

Philly Career Launch *Industry At-A-Glance*

The Construction Industry and Skilled Trades in Philadelphia

The construction industry includes companies that build houses, offices, bridges, roads, and more. They also work to repair or improve existing structures. Construction companies need many types of skilled trade jobs to finish a project.¹

The construction industry was a growing sector in Philadelphia in the 2010s and even bounced back during the pandemic: The industry grew 1.5 percent on average each year between 2010 and 2023, employing 121,000 workers by 2023.²

There are two general types of workers in construction and skilled trades. The first is **builders**, who are workers on site at construction projects. Many builders move from one project site to the next. The second type is **maintenance workers**, based at a building such as an office or school. Unlike builders, maintenance workers usually stay in one place. They make sure a finished project stays in good working condition. Here are some example positions in construction and skilled trades:

CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

Construction Laborer Brickmason & Blockmason Carpet/Floor Installer	Construction Equipment Operator Construction/Building Inspector Solar Photovoltaic Installer
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SKILLED TRADES CAREERS

Carpenter Plumber Electrician	HVAC Technician Painter Pipe Fitter & Steamfitter
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Workforce Unionization



A larger percentage of US construction and extraction workers is unionized, as compared to all industries.³

Annual Salary

\$50,570

For US construction and extraction jobs, higher than the median annual salary of all US occupations.⁴

Projected Growth



Additional workers needed in the US construction industry in 2024, on top of the normal pace of hiring.⁵

WAYS TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION AND SKILLED TRADES

#1. Learn about different careers in construction and skilled trades, including what type of training is required for getting started.

ACTION STEP: Check out [Career Cruising](#) for useful information on 16 career clusters (free with a library card).

#2. Look for training programs in construction and skilled trades careers that you think might be a good fit for you.

ACTION STEP: Visit the [Career Training Database](#) and connect with training programs in the city.

#3. Seek guidance and support from a trusted friend, relative, or advisor as you launch your career in construction and skilled trades.

ACTION STEP: Find [PA CareerLink® events](#) at neighborhood libraries that offer one-on-one job search guidance.