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## Maine Construction Wage Rates 1996

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July, 1997

The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The main purpose of the survey is to collect hourly wage data to use for setting the following year's minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects of \$10,000.00 or more.

- ❖ The 1996 survey initially included 2,087 construction firms. Of those,
  - 853 were from companies with less than 5 trades workers (by law cannot be used)
  - 79 were from companies no longer in business
  - 149 were eliminated for various other reasons
  - 312 survey forms were not returned
  - 594 forms covering 11,038 workers (42.1% of total construction trades workers) were used to determine wage rates
- ❖ The average hourly wage rates for 1996 were:
  - \$11.16 for industry-wide - a 4.1% increase over 1995
  - \$10.92 for building construction - a 1.8% increase over 1995
  - \$10.63 for highway and heavy construction - a 7.6% increase over 1995
  - \$11.57 for special trades - a 3.9% increase over 1995

### 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 and 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 1995 employment data:** Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Labor Market Information Service Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

**Technical Notes:** Construction Wage 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, 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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Average Hourly Wage Rates  
By Major Industry Group, 1993-1996

	Average Hourly Wage			
	1996	1995	1994	1993
Construction Industry				
Industry-Wide	\$11.16	\$10.72	\$10.27	\$10.31
Building Construction	10.92	10.73	10.14	9.49
Highway & Heavy Construction	10.63	9.88	9.57	10.09
Special Trades Construction	11.57	11.14	10.61	10.71

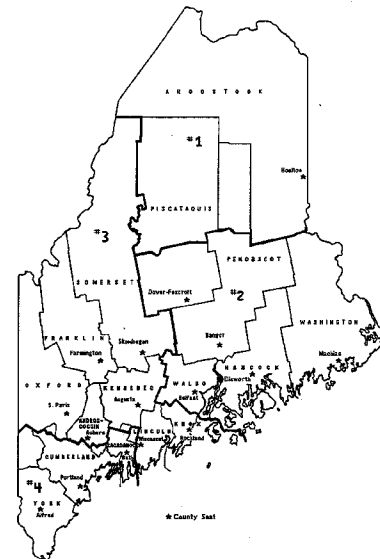
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# Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1996

	Number of	Hourly Wage Rate			
	Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Building Construction (SIC 15)					
Backhoe Operator	16	\$7.00	\$10.63	\$14.00	\$10.29
Bulldozer Operator	18	9.40	12.25	16.00	12.43
Carpenter	1,081	6.00	11.00	22.00	11.01
Cement Mason/Finisher	38	5.00	10.00	17.25	10.34
Crane Operator	14	10.80	12.88	15.00	12.79
Electrician (Licensed)	53	11.00	16.00	21.00	15.16
Ironworker, Ornamental	17	7.50	9.00	11.75	9.54
Ironworker, Reinforcing	17	7.00	9.50	14.50	9.80
Ironworker, Structural	75	7.00	12.50	18.50	12.51
Laborer, Helper	732	4.25	8.00	15.75	8.33
Mechanic	10	9.00	10.50	14.00	10.91
Millwright	84	9.50	14.00	18.60	14.06
Painter	39	6.50	11.00	14.00	10.93
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	100	7.50	15.00	18.60	14.70
Plumber	11	9.00	16.00	20.00	15.18
Rigger	34	9.00	11.00	18.60	12.49
Sheet Metal Worker	20	6.85	10.20	18.90	10.36
Truck Driver, Light	36	6.00	9.50	12.50	9.30
Truck Driver, Heavy	16	6.75	11.75	14.00	10.48

## Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)

Asphalt Raker	49	6.00	9.25	12.05	9.32
Backhoe Operator	146	7.00	11.00	20.50	11.57
Bricklayer	12	12.75	13.40	15.00	13.51
Bulldozer Operator	85	7.15	10.10	17.75	10.88
Carpenter	268	8.00	11.30	21.57	11.45
Cement Mason/Finisher	32	7.00	12.00	14.00	11.35
Crane Operator	71	8.50	13.85	16.50	13.85
Crusher Plant Operator	32	7.75	9.57	13.65	10.17
Driller, Rock	22	6.00	10.00	12.00	10.00
Grader/Scraper Operator	30	8.00	11.85	17.13	12.20
Hot Top Plant Operator	20	7.50	11.12	14.90	11.08
Ironworker, Reinforcing	27	10.00	12.00	13.00	11.78
Laborer, Helper	838	5.00	8.00	17.50	8.52
Line Erector	19	9.00	12.00	15.15	12.03
Loader Operator, Front-End	111	7.00	10.00	17.13	10.51
Mechanic	173	6.00	11.00	17.50	11.20
Painter	33	7.00	11.50	17.81	12.02
Paver, Bituminous	39	7.00	10.50	13.27	10.53



- AREA 1: Aroostook County, Upper Penobscot County (above Millisocket), Upper Piscataquis County (above Bowdoin College Grant).
- AREA 2: Washington County, Hancock County, Waldo County, Lower Penobscot County (including Millisocket and Madway), 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 Fryeburg, 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 Fitchmond), including the towns of Dresden, Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram, and Durham.

## Determinations Issued For 1996 Area By Major Industry

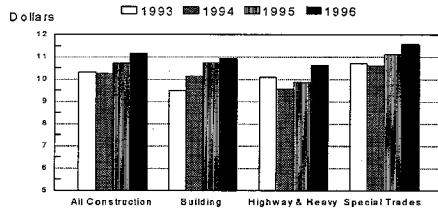
	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special*
Area 1	7	11	3	1
Area 2	52	16	32	3
Area 3	55	23	14	2
Area 4	27	7	17	1
Statewide	1	0	0	0
Combined Area	0	3	0	0

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

# Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1996

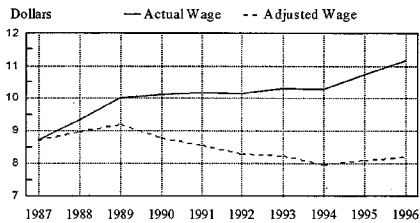
The following graph uses the data from the table on page one to illustrate changes in construction wages. The construction industry as a whole had a wage increase of 4.1 percent over 1995. Building construction increased 1.7 percent. Highway & Heavy Construction increased 7.6 percent. Special Trades increased 3.9 percent.

Average Hourly Wage Rates  
By Major Industry Group, 1993 - 1996



The following graph compares the survey's average (actual) construction wage to the construction wage adjusted by the Consumer Price Index to reflect inflation. The average wage for Maine construction workers increased by 4.1 percent in 1996. By comparison, the average wage adjusted by the Consumer Price Index rose by 1.1 percent from 1995. This is the second time since 1989 that the average hourly wage rates exceeded the inflation rate. As a result, workers had a 3.0 percent increase in buying power for 1996.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,  
And Inflation (1986 Base=\$8.71)  
All Construction, 1987 - 1996



## Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16), continued

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Pipelay	17	\$8.00	\$9.60	\$14.50	\$10.20
Roller Operator	68	5.31	10.00	13.27	10.08
Truck Driver, Light	54	6.00	8.00	12.00	8.22
Truck Driver, Heavy	459	6.04	8.65	15.36	8.75

## Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)

Asbestos Removal Worker	154	7.50	10.25	15.50	10.68
Asphalt Raker	13	7.00	8.00	12.50	8.88
Backhoe Operator	171	6.00	10.50	18.00	10.81
Boilermaker	50	10.00	20.27	22.67	19.30
Bricklayer	96	8.00	14.60	20.00	14.54
Bulldozer Operator	95	6.50	10.00	18.00	10.40
Carpenter	307	6.00	12.00	19.46	12.24
Cement Mason/Finisher	61	7.00	10.00	14.25	10.20
Crane Operator	14	8.43	12.50	20.10	13.47
Crusher Plant Operator	13	7.75	10.00	12.50	10.17
Dry Wall Applicator	119	7.50	13.00	22.00	13.43
Dry Wall Taper & Finisher	83	8.00	12.50	15.00	12.33
Electrician (Licensed)	599	5.50	15.75	26.03	15.75
Floor Layer	30	5.50	11.75	15.00	10.79
Glazier	21	7.00	9.50	13.25	9.78
Grader-Scraper Operator	13	8.00	10.00	17.00	11.10
Insulation Installer	141	4.59	9.15	15.00	9.12
Ironworker, Reinforcing	68	7.62	16.99	19.77	15.88
Ironworker, Structural	63	5.50	10.00	19.00	11.58
Laborer/Helper/Tender	1,086	5.00	8.00	17.00	8.59
Loader Operator, Front End	90	7.00	10.00	20.10	10.66
Mechanic	100	6.00	11.00	20.10	10.98
Mechanic, Refrigeration	44	7.50	14.43	26.00	14.70
Millwright	118	9.00	16.25	18.25	15.39
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	12.50	16.25	12.39
Painter	314	5.00	9.00	15.00	9.05
Paperhanger	18	8.50	10.00	13.24	10.39
Paver, Bituminous	17	6.18	10.00	13.90	10.19
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	352	6.00	17.89	25.94	16.86
Pipelay	28	7.44	10.88	23.00	12.22
Plumber	278	8.00	12.00	18.00	12.37

# Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1996

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17), continued					
Roller Operator	34	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$12.65	\$8.92
Roofer	162	6.00	10.00	16.82	10.13
Sheet Metal Worker	299	5.30	11.00	19.50	11.23
Truck Driver, Light	55	6.00	8.00	13.75	8.50
Truck Driver, Heavy	350	6.00	8.50	16.11	8.59

## Trades in More Than One SIC

Asbestos Removal Worker	154	7.50	10.25	15.50	10.68
Asphalt Raker	62	6.00	9.00	12.50	9.23
Backhoe Operator	333	6.00	11.00	20.50	11.12
Boilermaker	55	10.00	20.27	22.67	19.30
Bricklayer	113	8.00	14.25	20.00	14.37
Bulldozer Operator	198	6.50	10.45	18.00	10.78
Carpenter	1,656	6.00	11.00	22.00	11.31
Cement Mason/Finisher	131	5.00	10.00	17.25	10.52
Crane Operator	99	8.43	13.50	20.10	13.65
Crusher Plant Operator	45	7.75	9.80	13.65	10.17
Driller, Rock	29	6.00	11.00	15.00	10.79
Dry Wall Applicator	119	7.50	13.00	22.00	13.43
Dry Wall Taper & Finisher	84	8.00	12.50	15.00	12.28
Electrician (Licensed)	808	5.50	15.02	26.03	15.25
Floor Layer	31	5.50	11.50	15.00	10.70
Glazier	21	7.00	9.50	13.25	9.78
Grader-Scraper Operator	43	8.00	11.25	17.13	11.87
Hot Top Plant Operator	21	7.50	11.00	14.90	10.98
Insulation Installer	141	4.59	9.15	15.00	9.12
Ironworker, Ornamental	18	7.50	9.00	11.75	9.47
Ironworker, Reinforcing	112	7.00	15.99	19.77	13.97
Ironworker, Structural	280	5.50	13.00	19.00	12.93
Laborer/Helper/Tender	2,356	4.25	8.00	17.50	8.52
Line Erector	24	9.00	12.25	15.15	12.13
Loader Operator, Front End	206	7.00	10.00	20.10	10.57
Mechanic	283	6.00	11.00	20.10	11.11
Mechanic, Refrigeration	44	7.50	14.43	26.00	14.70
Millwright	325	9.00	14.88	21.65	14.43
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	12.50	16.25	12.39
Painter	386	5.00	9.00	17.81	9.49

# Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1996

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC, continued					
Paperhanger	18	\$8.50	\$10.00	\$13.24	\$10.39
Paver, Bituminous	56	6.18	10.00	13.90	10.43
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	687	6.00	15.50	25.94	15.49
Pipelayer	46	7.44	10.30	23.00	11.43
Plumber	290	8.00	12.33	20.00	12.50
Rigger	48	9.00	11.00	18.60	12.67
Roller Operator	102	5.00	9.75	13.27	9.69
Roofer	170	6.00	10.00	16.82	10.07
Sheet Metal Worker	342	5.30	10.80	19.50	11.19
Sider	23	6.00	10.00	15.00	10.13
Truck Driver, Light	145	6.00	8.45	13.75	8.60
Truck Driver, Heavy	825	6.00	8.50	16.11	8.72

The following graph illustrates the average Maine wage for the eight construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Six of these trades had wage increases. Carpenters had the greatest change with a 5.2 percent increase, followed by Laborers with a 4.4 percent increase. Sheet Metal Workers and Electricians had a decrease of 3.7 percent and 0.3 percent respectively.

