

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR**

BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

Research and Statistics Division

## **Maine Construction Wage Rates 1990**

The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The major purpose of the survey is to provide hourly wage data for use in setting minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects. The 1990 survey initially included 2,315 construction firms, a decrease of 14.6 percent from 1989. Data from 718 respondents was used to produce the 1991 determinations and, subsequently, this publication. There were 1,232 unused reports, and an additional 365 reports that were not returned. Of the unused reports, 1,032 were from companies having fewer than five employees and 120 were from companies no longer operating. The data presented is based on 11,845 workers (24.3 percent fewer than in 1989), or 39.8 percent of the estimated 29,795 employees in the Construction Industry Division in September 1990.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1990 was \$10.11, which is 1.1 percent higher than the 1989 average of \$10.00. Likewise, there were increases in the wage rates in two of the major industry groups, and a decrease in the third group within construction. The largest percent change occurred in Highway and Heavy Construction with a 13.0 percent increase. Building Construction had a 5.0 percent decrease. Special Trades Contractors had an increase of 3.0 percent.

### **AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1986-1990**

	<u>AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE</u>				
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1986</u>
Construction Industry	\$10.11	\$10.00	\$9.35	\$8.71	\$8.70
Building Construction	10.04	10.55	9.05	8.81	8.44
Highway & Heavy Construction	9.26	8.20	8.65	7.77	7.39
Special Trades Construction	10.62	10.32	9.90	9.09	9.49

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# HOURLY WAGE RATES FOR SELECTED CONSTRUCTION TRADES, MAINE, 1991

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Building Construction (SIC 15)</b>					
Backhoe Operator	36	\$ 7.00	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$ 9.93
Bulldozer Operator	13	8.00	9.50	13.00	9.69
Carpenter	1,574	5.00	9.40	20.30	9.72
Cement Finisher	74	5.50	9.00	18.00	9.72
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	12	8.50	11.00	15.60	12.26
Electrician	63	6.24	14.50	20.00	13.93
Ironworker, Reinforcing	14	8.00	14.55	16.00	12.91
Ironworker, Structural	78	6.30	14.50	16.77	13.23
Laborer, Helper	701	4.25	7.50	14.05	7.99
Mason (Including Bricklayers)	44	6.25	9.47	17.10	11.31
Mechanic, Other	22	6.00	10.75	15.60	11.40
Millwright	46	10.00	15.60	17.40	14.67
Painter, Brush	50	5.00	9.18	14.00	9.33
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	202	6.50	17.50	17.50	16.32
Sheet Metal Worker	35	5.50	7.25	13.20	7.64
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	25	5.50	7.25	10.15	7.47
<b>Highway &amp; Heavy Construction (SIC 16)</b>					
Backhoe Operator	150	6.50	10.00	21.73	10.54
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	55	5.57	7.75	12.20	7.83
Bulldozer Operator	114	6.50	9.50	21.59	10.08
Carpenter	244	6.50	10.00	15.00	10.25
Cement Finisher	14	8.50	11.00	14.00	11.00
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	26	8.00	13.50	16.50	13.00
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	55	8.00	12.40	17.50	13.23
Crusher Plant Operator	34	6.50	8.50	12.85	9.10
Driller, Rock	15	7.50	8.00	10.00	8.37
Grader/Scraper Operator	23	7.00	9.93	13.25	9.98
Ironworker, Structural	32	6.50	10.50	15.50	10.97
Laborer, Helper	724	3.85	7.00	16.00	7.31
Line Erector	64	5.00	9.62	19.00	10.37
Loader Operator, Front-End	145	6.00	9.25	15.36	9.46
Mechanic, Other	169	4.00	9.95	23.95	10.06
Paver, Bituminous	49	6.00	9.05	13.25	9.24
Pipelayer	33	6.50	11.00	16.50	11.37
Roller Operator	94	5.50	8.75	13.25	8.79
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	176	4.00	7.00	13.25	7.35
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	372	5.00	7.50	15.36	7.63
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	71	6.00	8.35	12.85	8.89
<b>Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)</b>					
Asbestos Abatement Worker	165	7.00	10.00	13.50	9.52
Backhoe Operator	194	6.50	9.50	16.00	9.69
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	10	5.00	8.00	11.00	7.98
Boilermaker	170	14.00	19.88	19.88	19.57
Bulldozer Operator	121	6.00	9.00	21.73	9.46
Carpenter	250	4.50	9.50	16.35	9.86
Cement Finisher	54	5.75	9.00	16.25	9.53

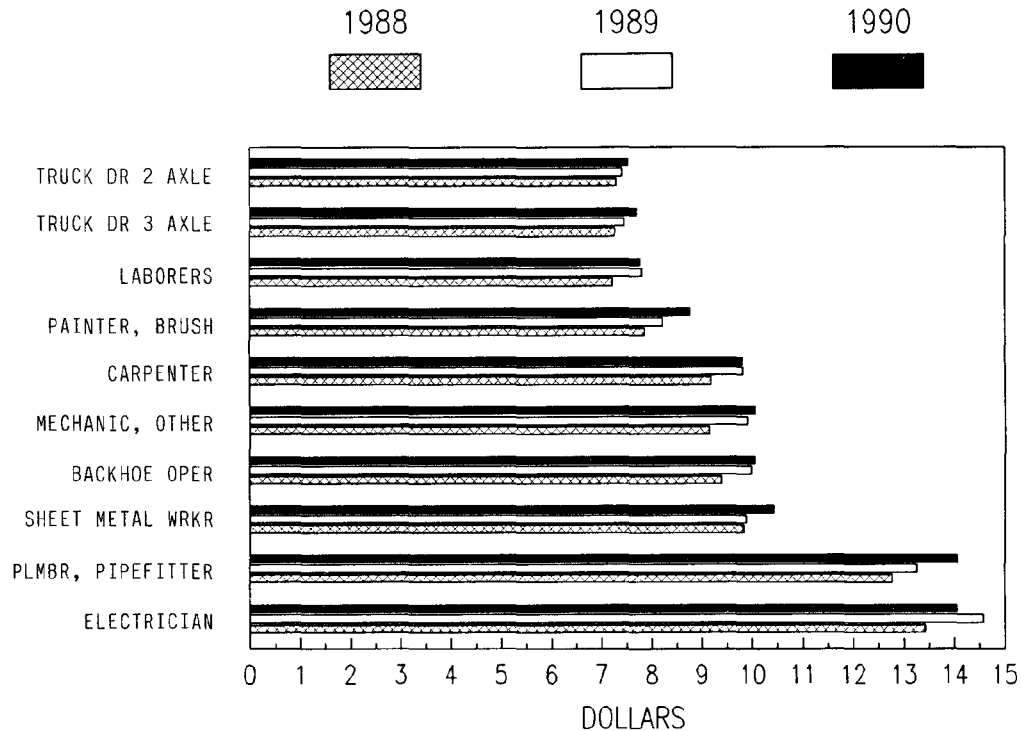
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17) (con't.)</b>					
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	12	\$ 6.50	\$16.62	\$21.73	\$15.57
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	16	7.50	10.70	14.00	10.84
Crusher Plant Operator	13	6.00	9.50	13.75	9.76
Drywall Applicator	109	5.00	13.00	16.50	12.17
Drywall Taper & Finisher	77	8.00	13.00	16.00	12.32
Electrician	628	5.25	14.00	21.11	14.02
Glazier	11	8.00	10.00	12.25	9.96
Grader/Scraper Operator	16	7.00	9.50	15.50	10.38
Insulation Worker	106	5.50	9.75	14.25	9.55
Ironworker, Reinforcing	29	8.00	12.00	17.07	12.77
Ironworker, Structural	48	8.85	17.07	18.07	15.13
Laborer, Helper	1,114	4.25	7.50	19.80	7.90
Loader Operator, Front End	84	6.00	8.75	14.00	8.89
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	150	6.00	13.32	18.79	12.40
Mechanic, Refrigeration	37	9.00	12.50	20.15	12.66
Mechanic, Other	94	6.00	9.42	16.50	9.72
Millwright	95	8.75	16.00	16.50	15.06
Oilburner Repairer	58	7.50	10.42	16.00	10.82
Painter, Brush	218	5.00	8.50	14.75	8.61
Painter, Spray	62	5.50	8.12	14.00	8.56
Paperhanger	28	8.00	9.50	12.50	9.50
Pipelayer	23	6.25	8.50	12.00	8.45
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	496	6.00	12.00	24.00	13.04
Roller Operator	17	6.00	7.25	10.00	7.32
Roofer	217	5.50	9.13	17.65	9.43
Sheet Metal Worker	301	4.50	10.80	20.78	10.74
Sprinkler Fitter	44	6.50	13.25	17.25	12.71
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	136	5.50	7.70	13.50	7.77
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	266	5.50	7.50	11.75	7.73
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	37	6.75	9.00	11.00	8.83

#### Trades in More Than One SIC

Asbestos Abatement Worker	165	7.00	10.00	13.50	9.52
Backhoe Operator	380	6.50	9.97	21.73	10.05
Bituminous Raker/Spreader	65	5.00	8.00	12.20	7.85
Boilermaker	191	11.00	19.88	19.88	18.91
Bulldozer Operator	248	6.00	9.25	21.73	9.75
Carpenter	2,068	4.50	9.50	20.30	9.80
Cement Finisher	142	5.50	9.00	18.00	9.77
Crane Operator (Less Than 15 Tons)	46	6.50	13.50	21.73	13.21
Crane Operator (15 Tons or More)	83	7.50	12.00	17.50	12.63
Crusher Plant Operator	47	6.00	8.75	13.75	9.28
Driller, Rock	15	7.50	8.00	10.00	8.37
Drywall Applicator	120	5.00	13.00	16.50	11.73
Drywall Taper and Finisher	80	8.00	13.00	16.00	12.18
Electrician	742	5.25	14.32	21.11	14.05
Glazier	11	8.00	10.00	12.25	9.96
Grader/Scraper Operator	39	7.00	9.93	15.50	10.15
Insulation Worker	108	5.00	9.75	14.25	9.47
Ironworker, Reinforcing	93	8.00	13.50	17.07	13.01

The graph below illustrates the average wage for ten construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Although all of the trades had increases for 1987 and 1988, the electrician and laborer trades had decreases for 1990. The remaining eight trades were either virtually unchanged or had increases for 1990.

### AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES, BY SELECTED TRADES, 1988-1990



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
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	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC (con't.)					
Ironworker, Structural	158	\$ 6.30	\$14.50	\$18.07	\$13.35
Laborer, Helper	2,539	3.85	7.30	19.80	7.76
Line Erector	91	4.35	9.25	19.00	9.57
Loader Operator, Front End	236	5.50	9.00	15.36	9.22
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	199	6.00	12.50	18.79	12.13
Mechanic, Refrigeration	37	9.00	12.50	20.15	12.66
Mechanic, Other	285	4.00	9.79	23.95	10.05
Millwright	212	8.75	15.50	17.40	14.58
Oilburner Repairer	59	7.50	10.35	16.00	10.79
Painter, Brush	268	5.00	8.50	14.75	8.75
Painter, Spray	70	5.50	8.50	14.50	8.80
Paperhanger	28	8.00	9.50	12.50	9.50
Paver, Bituminous	55	6.00	9.00	13.25	9.21
Pipelayer	56	6.25	9.12	16.50	10.17
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	839	6.00	14.50	24.00	14.05
Resilient Floor Layer	16	7.00	8.20	11.50	9.06
Rigger	50	8.50	14.00	15.00	13.12
Roller Operator	111	5.50	8.25	13.25	8.56
Roofer	225	5.50	9.00	17.65	9.35
Sheet Metal Worker	338	4.50	10.50	20.78	10.42
Sprinkler Fitter	44	6.50	13.25	17.25	12.71
Tool Operator, Power Actuated	16	8.00	9.50	21.73	12.40
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	337	4.00	7.50	13.50	7.53
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	645	5.00	7.50	15.36	7.69
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	113	6.00	8.75	12.85	8.91

## NOTES

**Average Wage:** The average wage is calculated by multiplying individual rates for each occupation by the number of workers paid that rate, adding the results, then dividing by the number of workers in that occupation.

**Median Wage:** Literally, the middle rate, that is, no more than half the workers in a trade earn less and no more than half the workers earn more than this amount.

**Source of September 1990 employment data:** Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

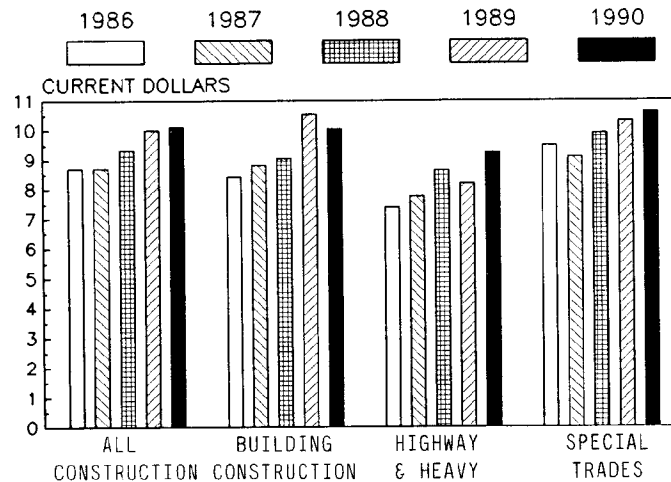
## TECHNICAL NOTES

Rates shown in this publication should not be confused with rates issued with any determination under the Minimum Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. There are two major differences between this data and the determined rates. First, the industry groups differ significantly. For this publication, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system Major Industry Groups are used. Prevailing wage determinations, on the other hand, cross SIC groups. Second, no rate is set for a trade having fewer than 10 workers statewide, so as not to violate confidentiality restrictions.

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The following graph illustrates the data from the table on page one. It demonstrates that the construction industry as a whole has had increased wages each year. Building Construction had a decrease in wages for the year 1990. Highway and Heavy Construction experienced an increase in 1990 wages after experiencing a decrease in 1989. Although workers in Special Trades Contracting had a decrease in 1987, there has been a wage increase for the last three years.

### AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES, BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1986-1990



As indicated by the following graph, the current dollar wages have remained steady or increased at a faster rate than the constant dollar, adjusted for inflation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

### AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES, CURRENT AND CONSTANT (1982-1984 Base), ALL CONSTRUCTION, 1982-1990

