

BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS
Research and Statistics Division

Maine Construction Wage Rates 1992

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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 collect hourly wage data. The data is used for setting minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects of \$10,000.00 or more.

The 1992 survey initially included 1,916 construction firms, a decrease of 2.3 percent from 1991. Data from 564 respondents was used to produce the 1993 determinations and this publication. There were 985 unused reports, and an additional 367 reports that were not returned. Of the unused reports, 921 were from companies having fewer than five employees (Labor Laws, Chapter 15 §1306 states that wage data is to be assembled from contractors employing five or more construction workers). Sixty-four reports were from companies no longer operating. The data presented here is based on 9,893 workers (5.2 percent fewer than in 1991). This represents 43.4 percent of the 22,800 employees in the Construction Industry Division reported to the Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research in September 1992.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1992 was \$10.15, which is 0.3 percent less than the 1991 average of \$10.18. There was an increase in wage rates in two of the major groups and a decrease in wage rates in the other group within construction. The largest change occurred in Highway & Heavy Construction with a 5.3 percent increase. Building Construction had a 0.2 percent increase. Special Trades Contractors had a 2.5 percent decrease.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1988-1992

	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE				
	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Construction Industry	\$10.15	\$10.18	\$10.11	\$10.00	\$9.35
Building Construction	9.73	9.71	10.04	10.55	9.05
Highway & Heavy Construction	9.70	9.21	9.26	8.20	8.65
Special Trades Construction	10.58	10.85	10.62	10.32	9.90

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HOURLY WAGE RATES FOR SELECTED CONSTRUCTION TRADES, MAINE, 1992

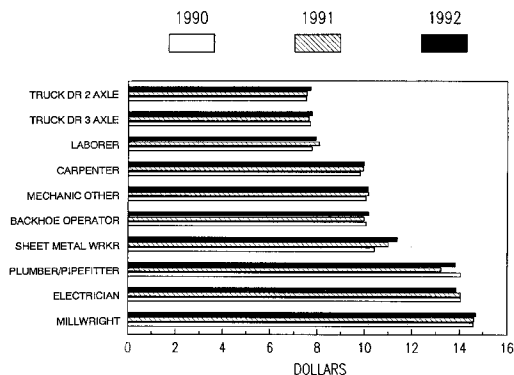
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Building Construction (SIC 15)					
Back-hoe Operator	22	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$16.00	\$9.75
Carpenter	1,041	4.50	9.50	26.00	9.77
Cement Finisher	36	6.00	9.50	17.00	9.88
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	12	8.00	11.55	13.00	10.91
Crane Operator (>= 15 Tons)	10	7.50	11.38	15.00	11.38
Dry-wall Applicator	25	5.75	7.65	13.00	8.84
Electrician	71	5.75	14.50	17.50	13.50
Ironworker, Structural	44	5.50	9.05	16.50	10.38
Laborer, Helper	405	5.00	7.00	16.50	7.78
Loader Operator	10	7.00	8.25	15.97	9.62
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	37	6.00	11.00	15.30	10.87
Millwright	46	10.00	14.50	17.00	14.42
Painter, Brush	34	6.20	8.68	13.00	8.81
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	86	6.00	14.50	17.50	13.64
Resilient Floor Layer	12	5.50	6.75	8.85	6.89
Roofer	11	5.50	6.75	11.00	7.19
Sheet Metal Worker	34	6.00	8.00	11.00	8.25
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	19	6.25	7.75	15.97	8.30
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	13	6.00	7.50	9.00	7.58

Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)

Back-hoe Operator	151	6.25	10.03	20.77	10.78
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	54	5.00	8.54	12.40	8.66
Blaster	20	7.50	11.25	15.00	11.65
Boilermaker	13	14.50	15.00	16.50	15.23
Bulldozer Operator	72	6.50	9.36	15.36	9.91
Carpenter	229	6.00	10.00	21.00	10.42
Cement Finisher	18	10.00	12.00	14.00	11.76
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	18	8.70	11.25	20.00	11.54
Crane Operator (>=15 Tons)	52	7.15	12.85	16.50	12.56
Crusher Plant Operator	38	6.75	11.26	15.50	11.14
Electrician	48	10.50	14.50	18.76	14.84
Flagger	27	5.00	5.50	7.00	5.46
Grader/Scraper Operator	20	7.50	9.75	15.20	10.26
Hot Top Plant Operator	12	7.50	11.77	12.05	10.74
Ironworker, Reinforcing	11	8.00	12.00	14.00	10.80
Ironworker, Structural	68	8.50	14.50	20.89	13.84
Laborer, Helper	710	4.74	7.25	15.00	7.56
Line Erector	64	8.00	14.50	15.00	13.05
Loader Operator, Front-End	144	6.00	9.00	25.00	9.75
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	14	6.01	12.00	13.00	10.61
Mechanic, Other	148	6.50	10.50	15.35	10.46
Millwright	74	12.50	14.50	18.50	14.80
Painter, Spray	13	9.50	10.50	12.00	10.54
Paver, Bituminous	45	5.50	9.45	11.77	9.45
Pipelay	38	5.50	8.50	18.50	9.26
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	117	12.50	14.50	18.00	14.37
Rigger	40	10.00	12.00	16.50	13.13
Roller Operator	94	5.00	9.00	12.00	9.03
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	105	6.00	7.30	12.00	7.57
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	343	5.50	7.75	23.88	7.78
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	61	6.50	8.64	13.75	8.99

The graph below illustrates the average wage for ten construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Electrician, Laborer, and Plumber/Pipefitter wages decreased for 1992. The remaining seven trades were either virtually unchanged or had increases for 1992.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
BY SELECTED TRADES, 1990-1992



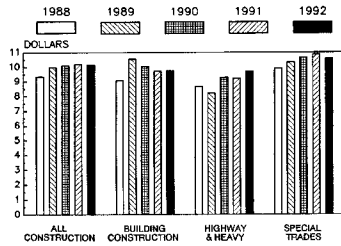
TECHNICAL NOTES

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 three 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, due to confidentiality restrictions rates are not set for any trade having fewer than 10 workers statewide. Third, median rates are used to set prevailing wages while average wages are used for the charts and graphs in this publication.

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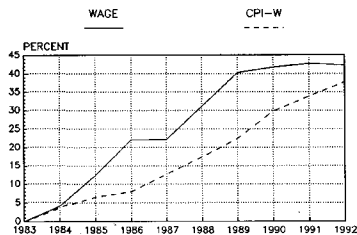
The following graph uses the data from the table on page one to illustrate the change in construction wages. The change in wages for the construction industry as a whole and for Building Construction was very slight. However, the change for Highway & Heavy Construction and for the Special Trades was more pronounced.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1988-1992



The following graph compares the survey's annual average construction wage to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI-W (Consumer Price Index) using 1983 as a base. Although wages have remained above the CPI-W for the entire period, wages for the last three years increased at a slower rate than the CPI-W.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,
AND INFLATION (1983 Base),
ALL CONSTRUCTION, 1983-1992



Number of
Workers

Hourly Wage Rate
Low Median High Average

Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)

	Number of Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Asbestos Abatement Worker	100	\$7.00	\$9.50	\$16.00	\$9.87
Back-hoe Operator	180	6.00	9.50	16.00	9.68
Boilermaker	90	9.50	19.88	22.88	19.51
Bulldozer Operator	91	6.50	9.00	13.95	9.43
Carpenter	176	6.00	10.00	16.50	10.47
Cement Finisher	80	5.00	8.50	20.00	8.57
Crane Operator (>=15 Tons)	14	10.00	12.00	19.14	12.79
Crusher Plant Operator	15	6.50	9.00	12.00	8.83
Dry-wall Applicator	62	6.00	12.00	16.50	12.16
Dry-wall Taper & Finisher	51	6.00	12.00	18.60	11.55
Electrician	434	5.00	14.00	24.05	13.81
Elevator Constructor	21	7.50	15.00	15.60	12.94
Grader/Scraper Operator	10	7.00	8.75	13.95	9.75
Insulation Worker	182	5.00	8.00	13.00	7.72
Ironworker, Reinforcing	81	9.00	12.50	17.77	13.24
Ironworker, Structural	71	8.00	15.65	18.99	14.82
Laborer, Helper	1,183	4.25	7.65	23.59	8.20
Line Erector	11	4.35	7.00	8.50	7.15
Loader Operator, Front End	74	6.00	9.00	16.00	9.17
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	141	6.50	13.50	18.00	12.80
Mechanic, Refrigeration	29	8.75	14.25	21.50	14.16
Mechanic, Other	72	5.50	9.55	15.00	9.56
Millwright	109	8.00	14.40	18.60	14.68
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	11.50	16.90	11.85
Painter, Brush	135	5.50	8.50	13.30	8.56
Painter, Spray	17	6.75	10.00	14.25	9.50
Paperhanger	10	8.50	10.45	12.50	10.52
Paver, Bituminous	12	8.00	9.38	13.00	10.00
Pipelayer	18	6.00	7.50	11.00	8.01
Plasterer	12	9.00	11.50	14.00	11.62
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	514	6.25	13.64	23.00	13.70
Roller Operator	19	5.50	8.00	11.50	8.17
Roofer	193	5.00	8.65	14.00	9.08
Sheet Metal Worker	220	5.00	12.00	17.00	11.86
Slider	16	5.00	8.61	13.00	8.34
Sprinkler Fitter	60	6.00	13.75	17.55	13.08
Tile Setter	10	9.00	14.00	15.20	13.58
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	128	5.50	7.50	12.75	7.73
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	221	4.50	7.65	11.00	7.74
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	50	6.00	9.00	14.00	8.87

Trades in More Than One SIC

	Number of Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Asbestos Abatement Worker	100	7.00	9.50	16.00	9.87
Back-hoe Operator	353	6.00	9.80	20.77	10.16
Bituminous Packer/Spread	63	5.00	8.58	12.40	8.62
Blaster	21	7.50	12.00	15.00	11.69
Boilermaker	103	9.50	19.88	22.88	18.97
Bulldozer Operator	171	6.50	9.00	15.36	9.66
Carpenter	1,446	4.50	9.50	26.00	9.96
Cement Finisher	134	5.00	9.00	20.00	9.35
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	37	7.88	11.00	20.00	11.06
Crane Operator (>=15 Tons)	76	7.15	12.50	19.40	12.45
Crusher Plant Operator	53	6.50	9.50	15.50	10.49
Dry-wall Applicator	87	5.75	11.50	16.50	11.21

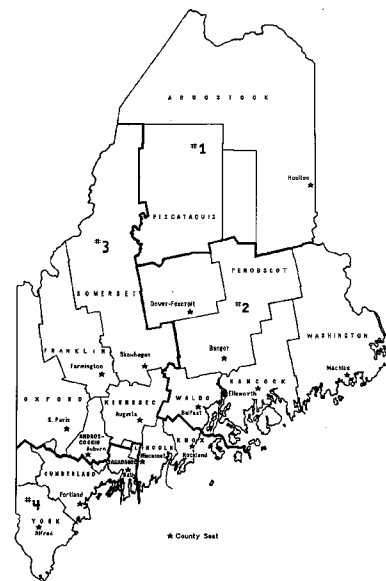
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC (cont.)					
Dry-wall Taper and Finisher	55	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$18.60	\$11.45
Electrician	553	5.00	14.50	24.05	13.86
Elevator Constructor	21	7.50	15.00	15.60	12.94
Flagger	31	4.94	5.50	7.00	5.47
Grader/Scraper Operator	30	7.00	9.68	15.20	10.09
Hot Top Plant Operator	12	7.50	11.77	12.05	10.74
Insulation Worker	182	8.00	8.00	13.00	7.72
Ironworker, Reinforcing	100	8.00	12.50	21.82	13.16
Ironworker, Structural	183	5.50	14.50	20.89	13.39
Laborer, Helper	2,298	4.25	7.50	23.59	7.93
Line Erector	75	4.35	13.00	15.00	12.18
Loader Operator, Front End	228	6.00	9.00	25.00	9.56
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	192	6.00	13.00	18.00	12.27
Mechanic, Refrigeration	35	8.00	14.00	21.50	13.62
Mechanic, Other	228	5.50	10.00	15.35	10.14
Millwright	229	8.00	14.50	18.60	14.67
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	11.50	16.90	11.85
Painter, Brush	172	5.50	8.50	16.00	8.72
Painter, Spray	30	6.75	10.00	14.25	9.95
Paperhanger	13	8.00	9.75	12.50	10.02
Paver, Bituminous	57	5.50	9.45	13.00	9.57
Pipelayer	56	5.50	8.00	18.50	8.86
Plasterer	12	9.00	11.50	14.00	11.62
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	717	6.00	14.50	23.00	13.80
Resilient Floor Layer	16	5.50	7.33	12.50	8.10
Rigger	47	8.00	12.00	16.50	12.89
Roller Operator	113	5.00	8.91	12.00	8.88
Roofer	204	5.00	8.58	14.00	8.97
Sheet Metal Worker	255	5.00	11.50	17.00	11.38
Sider	16	5.00	8.61	13.00	8.34
Sprinkler Fitter	60	6.00	13.75	17.55	13.08
Tile Setter	10	9.00	14.00	15.20	13.58
Tool Operator, Power Actuated	15	5.50	7.75	11.00	8.02
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	252	5.50	7.50	15.97	7.71
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	577	4.50	7.69	23.88	7.76
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	113	6.00	8.65	14.00	8.92

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 1992 employment data: Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.



- AREA 1: Arrostook County, Upper Penobscot County (above Millinocket), Upper Piscataquis County (above Bowdoin College Grant).
- AREA 2: Washington County, Hancock County, Waldo County, Lower Penobscot County (including Millinocket and Medway), Lower Piscataquis County (including Bowdoin College Grant).
- AREA 3: Knox County, Lincoln County (excluding Dresden), Kennebec County, Androscoggin County (excluding Durham), Somerset County, Franklin County, Oxford County (excluding Fryburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram), including the towns of Richmond, Harrison, and Otisfield.
- AREA 4: York County, Cumberland County (excluding Harrison and Otisfield), Sagadahoc County (excluding Richmond), including the towns of Dresden, Fryburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram, and Durham.

	DETERMINATIONS ISSUED FOR 1992			
	AREA BY MAJOR INDUSTRY			
	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special *
Area 1	15	13	9	3
Area 2	75	41	27	7
Area 3	61	36	25	4
Area 4	42	25	28	3

*A Special determination is issued when it is necessary to combine different types of construction.