



# LOGGING WORKERS

**SOC Code 45-4020**

Logging workers harvest forests in a variety of ways, from traditional chain saws to heavier logging equipment such as processors, forwarders, and skidders. The timber they harvest provides the raw material for countless consumer and industrial products. This broad occupation includes the following detailed occupations:

- ♣ Logging Equipment Operators
- ♣ Fallers
- ♣ Log Graders and Scalers\*
- ♣ Logging Workers, All Other



*\*Log grading and scaling is often not a stand-alone job, but rather a specialized skillset within other occupations. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies this occupation as a "Logging Worker," employers indicate this occupation does not necessarily fit.*

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Current Jobs  
in Maine,  
across all sectors  
(2022)



Job Openings per  
Year in Maine  
across all sectors  
(average 2022 -32 )



Median Hourly  
Wages in Maine  
across all sectors  
(2022)



### Typical Entry Points

Little to no job preparation is required. Most workers have a high school diploma or equivalent and receive moderate-term on-the-job training, which can take 6 months or more. However, there are training programs and pathways available that can reduce the amount of time spent in training. Examples include:

**High School & Adult Ed**  
\* Forestry Immersion Program

**Career & Tech. Education**  
\* Forest & Wood Harvesting  
\* Heavy Equip. Operation


**Experience in Related Occupations**  
\* Conveyer Operator  
\* Laborer & Freight Mover  
\* Industrial Truck & Trailer Operator


**Short-Term Training**  
\* Mechanized Logging Operations  
\* Heavy Equip. Operations

**Professional Certifications**  
\* Cert. Logging Professional  
\* Qualified Logging Professional

### Career Progression

Career progression can take multiple forms depending on the worker's interests, prior experience, and skill attainment. To advance, workers need 1-5 years within the role and to demonstrate leadership, experience, and capabilities in one or more of the following areas.

 **Specialization**  
\* Processor  
\* Forwarder  
\* Slasher/Loader  
\* Forest Tech.

 **Management**  
\* Team Lead  
\* Supervisor  
\* Manager  
\* Area Manager

 **Cross Training**  
\* Mill/Wood yard  
\* Maintenance  
\* CDL

# Logging Workers



## Maine Employment Outlook 2022 - 2032

📌 Current Jobs (2022): **2,343**

📌 Projected Growth:

📌 **-16% in Maine**

📌 **2% in the US**

📌 Hires (2022): **615**

📌 Near-Term Retirements: **876 (37%)**

📌 Average Annual Openings: **367**

*Average annual openings account for industry growth and worker replacements needed due to retirements or workers permanently leaving an occupation*

## Job Preparation Needed: Little to none

Typical requirements for entry:

- 📌 High school diploma or equivalent
- 📌 Moderate-term on-the-job training
- 📌 No work experience required

## Workforce Demographics

- 📌 37% of workers are over the age of 55
- 📌 4% BIPOC workers
- 📌 2% female workers
- 📌 Educational attainment:
  - 📌 30% less than high school graduate
  - 📌 47% high school graduates
  - 📌 14% some college, no degree



## Jobs Postings for Logging Workers in Maine

**Top Job Titles:** Tree Climbers/Arborists | Logging Equipment Operator | Groundmen

### Specialized Skills:

- 📌 Forestry
- 📌 Arboriculture
- 📌 Forestry Equipment

### Qualifications:

- 📌 Valid Driver's License
- 📌 Commercial Driver's License
- 📌 Certified Arborist
- 📌 DDCL Class B License
- 📌 Certified Logging Professional

# Logging Workers



## Wages by Years of Experience

Low (15% below median), Median, and High (15% above median)

Overall Median  
Hourly Wage:  
\$18.75



Source: Lightcast 2023.2

Note: Maine's minimum wage in 2023 is \$13.80 per hour. Wage information on this page reflects 2022 data.

## 2022 Prevailing Wages for Logging Workers

Job Title	Hourly Wage
Logging Tractor Operator (Cable/Grapple Skidder)	\$17.50
Log Loader Operator (Crane/Hydraulic)	\$17.00
Delimber Operator	\$19.00
Chipper Operator	\$19.00
Slasher Operator	\$19.00
Feller-Buncher Operator	\$19.00
Operating Engineer	\$20.00
Logging Equipment Mechanic	\$21.00
Combination Slasher-Loader Operator	\$19.00
Forwarder Operator	\$20.00
Processor Operator	\$20.50

Source: US Department of Labor Logging Wage Survey; data as of 11/8/2022

## Detailed Occupations

The **Logging Workers** broad occupation group contains 4 detailed occupations: *Logging Equipment Operators*, *Fallers*, *Log Graders and Scalers*, and *Logging Workers, All Other*.\* In Maine, *Logging Equipment Operators* is by far the largest detailed occupation within the **Logging Workers** broad occupation, accounting for 87% of employment. Other occupations within the group – including *Log Graders and Scalers* and *Fallers* – are often categorized as *Logging Equipment Operators* due to their similarity. Profiles for the detailed occupations are below.

### Logging Equipment Operators 45-4022

Drive logging tractor or wheeled vehicle equipped with one or more accessories, such as bulldozer blade, frontal shear, grapple, logging arch, cable winches, hoisting rack, or crane boom, to fell tree; to skid, load, unload, or stack logs; or to pull stumps or clear brush. Includes operating stand-alone logging machines, such as log chippers.

#### Skills

- ✦ Operation and Control
- ✦ Operations Monitoring
- ✦ Equipment Maintenance
- ✦ Active Listening
- ✦ Monitoring
- ✦ Quality Control Analysis
- ✦ Troubleshooting

#### Typical Work Activities

- ✦ Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, or Equipment
- ✦ Controlling Machines and Presses
- ✦ Repairing and Maintaining Mechanical Equipment
- ✦ Getting Information
- ✦ Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials

#### Typical Work Context

- ✦ Use hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools, or controls
- ✦ In an enclosed vehicle or equipment
- ✦ Duration of typical work week is > 40 hours
- ✦ Wear common protective or safety equipment such as safety shoes, glasses, gloves, hearing protection, or hard hats
- ✦ Frequent decision making



#### Job Preparation Required:

Little to none

#### Median Hourly Wage:

\$19.76

## Detailed Occupations (continued)

### Fallers 45-4021

Use axes or chainsaws to fell trees using knowledge of tree characteristics and cutting techniques to control direction of fall and minimize tree damage.

#### Skills

- ✦ Operation and control
- ✦ Critical thinking
- ✦ Monitoring
- ✦ Operations monitoring
- ✦ Judgment and decision making



#### Typical Work Activities

- ✦ Performing general physical activities
- ✦ Controlling machines and processes
- ✦ Handling and moving objects
- ✦ Identifying objects, actions, and events
- ✦ Operating vehicles, mechanized devices, or equipment

#### Typical Work Context

- ✦ Outdoors, exposed to weather
- ✦ Wear common protective or safety equipment such as safety shoes, glasses, gloves, hearing protection, or hard hats
- ✦ Exposed to hazardous equipment
- ✦ Freedom to make decisions
- ✦ Use hands to handle, control, or feel objects, tools, or controls

#### Job Preparation Required:

Little to none

#### Median Hourly Wage:

\$17.36

## Detailed Occupations (continued)

### Log Graders and Scalers 45-4023

Grade logs or estimate the marketable content or value of logs or pulpwood in sorting yards, millpond, log deck, or similar locations. Inspect logs for defects or measure logs to determine volume.

*Note: Log grading and scaling is often not a stand-alone job, but rather a specialized skillset within other occupations. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies this occupation as a “Logging Worker,” employers indicate this occupation does not necessarily fit.*

#### Job Preparation Required:

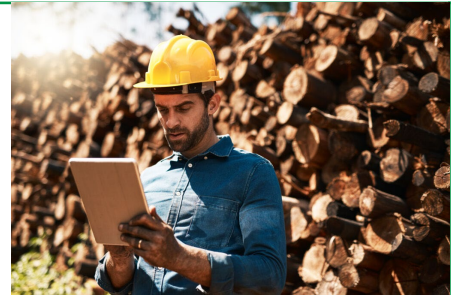
Little to none

#### Median Hourly Wage:

\$15.27

### Skills

- ↑ Critical thinking
- ↑ Speaking
- ↑ Active learning
- ↑ Coordination



### Typical Work Activities

- ↑ Judging the qualities of objects
- ↑ Documenting/recording information
- ↑ Estimating quantifiable characteristics
- ↑ Determining compliance with standards
- ↑ Inspecting equipment, structures, or materials

### Typical Work Context

- ↑ Outdoors, exposed to weather
- ↑ Wear common protective or safety equipment such as safety shoes, glasses, gloves, hearing protection, or hard hats
- ↑ Frequent decision making
- ↑ Face-to-face discussions
- ↑ Duration of typical work week is > 40 hours

## Top Compatible Occupations: Logging Equipment Operators\*

The following occupations have comparable skills to *Logging Equipment Operators* based on the levels and importance of knowledge, skills, and abilities. This means workers in these occupations could easily transfer their competencies to work in the forestry industry.

- ♣ Hoist & Winch Operator
- ♣ Dredge Operators
- ♣ Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators
- ♣ Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Setters, Operators & Tenders
- ♣ Textile Cutting Machine Setters, Operators & Tenders

## Feeder and Next Step Occupations: Logging Equipment Operators\*

Related occupations are plotted on the next page based on their skills transferability to *Logging Equipment Operators* (the x axis) and their salary difference (the y axis, with \$0 indicating the occupation has the same salary as *Logging Equipment Operators*). Current employment in the occupation is represented by the bubble size (and in the data label) to indicate the size of the labor pool.

**Feeder Occupations** earn less than *Logging Equipment Operators*; therefore, becoming a *Logging Equipment Operator* would represent upward mobility with minimal training. They represent potential sources of labor that could be drawn from to meet demand for this occupation.

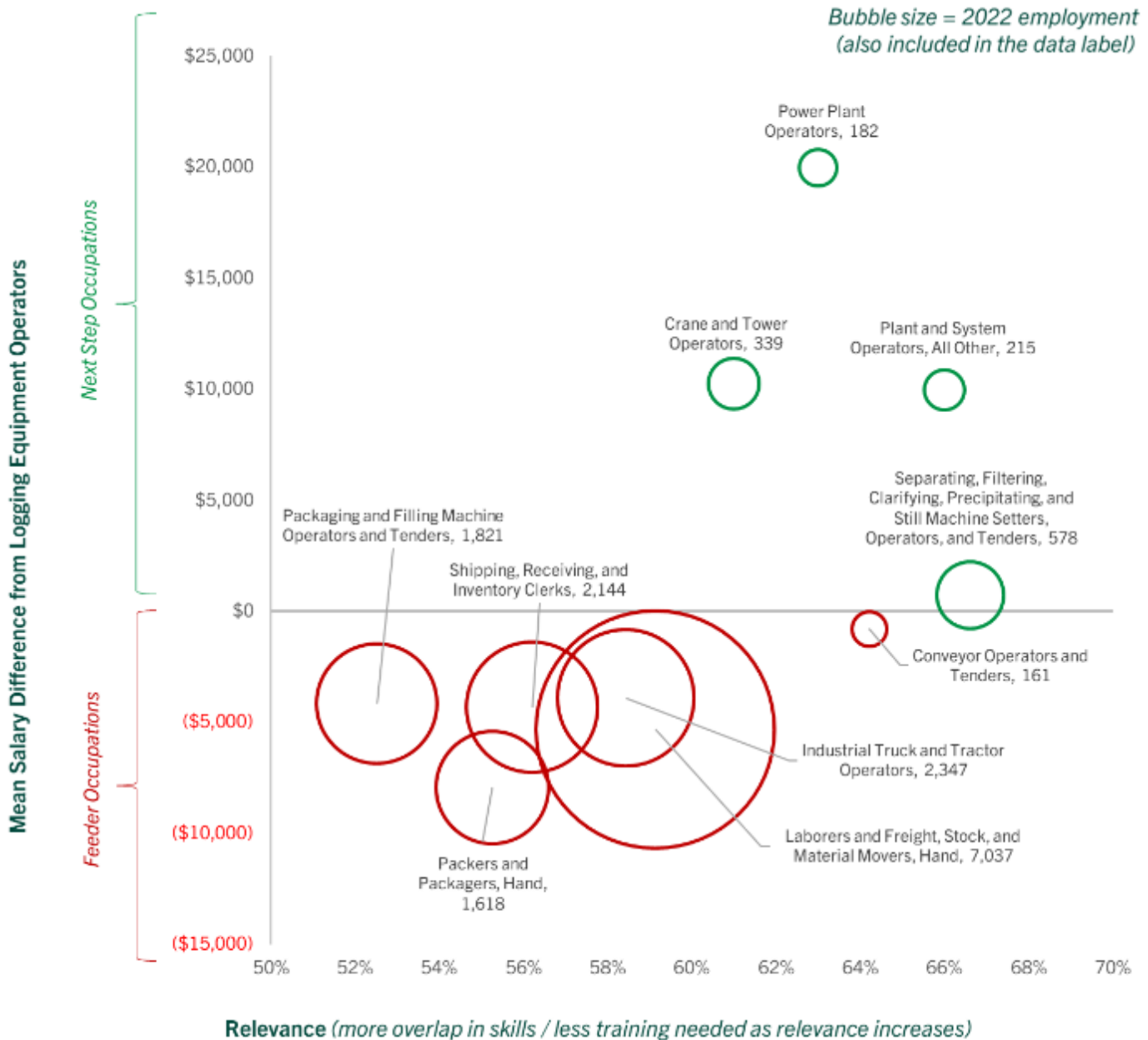
**Next Step Occupations** have higher wages than *Logging Equipment Operators* and present opportunities for advancement with minimal upskilling.



# Logging Workers



## Feeder and Next Step Occupations for Logging Equipment Operators\*



Source: Lightcast 2023.2

\* Data is not available at the broad occupation level; Logging Equipment Operators are used as a proxy for the entire Logging Workers occupation.

## Training Providers

The following institutions provide training for *Logging Workers*:

Type	Length	Institution	Location	Program	Relevant Industry Credentials & Certifications
<b>High School Programs</b>	6 weeks	Brewer High School	Brewer	<a href="#">Forestry Immersion Summer Program</a>	None listed
		Caribou Technology Center	Caribou	<a href="#">Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources</a>	OSHA 10-Hour, First Aid/CPR/AED, Tractor Safety
				<a href="#">Large Equipment Maintenance and Operation</a>	OSHA 10-Hour, First Aid/CPR/AED
		Foster CTE Center	Farmington	<a href="#">Forestry &amp; Wood Harvesting</a>	Certified Logging Professional, Professional Logging Contractor, National Tractor Safety, OSHA-10, First Aid/CPR
<b>Career &amp; Technical Education Programs</b>	1-3 years	Oxford Hills Technical School	Norway	<a href="#">Forestry &amp; Heavy Equipment Operation</a>	Certified Logging Professional, Class A or B CDL training, National Tractor Safety, OSHA 10-Hour, First Aid/CPR/AED
		Region 2 School of Applied Technology	Dyer Brook	<a href="#">Forestry Management &amp; Operations</a>	Certified Logging Professional; First Aid/CPR
		Region 9 School of Applied Technology	Rumford	<a href="#">Forestry/Wood Harvesting</a>	Certified Logging Professional; CDL Class A and/or B First Aid/CPR; OSHA-10;
				<a href="#">Heavy Equipment</a>	CDL Class A/B, NCCER Heavy Equipment Credentials, OSHA-10, First Aid/CPR
		St. John Valley Technology Center	Frenchville	<a href="#">Forest Resource Management</a>	None listed
				<a href="#">Heavy Equipment Operation</a>	ACT Work Keys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
		Westbrook Regional Vocational Center	Westbrook	<a href="#">Heavy Equipment Operation</a>	OSHA-10
<b>Community College</b>	12 weeks	Northern Maine Community College	Presque Isle	<a href="#">Mechanized Logging Operations</a>	Certificate
	1 year	Washington County Community College	Calais	<a href="#">Heavy Equipment Operations</a>	Certificate
<b>Professional Certifications</b>	3-4 days	Maine TREE Foundation	Various	<a href="#">Certified Logging Professional</a>	Certified Logging Professional (CLP), First Aid/CPR
	4 days	Sustainable Forestry Initiative Maine	Various	<a href="#">Qualified Logging Professional</a>	Qualified Logging Professional (QLP), First Aid/CPR
	16 hours	Northeast Master Logger Certification	Online	<a href="#">Northeast Safe Logger</a>	Certified Master Logger

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## Typical Entry Points

Little to no job preparation is required. Most workers have a high school diploma or equivalent and receive moderate-term on-the-job training (OJT), which can take 6 months or more. However, there are training programs and pathways available that can reduce the amount of time spent in training. Examples include (but are not limited to):

High School & Adult Ed	Career & Tech. Education	Experience in Related Occupations	Short-Term Training	Professional Certifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Forestry Immersion Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Forest &amp; Wood Harvesting</li> <li>♣ Heavy Equip. Operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Conveyer Operator</li> <li>♣ Laborer &amp; Freight Mover</li> <li>♣ Industrial Truck &amp; Trailer Operator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Mechanized Logging Operations</li> <li>♣ Heavy Equip. Operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Cert. Logging Professional</li> <li>♣ Qualified Logging Professional</li> </ul>
⇓	⇓	⇓	⇓	⇓

# LOGGING WORKERS

Avg. Hourly Salary Range: \$13.63 - \$21.78

Depending on the entry point, workers will require moderate-term OTJ to develop the necessary skills to operate independently.

### Behavioral Skills

- ♣ Reliability
- ♣ Common sense
- ♣ Willingness to learn
- ♣ Work ethic
- ♣ Ability to work in harsh conditions and remote or disconnected areas

### Technical Skills

- ♣ Experience with forestry equipment
- ♣ Experience operating heavy equipment
- ♣ Basic maintenance skills
- ♣ Best management practices

## Career Progression

Career progression can take multiple forms depending on the worker's interests, prior experience, and skill attainment. To advance, workers need 1-5 years within the role and to demonstrate leadership, experience, and capabilities in one or more of the following areas. These skills may be learned through OTJ or external training.

### Behavioral Skills

- ♣ Willingness to be trained
- ♣ Good attitude
- ♣ Work ethic
- ♣ Willingness to work long hours
- ♣ Reliability
- ♣ Leadership

### Technical Skills

- ♣ Certified Logging Professional
- ♣ Licensed Log Scaler
- ♣ Familiarity with region's tree species
- ♣ Experience running heavy equipment
- ♣ Basic maintenance capability
- ♣ CPR and First Aid



### Specialization

- ♣ Processor
- ♣ Forwarder
- ♣ Slasher/Loader
- ♣ Forest Tech.



### Management

- ♣ Team Lead
- ♣ Supervisor
- ♣ Manager
- ♣ Area Manager



### Cross Training

- ♣ Mill/Wood yard
- ♣ Maintenance
- ♣ CDL