

# Occupational Profile

## Carpenters

### WHAT THEY DO

Constructs, erects, installs or repairs structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. May also install cabinets, siding, drywall and batt or roll insulation. Includes brattice builders who build doors or brattices (ventilation walls or partitions) in underground passageways to control the proper circulation of air through the passageways and to the working places. Belongs to the Architecture and Construction cluster and Construction pathway.



### IS THIS FOR YOU?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.
- **Conventional** – You are an "organizer". Keeping things neat and organized is important to you. You like working with charts and reports, and work well with power and authority.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Independence** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.
- **Support** – It's very important to you to know the company stands behind its workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.

**Aptitudes** reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Form Perception**
- **Manual Dexterity**

### SKILLS YOU NEED

#### Basic Skills:

- Critical Thinking

#### Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

##### High level

- Making large fixed structures and objects
- Repairing large fixed structures and objects
- Using construction hand and power tools
- Working as a member of a construction team

##### Medium level

- Constructing with brick, stone, and mortar
- Following construction blueprints and plans
- Following written construction work orders
- Sawing materials

#### Workplace Skills:

##### High level

- Equipment Maintenance
- Installation
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Management of Financial Resources
- Management of Material Resources
- Management of Personnel Resources
- Quality Control Analysis
- Time Management

##### Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Equipment Selection
- Instructing
- Operation and Control
- Operation Monitoring
- Operations Analysis
- Persuasion
- Repairing
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Technology Design
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

| Occupational Title                    | 2012<br>Estimated<br>Employment | 2022<br>Projected<br>Employment | 2012-22<br>Employment<br>Change | Annual<br>Growth<br>Rate (%) | Total<br>Annual<br>Openings |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total, All Occupations                | 1,758,205                       | 1,955,480                       | 197,275                         | 1.1                          | 61,665                      |
| Construction & Extraction Occupations | 75,710                          | 93,145                          | 17,435                          | 2.3                          | 2,980                       |
| Carpenters                            | 9,980                           | 12,900                          | 2,915                           | 2.9                          | 415                         |

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## 2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

| Occupational Title                    | Average<br>Wage | Average<br>Salary | Entry<br>Wage | Entry<br>Salary | Experienced<br>Wage | Experienced<br>Salary |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Total, All Occupations                | 19.77           | 41,122            | 9.55          | 19,858          | 24.88               | 51,755                |
| Construction & Extraction Occupations | 20.49           | 42,624            | 13.28         | 27,621          | 24.10               | 50,125                |
| Carpenters                            | 19.31           | 40,175            | 13.50         | 28,088          | 22.22               | 46,218                |

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

| Education           | Work Experience | Job Training   |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| High School Diploma | None            | Apprenticeship |

Carpenters learn their trade through formal and informal training programs. Between 3 and 4 years of both on-the-job training and classroom instruction usually is needed to become a skilled carpenter. There are a number of ways to train, but a more formal training program often improves job opportunities. Some employers offer employees formal apprenticeships. These programs combine on-the-job training with related classroom instruction. Apprentices usually must be at least 18 years old and meet local requirements. Apprenticeship programs usually last 3 to 4 years, but length varies with the apprentice's skill. Approved apprenticeship programs/sponsors in Iowa can be found at [http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom\\_state\\_data/iowa\\_apprenticeship/4720310.htm](http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_apprenticeship/4720310.htm).

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

| Skill                   | Median Skill Level |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Applied Mathematics     | 4                  |
| Locating Information    | 4                  |
| Reading for Information | 4                  |

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Carpenters Employed?)

Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction  
 Self Employed  
 Specialty Trade Contractors  
 Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This workforce product was funded by a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner. This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit [www.iowalmi.gov](http://www.iowalmi.gov) to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document. Published 12/2015.