

**CAREER INFORMATION - PAGE 3****WEAVER**

A weaver is a person who works on a loom and makes custom fabric that is used for designer clothing, interior decor, and/or utility purposes. Because of the time and skills involved, hand-woven items are usually very expensive but retain their value through time.

Weaving is a slow, painstaking skill that brings a high degree of personal satisfaction with it. To be a successful weaver, he/she must have quite a bit of design background along with a thorough knowledge of fibers and their characteristics. Basically each piece woven is a one-of-a-kind item or an original, and usually there are never any duplicates.

Weavers are usually self-employed and must make a market for their work in order to sell. Because of the price of hand-woven items, they are more likely to be found in upper-class homes and/or corporate offices. Consequently, wages vary significantly, depending on what the market will bear.

**FASHION  
MERCHANDISER**

The starting place for most fashion merchandising careers is in selling. Here one experiences face-to-face encounters with customers and the problem of anticipating what they will want.

Traditionally, the merchandising career ladder has moved a sales position up through the ranks to the buyer's position. However, in recent years many large firms with many branches have provided a choice: an aspiring fashion merchant may choose either the traditional sales-to-buyer route or a strictly management route.

Fashion merchandisers need to have some training and experience in general merchandising techniques as well as a background of the fashion industry. If the merchandiser wants to pursue the management route, he/she will need some management training and/or experience. Some of the training and experience may be done on the job, while other parts of it need to be done through an educational institution program.

**CAREER INFORMATION - PAGE 4****TEXTILES  
DESIGNER**

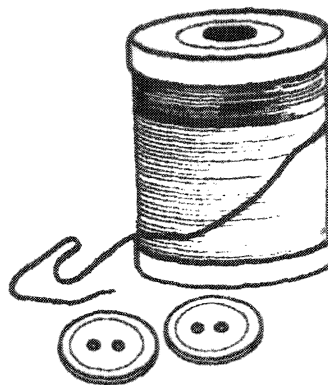
Textiles designers design fabric weaves and prints for fabrics that will be used for clothes and/or home furnishings. They need to have an extensive background in design as well as fibers, and a working knowledge of the textile industry. They will need to have an artistic flair, an excellent sense of color, technical skills, and an eye for detail.

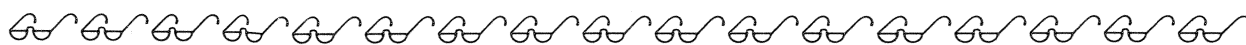
They are usually employed by the large textile mills and have the opportunity to make quite a name for themselves as well as a very secure career. Textile companies are very competitive in their fabric designs and may come to be known for their excellence in design. Needless to say, the better the textiles design sells, the more demand there is for the designer.

**TEXTILES  
TECHNICIAN**

The textiles technician's job is to make the looms produce the fabric designed by the textiles designer. Once the looms are operating correctly, the textiles workers take over the operation of the loom and see that the fabric is made properly. This career may not always be glamorous in nature, but it is vital to the production of fabric.

The skills of a textiles technician are an important component of the finished product. He/she needs to have some factory experience as well as a good working knowledge of the textiles industry. He/she will also need to be knowledgeable about various fibers and how they handle at different weights, speeds, thicknesses, etc. The technician's skills are critical; in many ways he/she is the factory trouble shooter and/or problem solver. Basic mechanical skills would be an asset as well as a background in computer programming.





### TEXTILES INDUSTRY IN THE U.S.A.

There are 2.2 million men and women who earn their living in the fiber, textile, and apparel career complex. Another two (2) million people work in various types of support industries for the apparel business. This means that about one out of every nine Americans work in the textile industry—a major player in the U. S. economy. It is difficult to measure the industry's total impact on society, but it is considerable.

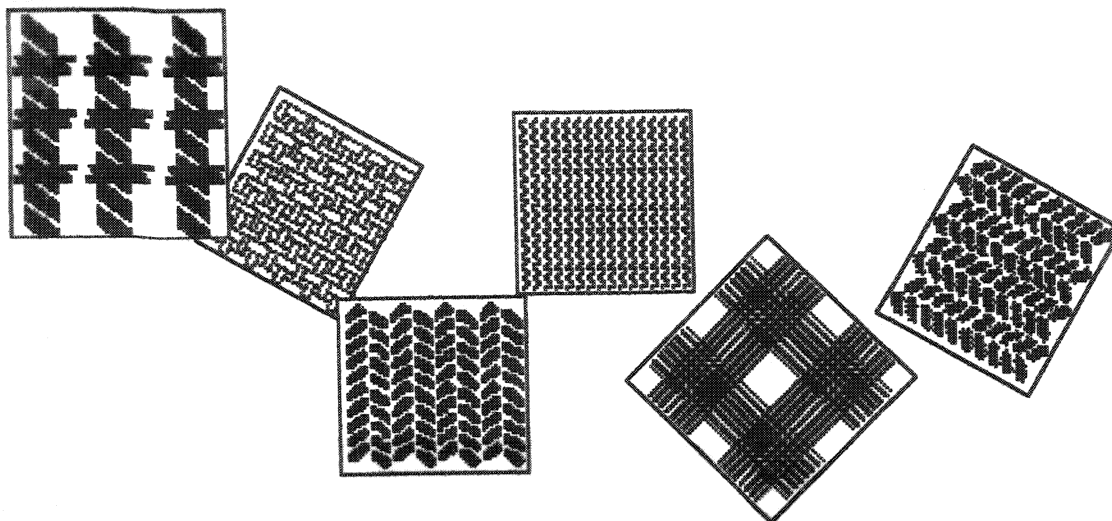
Many of these workers are in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama, the major cotton-growing areas. But the sheep ranchers in many states, the machinery manufacturers in Connecticut, and the cotton farmers in California are all part of the textile complex, too.

There is a piece of the fiber, textile, and apparel complex in every state of the union, and nowhere is this more important than in big cities like New York where 142,000 people are employed in the textile and apparel industry, or Los Angeles where 83,000 people work in the industry.

In textile mill products alone, there are 743,000 workers employed by 5,000 companies in more than 7,200 plants all across the country. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the workers in textiles are women; another twenty-five percent (25%) are members of minority groups.

Because of the textile industry, there is a wool industry that produced 100 million pounds of wool in 1983 and employed 126,500 people.

In 1987, there were 5,700 people employed in the textiles and apparel industry in Utah, and another 2,300 were employed in the wool industry. Therefore, a total of about 8,000 people in Utah make their living from the fiber, textile, and apparel career complex.

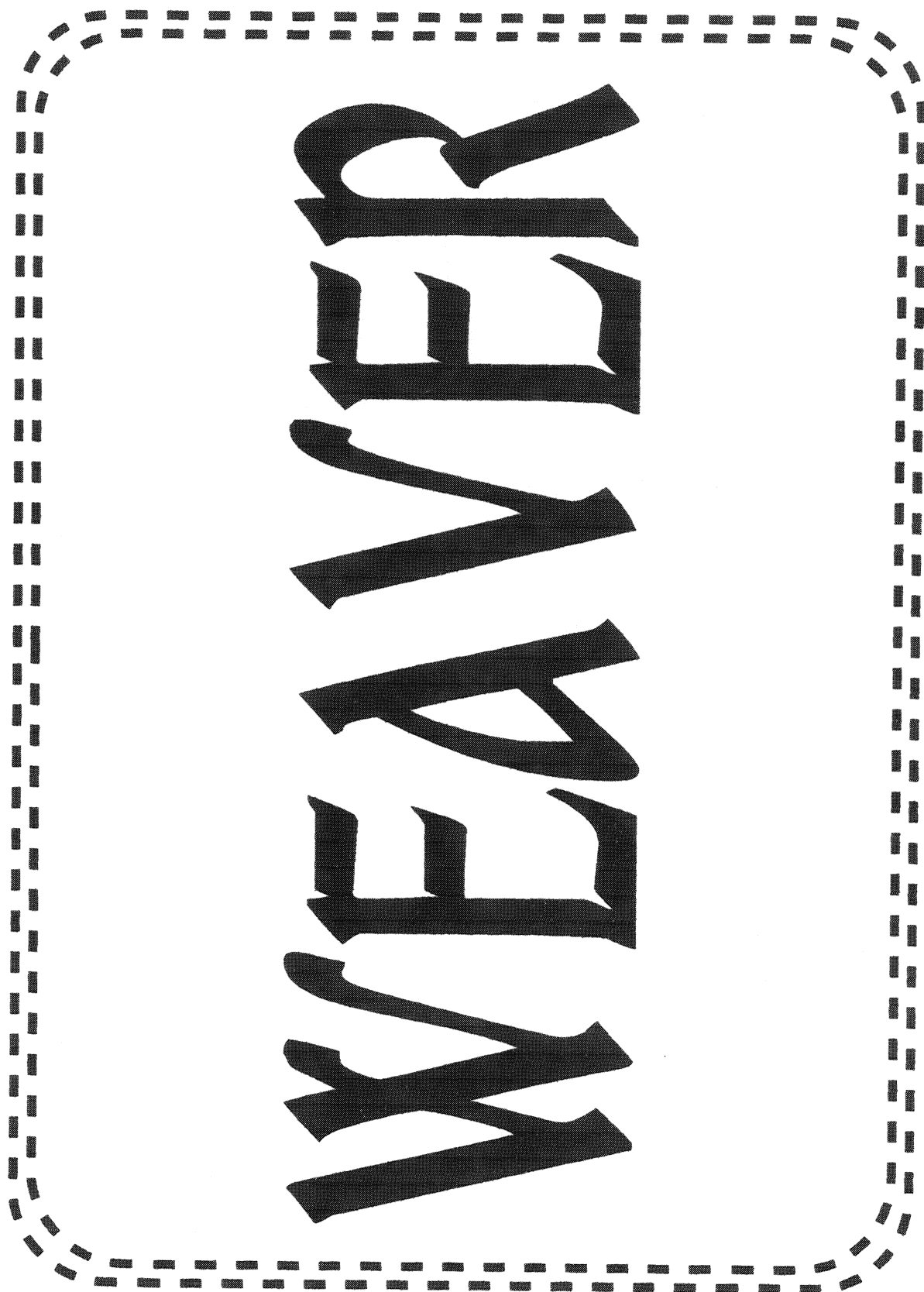




# FASHION CONSULTANT

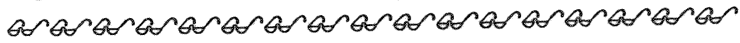
TOPIC #10: Textiles Occupational Skills

Teacher Resource





# FASHION MERCHANDISER



# TEXTILES DESIGNER



# TEXTILES TECHNICIAN



# CUSTOM CLOTHING MAKER



# FASHION DESIGNER