

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

In the 2010s, construction jobs were booming in Philadelphia, reaching a peak of 12,000 in 2018. Even during the pandemic, Philadelphia’s construction industry was busy in 2020: More than \$1 billion of projects were completed in Center City alone.⁴

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 AND SKILLED TRADES CAREERS

SKILLED TRADES

Carpenter
Plumber
Electrician
HVAC Technician

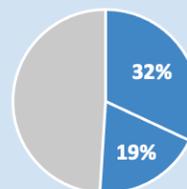
CONSTRUCTION

Construction Equipment Operator
Flooring Installers
Construction/Building Inspector
Solar Photovoltaic Installer

UTILITY WORKER

Electrical power-line installer and repairer
Water and wastewater treatment plant operator

Workforce Diversity



32 percent of construction workers are Latinx/Hispanic and 19 percent are Black/African American² and a growing share are women³

Annual Salary

\$48,610

for construction and extraction jobs, higher than the median annual salary of all US occupations⁵

Projected Growth



in construction and extraction jobs in the US between 2020 and 2030⁵

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 programs.

#3. Seek guidance and support from a trusted friend, relative, or advisor as you launch your career in construction and skilled trades. **ACTION STEP:** Connect with a Workplace Librarian through [a one-on-one appointment](#) to learn about resources and support for career seekers.