



Maine Construction Wage Rates 1997

Prepared by: Ruth Ladd, Statistician II

The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The hourly wage data, collected by the survey, is used to set the following year's minimum pay rates for State-funded construction projects of \$10,000 or more.

- ❖ The 1997 survey included 1,887 construction firms. Of those,
 - 1,392 survey forms were returned from active employers
 - ✓ 595 forms covering 9,433 workers (40.7% of total construction trades workers) were used to determine wage rates
 - ✓ 797 forms were from companies with less than 5 trades workers (by law cannot be used)
 - 80 companies reported they were no longer in business
 - 53 companies were eliminated for various other reasons
 - 362 survey forms were not returned
- ❖ The average hourly wage rates for 1997 were:
 - \$10.99 for industry-wide--a 1.5% decrease from 1996
 - \$10.84 for building construction--a 0.7% decrease from 1996
 - \$10.57 for highway and heavy construction--a 0.6% decrease from 1996
 - \$11.24 for special trades--a 2.9% decrease from 1996

Average Hourly Wage Rates
By Major Industry Group, 1994-1997

	Average Hourly Wage			
	1997	1996	1995	1994
Construction Industry				
Industry-Wide	\$10.99	\$11.16	\$10.72	\$10.27
Building Construction	10.84	10.92	10.73	10.14
Highway & Heavy Construction	10.57	10.63	9.88	9.57
Special Trades Construction	11.24	11.57	11.14	10.61

BLS 697

The Maine Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Telephone (207) 624-6400 TDD 1-800-794-1100 FAX (207) 624-6449

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1997

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Building Construction (SIC 15)					
Backhoe Operator	14	\$7.98	\$10.88	\$14.00	\$10.87
Bricklayer	12	12.00	16.75	17.58	15.94
Bulldozer Operator	10	8.29	11.00	15.00	10.99
Carpenter	967	6.00	11.00	22.50	11.05
Cement Mason/Finisher	42	6.25	11.00	16.00	10.42
Crane Operator	18	10.00	13.88	17.05	13.84
Electrician (Licensed)	49	8.25	16.00	27.62	15.61
Ironworker, Reinforcing	13	7.00	9.00	11.00	9.20
Ironworker, Structural	57	6.00	13.00	18.60	12.39
Laborer/Helper/Tender	435	5.15	8.00	13.50	8.27
Millwright	55	12.75	15.00	18.60	14.84
Painter	38	7.00	10.00	14.00	10.10
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	82	9.25	15.50	18.60	15.25
Plumber	10	10.00	17.00	20.00	15.35
Sheet Metal Worker	25	7.00	8.90	12.35	9.27
Truck Driver, Light	17	7.00	10.25	14.50	10.72
Truck Driver, Heavy	21	6.00	9.50	15.00	10.21

Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)

Asphalt Raker	32	7.00	9.00	12.15	8.75
Backhoe Operator	129	8.24	11.75	17.87	11.90
Bulldozer Operator	81	7.15	11.00	17.87	11.26
Carpenter	219	8.00	11.23	22.00	11.45
Cement Mason/Finisher	17	7.50	13.00	14.00	11.76
Crane Operator	60	9.00	14.18	16.50	13.73
Crusher Plant Operator	30	8.00	9.57	18.23	10.51
Driller, Rock	12	6.00	10.00	11.50	10.05
Grader/Scraper Operator	16	8.00	12.12	17.25	12.58
Hot Top Plant Operator	11	7.75	9.75	17.13	11.30
Laborer/Helper/Tender	685	5.15	8.35	19.00	8.76
Line Erector	22	7.50	13.00	15.50	12.51
Loader Operator, Front-End	98	7.00	10.25	17.13	10.91
Mechanic	120	7.00	10.95	17.00	11.23
Paver, Bituminous	22	7.00	9.74	17.13	10.12
Roller Operator	43	6.50	9.50	17.14	10.47
Truck Driver, Light	15	8.00	8.50	10.50	8.72
Truck Driver, Heavy	415	6.50	8.58	15.60	8.69

For the Construction Wage Program, the State is divided into four areas. Area 1 includes Aroostook and Piscataquis Counties. Area 2 includes Hancock, Penobscot, Waldo and Washington Counties. Area 3 includes Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford and Somerset Counties. Area 4 includes Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York Counties. The areas were changed in 1997 so that each area included whole counties. Previously some counties had been divided into more than one area.

Each construction project over \$10,000 funded with State money, in whole or in part, is required to have a wage determination attached. The wage determination lists the wages paid to the construction workers on that particular project.

Number of Determinations Issued For 1997 Area By Major Industry

	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special*
Area 1	13	12	11	2
Area 2	51	17	24	0
Area 3	46	13	24	0
Area 4	25	8	19	1
Combined Area	0	5	0	0

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

Notes

Average Wage: The average wage is calculated by multiplying the number of workers in each occupation by their wage rate. Those totals are added and then divided by the total 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 the median wage amount.

SIC: Is the Standard Industrial Code used for classifying a business based on the type of activity in which they are engaged.

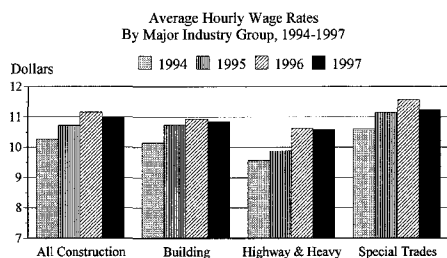
Source of September 1997 employment data: Maine Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market Information Service Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

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.

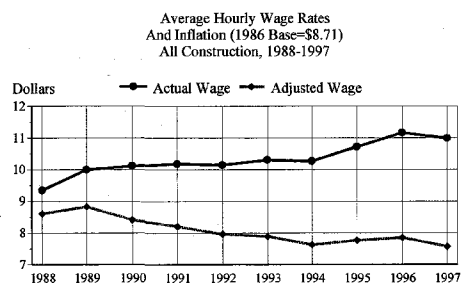
Material in this publication is in the public domain and may, with appropriate credit, be reproduced without permission.

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1997

The following graph illustrates changes in construction wages. In 1997 the construction industry as a whole had a wage decrease of 1.5 percent from 1996. Building construction decreased 0.7 percent. Highway & Heavy Construction decreased 0.6 percent. Special Trades decreased 2.9 percent.



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 decreased by 1.5 percent in 1997. By comparison, the average wage, adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, decreased by 3.7 percent from 1996. As a result, workers had a 2.2 percent increase in buying power for 1997.



Number of
Workers

Hourly Wage Rate
Low Median High Average

Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)

	Number of Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Asbestos Removal Worker	122	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$16.50	\$10.46
Asphalt Raker	15	7.00	8.25	11.00	8.62
Backhoe Operator	169	7.25	10.50	18.00	11.03
Boilermaker	17	10.00	20.27	22.52	18.96
Bricklayer	101	8.50	14.50	20.36	14.39
Bulldozer Operator	80	6.75	10.00	18.00	10.49
Carpenter	319	6.00	11.00	19.27	12.59
Cement Mason/Finisher	74	6.50	10.00	15.50	9.94
Crane Operator	22	8.43	12.25	20.91	13.14
Crusher Plant Operator	17	8.00	9.50	14.25	10.11
Dry Wall Applicator	134	7.50	14.00	20.00	13.38
Dry Wall Taper & Finisher	104	8.50	13.00	18.00	13.11
Electrician (Licensed)	411	7.00	15.00	25.65	15.56
Elevator Constructor	25	16.00	20.51	20.60	19.86
Floor Layer	43	6.00	11.50	15.00	10.88
Grader-Scraper Operator	14	7.50	9.88	17.10	10.49
Insulation Installer	93	6.00	8.37	16.08	8.98
Ironworker, Ornamental	16	9.00	17.77	17.77	14.48
Ironworker, Reinforcing	37	8.60	16.99	19.27	14.08
Ironworker, Structural	22	7.00	11.05	17.77	11.23
Laborer/Helper/Tender	1,227	5.15	8.50	18.59	8.86
Line Erector	20	6.75	10.50	15.00	10.49
Loader Operator, Front End	85	7.00	9.50	16.88	9.98
Mechanic	108	7.00	10.75	17.12	11.02
Mechanic, Refrigeration	62	7.50	15.10	18.00	14.43
Millwright	82	8.00	14.85	19.00	13.90
Oil Burner Repairer	42	9.00	13.13	19.46	13.35
Painter	281	5.50	9.00	25.11	9.36
Paperhanger	22	9.00	10.00	12.00	10.27
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	250	8.00	16.65	20.34	16.05
Pipelayer	29	7.00	14.00	18.46	13.51
Plumber	263	8.00	12.00	18.00	12.20
Roller Operator	15	6.00	8.50	12.00	8.47
Roofer	128	6.50	9.50	14.00	9.57
Sheet Metal Worker	215	5.50	10.50	20.00	10.85
Sider	26	7.00	10.00	12.50	9.52
Truck Driver, Light	46	6.50	9.00	16.06	9.59
Truck Driver, Heavy	371	6.00	8.50	14.70	8.82

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1997

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC					
Asbestos Removal Worker	122	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$16.50	\$10.46
Asphalt Raker	48	7.00	8.50	12.15	8.74
Backhoe Operator	312	7.25	11.00	18.00	11.38
Boilermaker	18	10.00	20.27	22.52	18.76
Bricklayer	119	8.50	14.60	20.36	14.76
Bulldozer Operator	171	6.75	10.50	18.00	10.88
Carpenter	1,505	6.00	11.00	22.50	11.43
Cement Mason/Finisher	133	6.25	10.25	16.00	10.32
Crane Operator	100	8.43	13.84	20.91	13.62
Crusher Plant Operator	47	8.00	9.50	18.23	10.36
Driller, Rock	17	6.00	11.00	14.00	11.07
Dry Wall Applicator	136	7.50	14.00	20.00	13.31
Dry Wall Taper & Finisher	104	8.50	13.00	18.00	13.11
Electrician (Licensed)	505	7.00	15.06	27.62	15.56
Elevator Constructor	25	16.00	20.51	20.60	19.86
Flagger	11	5.15	7.00	8.00	6.74
Floor Layer	44	6.00	11.50	15.00	10.86
Grader-Scraper Operator	31	7.50	11.00	17.25	11.55
Hot Top Plant Operator	13	7.00	9.75	17.13	11.02
Insulation Installer	99	6.00	8.75	16.50	9.44
Ironworker, Ornamental	16	9.00	17.77	17.77	14.48
Ironworker, Reinforcing	69	7.00	13.00	19.27	12.98
Ironworker, Structural	177	6.00	14.00	18.60	13.13
Laborer/Helper/Tender	2,347	5.15	8.47	19.00	8.72
Line Erector	42	6.75	12.00	15.50	11.54
Loader Operator, Front End	186	7.00	10.00	17.13	10.44
Mechanic	235	7.00	10.95	17.12	11.12
Mechanic, Refrigeration	62	7.50	15.10	18.00	14.43
Millwright	190	8.00	14.85	22.00	14.41
Oil Burner Repairer	42	9.00	13.13	19.46	13.35
Painter	334	5.50	9.00	25.11	9.50
Paperhanger	22	9.00	10.00	12.00	10.27
Paver, Bituminous	31	7.00	10.00	17.13	10.25
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	419	8.00	15.50	20.34	15.68
Pipelayer	36	7.00	12.78	18.46	12.91
Plumber	273	8.00	12.00	20.00	12.31
Rigger	19	9.00	11.50	14.00	11.51
Roller Operator	60	6.00	9.00	17.14	9.85

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1997

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
Trades in More Than One SIC, continued					
Roofer	134	\$6.50	\$9.50	\$14.00	\$9.59
Sheet Metal Worker	240	5.50	10.50	20.00	10.68
Sider	32	6.00	10.00	12.75	9.39
Truck Driver, Light	78	6.50	9.00	16.06	9.67
Truck Driver, Heavy	807	6.00	8.50	15.60	8.79

The following graph illustrates the average Maine wage for the eight construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Seven trades had wage increases. Laborers had the greatest change with a 2.4 percent increase, followed by wage increases for the Backhoe Operators (2.3%), Electricians (2.0%), Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitters (1.2%), Carpenters (1.0%), Heavy Truck Drivers (0.8%), and Painters (0.1%). Plumbers had a decrease in wages of 1.5 percent.

