



WHY YOU MIGHT WANT A CAREER IN THE TRADES

High demand = lots of job opportunities

439,000 new construction workers needed

Above normal hiring to meet demand in 2025 in the U.S.¹

90% of skilled tradespeople say their jobs are satisfying²



Interesting work

94% of people in skilled trades jobs said their work was interesting. 89% said they work with cutting-edge technology.³



Lower stress

Construction workers reported the second lowest sense of stress in any job.⁴



Fulfilling impact

Construction workers said they had the second-highest happiness compared to other jobs.⁴



Make money while training and make more on the job

- Many training programs in the skilled trades pay students while they learn.
- Community college training programs can be finished in just 1 to 4 semesters.
- All skilled trades jobs have different options for licenses, specializations and certifications.
- Over the past 12 months in construction alone, average hourly earnings have risen 4.4%, according to Associated Builders and Contractor¹



Earn while you learn with apprenticeships

Career pathways



What the skilled trades offer

What?

How much?

What does this look like for you?



Construction and Carpentry

Construct, maintain, repair and install buildings and structures

A carpenter working on performing arts and sports events:

\$113K

average salary⁶

- Learn on the job, in high school or through a local nonprofit.
- Make \$30K or more a year, even with little experience.⁶



Electrical

Install, maintain and repair power, communication, lighting and control systems

Top earning electricians make:

\$104K+

average salary⁶

- Electricians are needed everywhere. Work in government, schools and hospitals, on boats, on movie sets and more.
- Make up to \$48K as you train as an apprentice and more as you work.⁸



HVAC

Install, maintain or repair heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems

Top earners in HVAC make:

\$87K+

average salary⁶

- Keep homes comfortable, safe and energy efficient.
- Use science, math, engineering and technology every day.⁶



Plumbing

Install and repair water, gas, and other piping systems

Top earning plumbers make:

\$103K+

average salary⁶

- Make \$58K as a plumbing technician and up to \$200K+ if you own your own business.⁷
- Make an impact with safe drinking water, healthy homes and good sanitation.



Appliance repair

Fix and install electric or gas appliances in homes

Top earning repairers working in the construction sector make:

\$90K+

average salary⁶

- Make independent decisions every day.
- Be a leader in smart home and green tech.



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skilled trades



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Sources

⁵ Associated Builders and Contractors: (January 2025)

² Angi. 2024 Skilled trades report https://www.angi.com/research/_skilledtrades/

³ StanleyBlack&Decker. StanleyBlack&Decker 2022 Maker Index. (2022). https://www.stanleyblackanddecker.com/sites/default/files/2022-07/makers_index_infographic_final.pdf

⁴ Van Dam, A. (2023, January 18). Analysis | The happiest, least stressful, most meaningful jobs in America. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/01/06/happiest-jobs-on-earth/>

⁵ Associated Builders and Contractors: (January 2025)

⁶ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

⁷ Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC). PHCC Workforce Development Center: Recruit "Workforce Development Flyers." <https://www.phccweb.org/training-education-old/workforce-development/workforce-development-center/>

⁸ Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC). The IEC Apprenticeship Program: What happens when I graduate from the program? <https://www.ieci.org/apprenticeship>