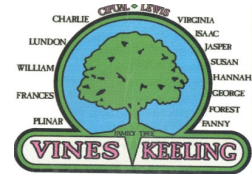


ApprenticeshipUSA Chat Sheet



November 2025

Monthly Newsletter for H.S. Students – Construction Industry

What is the Construction Industry?

The Construction industry is the business sector that deals with the creation, maintenance, and repair of structures and infrastructure. It's not just about building houses; it encompasses a vast range of projects:

- **Residential:** Single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums.
- **Non-Residential** (Commercial/Industrial): Office buildings, hospitals schools, shopping centers, factories and datacenters.
- **Heavy Civil** (Infrastructure): Roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, pipelines, dams and utilities.

Why is Construction Important?

The Construction industry plays a critical role in society and the economy. It:

- **Creates essential infrastructure** such as transportation systems, utilities, and public buildings.
- **Drives economic growth**, employing millions and supporting many related industries like manufacturing, real estate, and technology.
- **Shapes the environment**, determining how communities grow and function.
- **Improves quality of life**, building safer, more efficient and more sustainable spaces for living and working.

What are the Benefits of a Career in the Construction Industry?

Construction offers strong, accessible, and rewarding career opportunities, especially for high school graduates. Benefits include:

- 👜 **High-demand and job security:** There is a nationwide shortage of skilled workers.
- 💰 **Competitive starting wages**, especially in the skilled trades.
- 🚀 **Clear Career pathways**, from entry-level roles to supervisory and leadership.
- 🧑‍🔧 **Hands-on active work** for people who want a career that isn't behind desk.
- 🌐 **Opportunities for certifications and apprenticeships** that let you earn while you learn.



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See the table below for job types in Construction...

Job Title	Description	Average Starting Salary (Annual)	Certifications that Help	Career / Outlook
HVAC Technician	What You'll Do: Assist with heating/cooling system installation & repair. Skills Needed: Mechanical aptitude, electrical basics, troubleshooting, refrigerant handling, customer service. Cool Perk: Mandatory certification (EPA 608) makes you highly employable, strong earning potential	\$42,000 – \$55,000/year	- EPA Section 608 - NATE (North American Technician Excellence) - HVAC Excellence Apprentice Certificate	High Demand
Construction Laborer	What You'll Do: Assist skilled trades, site prep, material handling Skills Needed: Physical stamina, tool handling, site cleanup, basic math, ability to follow instructions. Cool Perk: Exposure to multiple trades (great stepping stone), fast entry into workforce, variety of tasks.	\$35,000 – \$42,000/year	- OSHA 10/30 Construction Safety - NCCER Core Curriculum - First Aid/CPR Certification	High Demand



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Job Title	Description	Average Starting Salary (Annual)	Certifications that Help	Career / Outlook
Plumber Apprentice	What You'll Do: Assist with pipe installation, repairs, and maintenance. Skills Needed: Pipe fitting, blueprint reading, mechanical aptitude, problem-solving under pressure, safety compliance Cool Perk: Job security (recession-proof), ability to work independently.	\$39,000 – \$48,000/yr	• UA Registered Apprentice • State Plumbing Apprentice License • OSHA Safety Training	Strong Demand
Carpenter Apprentice	What You'll Do: Build frameworks, install fixtures, assist senior carpenters Skills Needed: Measuring and cutting, blueprint reading, hand/power tool use, problem-solving, attention to detail. Cool Perk: Creative satisfaction from building tangible structures, opportunities to specialize, strong demand in residential and commercial projects	\$38,000 – \$45,000/yr	• UBC Career Connections Program • NCCER Carpentry Certification • State Licensing/Apprenticeship Entry Certificates	Steady Demand
Masonry Worker	What You'll Do: Lay bricks, concrete, stonework Skills Needed: Brick/block laying, mortar mixing, blueprint reading, physical strength, precision alignment. Cool Perk: Artistic satisfaction, strong demand in restoration projects, pride in craftsmanship that lasts decades.	\$37,000 – \$46,000/yr	• MITA Apprenticeship Certificate • NCCER Masonary Certification	Stable Demand



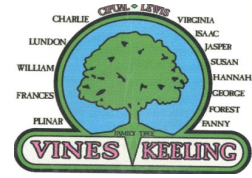
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Job Title	Description	Average Starting Salary (Annual)	Certifications that Help	Career / Outlook
Painting Laborer	What You'll Do: Surface preparation, painting, finishing Skills Needed: Surface prep, paint mixing/application, attention to detail, color matching, safety with chemicals. Cool Perk: Creative expression, immediate visible results, flexibility to work in residential, commercial, or decorative painting niches.	\$38,000 – \$45,000/yr	NCCER Painting Certification OSHA Safety Certificate EPA Lead-Safe Certification	Steady Demand
Welder	What You'll Do: Metal fabrication, structural welding, repair work Skills Needed: Metal cutting/joining, blueprint interpretation, precision hand-eye coordination, safety with heat/equipment. Cool Perk: High demand in construction and manufacturing, opportunities in artistic/creative welding, travel potential for specilized projects (shipyards, pipelines).	\$40,000 – \$52,000/yr	AWS Certified Welder (CW) Industry Gold Standard NCCER Welding Certification OSHA Safety Training	Growing Need



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Job Title	Description	Average Starting Salary (Annual)	Certifications that Help	Career / Outlook
Electrician Apprentice	What You'll Do: Install wiring, troubleshoot electrical systems under supervision Skills Needed: Electrical theory basics, wiring installation, troubleshooting circuits, circuits, safety awareness, math proficiency. Cool Perk: High earning potential once licensed, essential trade (always in demand)	\$40,000 – \$50,000/yr	- OSHA Electrical Safety Training - NCCER Electrical Level I-IV - IEC Apprenticeship Program - National Electrical Code (NEC)	Excellent Prospects



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How to Prepare for a Career in the Construction Industry?

Interested in a career in the Construction industry? Focus on Algebra, Geometry and Drafting, Shop, to build hands on skills. Research to learn about relevant Certifications and Licenses that can enhance your career prospects, refer to previous table for preferred job.

Go to the **ApprenticeshipUSA** link for more information[click the blue] ([Homepage | Apprenticeship.gov](http://Apprenticeship.gov)) to find Apprenticeship Programs and on-the-job training opportunities which can take 1 to 2 years of hands-on and classroom training with pay. Let me know if you have questions or need assistance.

For local in-person support you can use your area **American Job Center (AJC)** [click the blue] ([American Job Center Finder | CareerOneStop](#)). Simply enter your Zip code to find your nearest AJC.

Conclusion

The Construction Industry is positioned to expand and offer exciting careers for motivated individuals. Remember, the journey to becoming an Construction professional begins now, so start actively preparing and exploring your options.

Additional Tips for High School Students

- Take advantage of career counseling services at your high school. Your high school counselors can help you to learn more about different career options, including Construction industry careers.

Tip for recent High School graduates looking for a change:

- Check out the American Job Center (AJC) above...a great resource!
- **How to work Better:** (Tips from Chester, England)
 - 1) Do One Thing at a time;
 - 2) Know the Problem;
 - 3) Learn to Listen;
 - 4) Learn to Ask Questions;
 - 5) Distinguish Sense from Nonsense;
 - 6) Accept Change is Inevitable;
 - 7) Admit Mistakes;
 - 8) Say it Simple;
 - 9) Be Calm;
 - 10) Smile.