S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Furniture maker / cabinet-maker

Marseneiru (halo mobília)

Manufacturing & food processing · ISCO-08 7522

Furniture makers make, decorate and repair wooden furniture and other wooden products, using woodworking machines and hand tools. Technical secondary schools in Timor-Leste teach carpentry and furniture making.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Technical secondary school** ESTV carpentry and furniture course
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No published demand data yet
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$276 / month** Average for all craft & trades workers in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Plan the piece: Read drawings, or draw the piece with the customer; Choose the right wood; Measure and mark the wood.

Cut and join: Cut, plane and shape wood with saws and machines; Join the parts with joints, glue, nails and screws; Make tables, chairs, beds, cupboards and other furniture.

Finish: Sand the wood smooth; Stain, paint or varnish the surface; Carve or add decoration.

Repair and work safely: Repair and restore old furniture; Look after and sharpen your tools; Use machines safely and protect yourself from dust.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 7522, Cabinet-makers and related workers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Furniture workshops (Making furniture to order); Your own workshop (Working for yourself); Building projects (Cupboards, shelves and fittings); Furniture shops (Making, selling and repairing).

Workshops are noisy and dusty. You stand most of the day, lift heavy wood and use sharp tools and machines.

Many carpenters work for themselves. In 2017, employment centres helped 73 people become self-employed carpenters, 16 of them women. The government plans to turn local raw materials into products such as furniture, and to grow trees that can supply wood for furniture making.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Measuring exactly, Working with your hands, Using tools safely, Patience with details, Reading drawings.

You like: Wood, Making things yourself, Design and shapes, Being your own boss.

Basic maths helps you measure, plan cuts and work out how much wood you need.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Técnico de Carpintaria Marcenaria** · Technical secondary school course (ESTV)
- **Don Bosco Technical School, Fatumaca** · Reported in 2016 to teach a three-year carpentry course. Current courses: to confirm.
- **INDMO carpentry certificates** · The published INDMO list has carpentry certificates (see Carpenter / joiner) but none named for furniture, and that list is incomplete.

Course length and fees: to confirm with the Ministry of Education and each school. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Workshop helper** · Learn by helping a furniture maker
- **Furniture maker** · ESTV carpentry and furniture course
- **Trainer** · Teach the trade at a training centre (ISCO 2320)
- **Your own furniture workshop** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese workers for this job yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit group 7522 Cabinet-makers and related workers https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. Diploma Ministerial 8/ME/2013: technical secondary courses (ESTV). Whether the 2013 list is still current: to confirm https://mj.gov.tl/jornal/?q=node%2F3983
3. Mission Newswire (Salesian Missions), Don Bosco Technical School in Fatumaca: three-year courses in carpentry, mechanics and electronics, 20 Oct 2016 https://missionnewswire.org/east-timor-don-bosco-technical-school-provides-students-hands-on-broadcasting-education-and-experience/
4. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
5. SEJT, Labour Market Outlook No. 7, Feb 2018 (self-employment support at employment centres, 2017) https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/LMOFeb2018en.pdf
6. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028 (18 Jul 2023), §4.2.4 Forestry Production and §4.6 Industry https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
7. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
8. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/furniture-maker-cabinet-maker/?lang=en