

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 137,225** construction jobs in 2021 and paid an average wage of just over **\$77,250** with total payroll above **\$10.6 billion** statewide. Construction accounted for 4.9% of jobs in Minnesota in 2021 — providing about one in every 20 jobs in the state.

Current Demand	Occupation	Educational Requirements	Annual Median
★★★★★	Carpenters	High School or Less	\$53,827
★★★★★	Construction Laborers	High School or Less	\$49,366
★★★★★	Electricians	Vocational Training	\$69,394
★★★★★	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	High School or Less	\$80,817
★★★★★	Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters	High School or Less	\$80,439
★★★★★	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	High School or Less	\$72,018
★★★★★	Construction Managers	Bachelor’s Degree	\$94,924
★★★★	Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Vocational Training	\$60,879
★★★★	Highway Maintenance Workers	High School or Less	\$55,991
★★★★	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	High School or Less	\$56,011
★★★★	Cost Estimators	High School or Less	\$65,727
★★★★	Painters, Construction and Maintenance	High School or Less	\$56,328
★★★★	Sheet Metal Workers	High School or Less	\$67,536
★★★★	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	High School or Less	\$89,417
★★★★	Roofers	High School or Less	\$57,481
★★★★	Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators	High School or Less	\$64,403
★★★	Architectural and Civil Drafters	Associates Degree	\$56,759
★★★	Construction and Building Inspectors	High School or Less	\$76,856
★★★	Mechanical Drafters	Associates Degree	\$62,115
★★★	Helpers — Installation, Maintenance and Repair Workers	High School or Less	\$31,880
★★★	Brickmasons and Blockmasons	High School or Less	\$73,569
★★★	Structural Iron and Steel Workers	High School or Less	\$60,493
★★★	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	High School or Less	\$37,348
★★★	Surveyors	Bachelor’s Degree	\$67,839
★★★	Paving, Surfacing and Tamping Equipment Operators	High School or Less	\$56,124
★★★	Glaziers	High School or Less	\$49,356
★★★	Power Plant Operators	High School or Less	\$94,745

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.

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 60 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**

Bachelor's 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 Bachelor's Degree programs include:

Land Surveying/ Mapping Sciences	Construction Management
Landscape Architecture	Civil Engineering