses are available under Skills for All.

University degrees include:

- Bachelor of Design (Product Innovation)
- Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)
- Bachelor of Visual Arts.

The My University website provides a broad range of information about Australian universities — see [www.myuniversity.gov.au](http://www.myuniversity.gov.au). Check the South Australian university websites and the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) website listed on the inside front cover of this guide. For more information about the qualifications and where to go, check the job guide: [www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au](http://www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au)

Occupations in this industry

Australia's Fashion Industry produces a wide range of apparel, household products, outdoor and industrial products. The sector is involved in a diverse range of fibre-based activities, including:

- early stage processing of natural fibres such as wool and leather
- textile production
- turning leather, yarns and textiles into clothing, footwear, carpets and other products
- production of technical textiles such as shade cloth, medical and sanitary products, filtration products and insulation materials.

Career opportunities include dressmaking, millinery, weaving and creative thinking in concept designing and marketing. There are also specialised technical jobs involved in textile production, testing, grading and pattern making using computer aided design technology.

Occupations in this industry include:

- Canvas and Leather Goods Maker
- Clothing and Soft Furnishing Production Worker
- Clothing Pattern Maker
- Craftsperson
- Fashion Coordinator
- Fashion Designer
- Footwear Worker
• Garment Manufacturer
• Industrial Textiles Fabricator
• Milliner
• Shoe Repairer
• Textile Designer
• Textile Mechanic
• Textile Technician
• Theatrical Costume Maker and Designer
• Upholsterer
• Vehicle Trimmer.

**Related industries for these occupations:**

• Arts, Performance and Design
• Manufacturing
• Media and Publishing
• Retail.

**More info?**

Manufacturing Skills Australia — MAKE IT? Manufacturing careers website  

Women’s Wear Daily — Careers  
[www.wwd.com](http://www.wwd.com)

Job Outlook  

Job Guide  

myfuture  
[www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)

Career information about specific occupations has been sourced from [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au) and industry skills bodies. South Australian labour market information has been sourced from ABS Catalogue 6291.0.55.003 Labour Force, average of four quarters to November quarter 2012. South Australian information on Age, Region and Income has been sourced from the Australian Census of Population and Housing 2011. Job Openings information is sourced from the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations 2012. Produced by Skills SA, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, South Australia. © Copyright 2013 Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills