

Construction and trades jobs: high potential, high pay

The construction industry continues to play a huge role in Minnesota’s economy. Minnesota had **more than 130,000** construction jobs in 2020 and paid an average wage of just over **\$70,000** with total payroll above **\$9.4 billion** statewide. Furthermore, construction accounted for 4.8% of jobs in Minnesota in 2020 – providing about one in every 20 jobs in the state.



Current Demand	Occupation	Educational Requirements	Annual Median
★★★★★	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	High School or Less	\$68,696
★★★★★	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	High School or Less	\$75,332
★★★★★	Construction Managers	Bachelor’s Degree	\$94,916
★★★★★	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	High School or Less	\$78,244
★★★★★	Construction Laborers	High School or Less	\$47,722
★★★★★	Electricians	Vocational Training	\$69,051
★★★★★	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Vocational Training	\$54,577
★★★★★	Highway Maintenance Workers	High School or Less	\$53,719
★★★★	Carpenters	High School or Less	\$54,977
★★★★	Helpers – Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	High School or Less	\$37,524
★★★★	Helpers – Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters	High School or Less	\$56,022
★★★★	Surveyors	Bachelor’s Degree	\$70,553
★★★★	Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators	High School or Less	\$63,352
★★★★	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	High School or Less	\$53,140
★★★★	Cost Estimators	High School or Less	\$64,724
★★★★	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	High School or Less	\$86,940
★★★	Landscape Architects	Bachelor’s Degree	\$77,504
★★★	Power Distributors and Dispatchers	High School or Less	\$91,867
★★★	Insulation Workers, Mechanical	High School or Less	\$88,736
★★★	Roofers	High School or Less	\$55,068

See for yourself: The Career Pathways Tool helps students understand how their educational path matches employment opportunities. The tool is designed to help start career exploration with students, parents, and counselors.

www.mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/career-pathways-tool/

Post-secondary education opportunities to advance

One to Two-year Certificate, Diploma or Associates degree

These programs can lead to careers such as heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic and installers, electrician, carpenter, plumber, pipefitters and steamfitters, and more.

A sample of these education credentials includes:

Electrical Construction Technology: Associates

Electrical Construction and Maintenance Technology: Diploma

Electrician: Associates

Heating, Vent, Air Condition and Refrigeration Technology: Associates

Residential Wiring: Certificate

HVAC Certificate Refrigeration Technology: Certificate

Pipefitting: Diploma

Plumbing and Heating Technology: Diploma

Plumbing Technology: Certificate

Carpentry: Diploma

Residential Remodeling and Design: Associates

Plumbing Shop Management: Associates

Construction Technology: Associates

Sustainable Construction: Certificate

Registered Apprenticeship

These are offered by over 120 training providers across Minnesota for construction and the trades. By pairing on-the-job-training with related instruction, apprentices master skills and build terrific careers in construction and the trades.

A sample of occupations with registered apprenticeship programs are:

Roofer Cement Mason **Marble Finisher** Tile Finisher

Tuckpointer **Tile Layer** Bricklayer **Sheet Metal Worker**

Carpenter **Plumber** Electrician **Construction Laborer**

Pipe Fitter **Drywall Finisher** Operating Engineer

Crane Operator Painter and Decorator **Glazier**

Sign Tech **Iron Worker** Millwright

Heat and Frost Insulator Electrical Wireman

Bachelors' degree

These can also be great education opportunities to advance in construction and the trades in occupations such as surveying, construction management, and landscape architecture.

A sample of some bachelors' degree programs include:

Land Surveying/ Mapping Sciences

Construction Management

Landscape Architecture

Civil Engineering