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# Maine Construction Wage Rates 1991

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Labor Standards

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BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

Research and Statistics Division

## Maine Construction Wage Rates 1991

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 1991 survey initially included 1,961 construction firms, a decrease of 15.3 percent from 1990. Data from 633 respondents was used to produce the 1992 determinations and, subsequently, this publication. There were 1,091 unused reports, and an additional 237 reports that were not returned. Of the unused reports, 1,013 were from companies having fewer than five employees and 78 were from companies no longer operating. The data presented is based on 10,437 workers (11.9 percent fewer than in 1990), or 43.3 percent of the estimated 24,100 employees in the Construction Industry Division in September 1991.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1991 was \$10.18, which is 0.7 percent higher than the 1990 average of \$10.11. There was an increase in the wage rates in one of the major industry groups, and a decrease in the other two groups within construction. The largest percent change occurred in Building Construction with a 3.3 percent decrease. Highway & Heavy Construction had a 0.5 percent decrease. Special Trades Contractors had an increase of 2.1 percent.

### AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1987-1991

	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE				
	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987
Construction Industry	\$10.18	\$10.11	\$10.00	\$9.35	\$8.71
Building Construction	9.71	10.04	10.55	9.05	8.81
Highway & Heavy Construction	9.21	9.26	8.20	8.65	7.77
Special Trades Construction	10.85	10.62	10.32	9.90	9.09

**BLS 636**

**March 1992**

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

	<u>Number of Workers</u>	<u>Hourly Wage Rate</u>			
		<u>Low</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Average</u>
<b>Building Construction (SIC 15)</b>					
Backhoe Operator	24	\$6.00	\$9.75	\$14.75	\$9.45
Bulldozer Operator	10	7.50	9.25	12.50	9.62
Carpenter	1,204	4.50	9.29	19.05	9.57
Cement Finisher	53	6.00	9.00	12.00	9.13
Electrician	74	6.50	15.00	18.00	14.03
Ironworker, Reinforcing	16	7.00	10.25	16.77	11.51
Ironworker, Structural	67	6.25	15.00	16.77	14.35
Laborer, Helper	500	4.50	7.50	16.50	8.06
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	51	6.25	11.00	16.50	11.16
Mechanic, Other	13	6.75	9.40	12.00	9.71
Millwright	50	10.00	14.50	16.50	14.65
Painter, Brush	54	5.75	8.50	13.75	8.77
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	66	6.25	14.50	16.50	13.82
Sheet Metal Worker	29	5.50	8.25	13.20	8.35
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	12	6.00	8.23	10.00	8.04
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	14	4.25	7.75	10.00	7.59
<b>Highway &amp; Heavy Construction (SIC 16)</b>					
Backhoe Operator	148	6.00	10.00	16.10	10.32
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	53	5.75	8.50	12.20	8.53
Bulldozer Operator	71	5.50	9.75	15.56	9.93
Carpenter	184	6.30	10.00	17.75	10.43
Compressor Operator	10	5.50	6.38	9.00	6.93
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	34	8.00	12.00	15.50	12.06
Crane Operator (=>15 Tons)	36	8.00	14.25	15.50	13.26
Crusher Plant Operator	27	6.00	8.50	11.70	8.78
Flagger	84	4.74	5.25	6.50	5.39
Grader/Scraper Operator	22	7.80	10.00	14.00	10.59
Laborer, Helper	607	4.74	7.00	17.47	7.39
Line Erector	55	4.50	10.00	16.31	10.01
Loader Operator, Front-End	141	6.25	9.70	22.38	9.93
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	13	7.50	9.50	13.50	10.15
Mechanic, Other	155	6.00	10.00	15.60	10.21
Paver, Bituminous	44	6.50	9.55	13.00	9.58
Pipelayer	26	6.00	8.23	15.36	8.66
Roller Operator	103	6.00	9.00	13.50	9.10
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	95	5.00	7.00	15.00	7.40
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	356	5.50	7.50	15.36	7.63
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	64	6.50	8.55	13.10	9.23
<b>Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)</b>					
Asbestos Abatement Worker	194	6.00	9.00	15.00	9.26
Backhoe Operator	172	6.50	9.50	18.97	9.75
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	16	5.00	7.00	11.50	7.33
Boilermaker	176	19.88	19.88	22.13	19.98
Bulldozer Operator	112	5.00	9.00	13.95	9.33
Carpenter	266	6.00	11.00	19.96	11.34
Cement Finisher	66	4.50	9.00	17.10	10.05

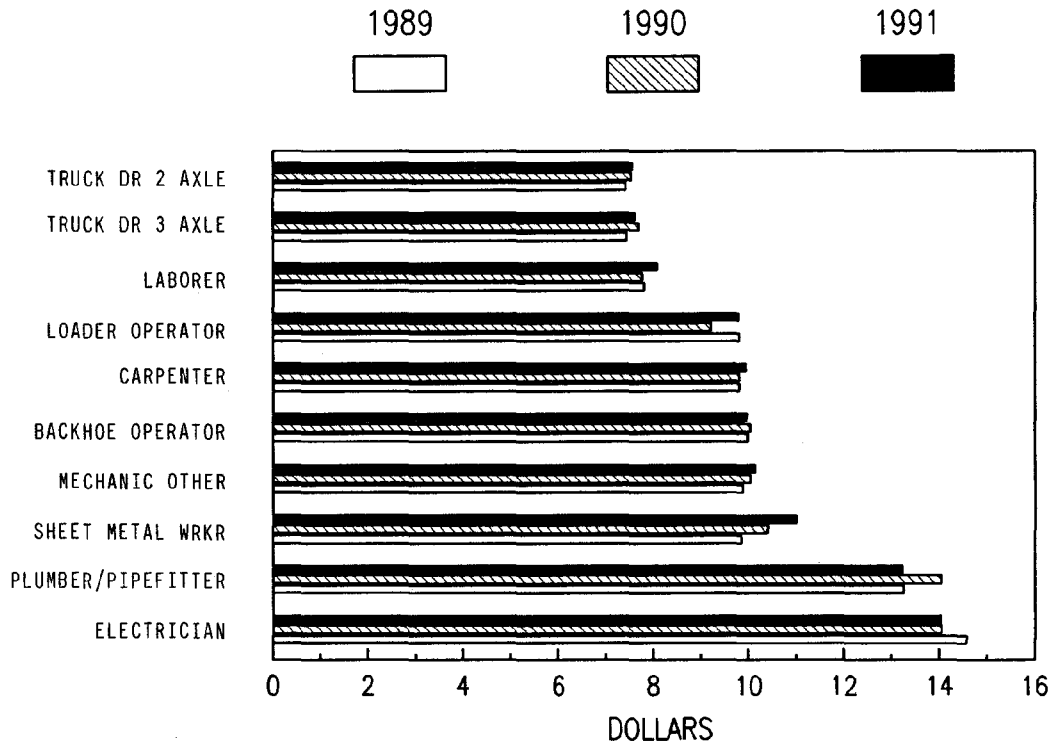
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17) (cont.)</b>					
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	14	\$6.25	\$10.43	\$22.63	\$12.82
Crane Operator (=>15 Tons)	20	7.50	12.50	24.49	14.12
Crusher Plant Operator	14	5.00	8.50	12.38	8.54
Drywall Applicator	100	7.35	13.50	16.50	12.41
Drywall Taper & Finisher	41	8.00	13.00	16.00	12.10
Electrician	602	4.50	14.50	24.05	14.06
Grader/Scraper Operator	10	7.00	8.00	14.80	9.71
Insulation Worker	138	6.00	9.47	20.56	9.75
Ironworker, Reinforcing	35	7.00	16.77	18.27	15.54
Ironworker, Structural	43	9.00	16.77	17.77	14.64
Laborer, Helper	1,278	4.25	7.87	17.00	8.39
Line Erector	10	6.50	7.25	13.77	8.80
Loader Operator, Front End	78	6.00	8.88	22.38	9.66
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	125	6.50	14.00	19.00	13.05
Mechanic, Refrigeration	48	8.00	13.58	20.00	13.51
Mechanic, Other	80	7.00	10.00	16.25	10.13
Millwright	87	9.00	16.00	18.75	15.47
Oil Burner Repairer	58	6.50	10.63	16.50	10.86
Painter, Brush	166	5.50	8.25	15.60	8.76
Painter, Spray	47	7.00	9.00	13.25	9.44
Paperhanger	14	8.50	9.00	10.50	9.04
Paver, Bituminous	10	7.00	10.00	13.00	10.03
Pipelayer	25	6.00	8.50	10.75	8.28
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	460	6.50	12.15	19.50	13.08
Roller Operator	16	5.00	7.50	10.50	7.58
Roofer	179	5.50	8.70	14.00	9.02
Sheet Metal Worker	253	5.00	11.00	17.83	11.30
Sprinkler Fitter	44	9.46	14.00	20.00	14.37
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	127	5.00	7.50	10.50	7.64
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	239	5.50	7.50	10.50	7.61
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	40	5.50	8.50	14.00	8.78

#### Trades in More Than One SIC

Asbestos Abatement Worker	196	6.00	9.00	22.38	9.40
Backhoe Operator	344	6.00	9.83	18.97	9.97
Bituminous Raker/Spreader	70	5.00	8.50	15.00	8.35
Blaster	10	5.50	11.00	17.50	11.80
Boilermaker	182	14.50	19.88	22.13	19.80
Bulldozer Operator	193	5.00	9.25	15.56	9.56
Carpenter	1,654	4.50	9.50	19.96	9.95
Cement Finisher	128	4.50	9.00	17.10	9.80
Compressor Operator	11	5.50	6.50	22.38	8.34
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	55	6.25	11.50	22.63	12.14
Crane Operator (=>15 Tons)	63	7.50	13.00	24.49	13.23
Crusher Plant Operator	41	5.00	8.50	12.38	8.70
Driller, Rock	19	6.50	10.40	12.00	10.30
Drywall Applicator	116	5.50	12.75	16.50	11.71
Drywall Taper and Finisher	41	8.00	13.00	16.00	12.10
Electrician	707	4.50	14.50	24.05	14.03
Flagger	90	4.74	5.25	6.50	5.40
Grader/Scraper Operator	33	7.00	9.75	14.80	10.24
Insulation Worker	141	5.25	9.47	20.56	9.66
Ironworker, Reinforcing	93	7.00	14.50	18.27	13.98

The graph below illustrates the average wage for ten construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. The backhoe operator, plumber/pipefitter, and truck driver (3-axle) trades had decreases for 1991. The remaining seven trades were either virtually unchanged or had increases for 1991.

**AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,  
BY SELECTED TRADES, 1989-1991**



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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DIVISION OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS  
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	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Trades in More Than One SIC (cont.)</b>					
Ironworker, Structural	195	\$6.25	\$14.50	\$17.77	\$13.79
Laborer, Helper	2,385	4.25	7.50	17.47	8.07
Line Erector	65	4.50	10.00	16.31	9.83
Loader Operator, Front End	226	6.00	9.25	22.38	9.79
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	189	6.25	13.12	19.00	12.34
Mechanic, Refrigeration	48	8.00	13.58	20.00	13.51
Mechanic, Other	248	6.00	10.00	16.25	10.15
Millwright	193	7.50	14.50	18.75	14.60
Oil Burner Repairer	58	6.50	10.63	16.50	10.86
Painter, Brush	222	5.50	8.25	15.60	8.79
Painter, Spray	51	6.00	9.00	13.25	9.36
Paperhanger	14	8.50	9.00	10.50	9.04
Paver, Bituminous	56	6.50	9.78	13.00	9.67
Pipelayer	53	6.00	8.45	15.36	8.63
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	569	6.25	13.00	19.50	13.23
Resilient Floor Layer	17	5.50	8.75	15.25	9.00
Rigger	17	8.00	12.50	15.00	12.38
Roller Operator	120	5.00	8.93	13.50	8.90
Roofer	188	5.50	8.50	14.00	8.96
Sheet Metal Worker	283	5.00	11.00	17.83	11.00
Sprinkler Fitter	44	9.46	14.00	20.00	14.37
Tool Operator, Power Actuated	10	5.00	8.63	11.00	7.91
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	234	5.00	7.50	15.00	7.56
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	609	4.25	7.50	15.36	7.62
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	108	5.50	8.55	14.00	9.06

## 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 1991 employment data:** Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

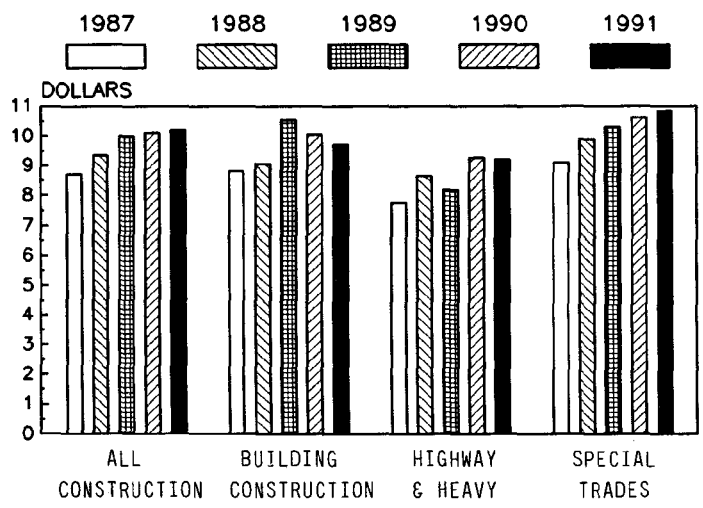
## TECHNICAL NOTES

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 second year after peaking in 1989. Highway and Heavy Construction wages decreased after recovering in 1990 from a decrease in 1989. Wages for workers in Special Trades Contracting have continued to increase since 1987.

**AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,  
BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1987-1991**



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, 1983-1991**

