

Head Sawyer

What does a head sawyer do?

Setting the pace of the mill, one cut at a time. A head sawyer decides optimal usage of logs by determining lumber cuts while understanding product grades and markets. This position takes skill and a sharp eye, often operating in a fast-paced work environment.

Desired Skills

- Strong work ethic and desire to advance career
- Skills in log and lumber grading, defect identification, equipment troubleshooting, maintenance, computer setup, quality control measures, and teamwork
- Experience with National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) rules is often required, short courses are offered for those interested in learning about lumber grades and products and the NHLA Inspection Training School is offered annually
- Completion of technical training related to wood processing is helpful but not necessary



Fast Facts*

Average starting hourly wage

\$18.00

Average hourly wage with job training and experience

\$20.00 - \$27.00

*Based on wage figures provided by LSLA member companies. Figures do not include medical benefits, retirement, or paid vacation. Wages may be commensurate with experience and may vary by region.



Come make a career in our industry!