



Construction Laborers

WHAT THEY DO

Performs tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools of all types: air hammers, earth tampers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment, and a variety of other equipment and instruments. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding, and clean up rubble, debris and other waste materials. May assist other craft workers. Belongs to the Architecture and Construction cluster and Construction pathway.

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active listening
- Speaking

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

High level

- Assembling equipment and products
- Cleaning objects and buildings
- Constructing with brick, stone, and mortar
- Loading and unloading materials
- Repairing large fixed structures and objects
- Sawing materials
- Using construction hand and power tools
- Using simple hand and power tools

Medium level

- Boring holes with cutting tools
- Following construction blueprints and plans
- Following spoken instructions
- Following written construction work orders
- Making large fixed structures and objects
- Moving earth and rocks
- Moving material by hand or machine
- Operating material moving or paving equipment
- Sorting products and materials
- Working as a member of a construction team

Workplace Skills:

High level

Medium level

- Coordination
- Operation Monitoring
- Social Perceptiveness

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

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

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.

- **Relationships** – It's very important to you that you have friendly co-workers. You would like to be of service to others without compromising your sense of right and wrong.
- **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:

- **Manual Dexterity**

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual 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
Construction Laborers	10,365	13,025	2,660	2.6	490

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

2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced 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
Construction Laborers	15.75	32,768	11.10	23,082	18.08	37,611

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

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
< High School Diploma	None	Short-Term On-The-Job

Most construction laborers and helpers learn through short-term on-the-job training after being hired by a construction contractor or a temporary-help employment agency. Workers typically gain experience by doing jobs under the guidance of experienced workers. Although the majority of workers learn informally, some opt for formal apprenticeship programs. Programs generally include 2 to 4 years of technical instruction and on-the-job training. In the first 200 hours, workers learn basic construction skills, such as how to read blueprints, the correct use of tools and equipment, and safety and health procedures. The remainder of the curriculum consists of specialized skills training in three of the largest segments of the construction industry: building construction, heavy and highway construction, and environmental remediation such as lead or asbestos removal. Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Applied Mathematics	3
Locating Information	3
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 Construction Laborers Employed?)

Construction of Buildings
Specialty Trade Contractors
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction
Self Employed

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

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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