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# Maine Construction Wage Rates 1993

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Labor Standards

Ruth A. Ladd

*Maine Department of Labor*

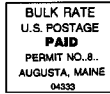
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## Maine Construction Wage Rates 1993

Prepared by: Ruth Ladd, Statistician II

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 1993 survey initially included 2,206 construction firms, an increase of 15.1 percent from 1992. Data from 597 respondents was used to produce the 1994 determinations and this publication. There were 1,231 unused reports and an additional 378 reports that were not returned. Of the unused reports, 1,154 were from companies having fewer than five construction trades workers and 77 reports were from companies no longer operating. The data presented here is based on 9,761 workers (1.3 percent fewer than in 1992). This represents 41.8 percent of the 23,346 employees in the Construction Industry Division reported to the Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research in September 1993.

The industry-wide average hourly wage for 1993 was \$10.31, which is 1.6 percent more than the 1992 average of \$10.15. Within Construction there was an increase in wage rates in two of the major groups and a decrease in wage rates in the other. The largest change occurred in Highway & Heavy Construction with a 4.0 percent increase. Special Trades Contractors had an increase of 1.2 percent. Building Construction had a decrease of 2.4 percent.

### AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1989-1993

	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE				
	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Construction Industry	\$10.31	\$10.15	\$10.18	\$10.11	\$10.00
Building Construction	9.49	9.73	9.71	10.04	10.55
Highway & Heavy Construction	10.09	9.70	9.21	9.26	8.20
Special Trades Construction	10.71	10.58	10.85	10.62	10.32

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**HOURLY WAGE RATES FOR SELECTED CONSTRUCTION TRADES, MAINE, 1993**

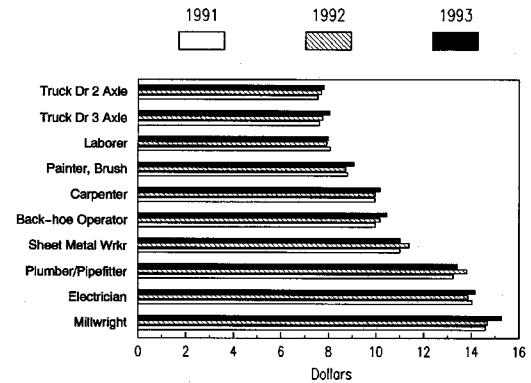
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Building Construction (SIC 15)</b>					
Back-hoe Operator	25	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.21
Bulldozer Operator	10	7.50	10.00	12.00	9.58
Carpenter	1,028	5.50	10.00	26.00	9.93
Cement Finisher	44	6.00	9.00	13.00	9.36
Crane Operator (= 15 Tons)	11	8.50	12.00	15.00	11.80
Electrician	36	5.75	12.00	16.50	11.17
Ironworker, Structural	20	6.60	10.00	16.50	10.90
Laborer, Helper	373	5.00	7.50	15.20	7.77
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	37	5.50	10.00	16.50	11.53
Mechanic, Other	10	8.00	9.78	13.00	10.26
Millwright	13	10.00	15.00	16.50	13.94
Painter, Brush	37	6.00	9.50	13.00	9.45
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	32	6.25	11.88	18.20	11.71
Sheet Metal Worker	14	6.00	8.73	13.20	8.91
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	14	6.25	8.50	10.50	8.29
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	10	7.00	8.00	9.00	7.90

**Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)**

Back-hoe Operator	118	7.50	10.17	25.00	10.87
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	71	6.00	8.75	14.60	9.16
Blaster	10	7.50	8.50	10.25	8.93
Bulldozer Operator	66	6.00	9.50	17.50	9.99
Carpenter	177	7.00	10.00	20.50	10.48
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	22	9.18	18.25	20.00	15.98
Crane Operator (= 15 Tons)	38	10.50	13.50	16.50	13.46
Crusher Plant Operator	40	7.20	10.60	14.15	10.45
Electrician	32	10.50	14.50	17.80	15.52
Flagger	19	4.74	5.50	7.75	5.87
Grader/Scraper Operator	28	8.20	10.48	14.50	10.84
Hot Top Plant Operator	16	6.50	11.04	12.07	10.32
Ironworker, Reinforcing	12	9.00	12.00	17.02	13.10
Laborer, Helper	695	5.00	7.50	14.50	7.79
Line Erector	11	10.00	13.50	15.50	13.55
Loader Operator, Front-End	125	6.00	10.00	15.36	10.08
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	21	7.50	12.60	16.88	12.90
Mechanic, Other	132	6.00	10.40	16.80	10.49
Paver, Bituminous	54	6.50	9.48	13.50	9.85
Pipelayer	22	6.70	8.88	15.36	9.52
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	65	8.00	15.00	18.00	15.61
Roller Operator	104	5.50	9.25	13.50	9.34
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	149	5.72	7.30	12.95	7.70
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	333	6.00	8.00	12.50	8.00
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	44	6.00	8.87	14.25	9.31

The graph below illustrates the average wage for ten construction trades with the highest concentration of workers. Wages for the laborer, sheet metal worker, and plumber trades decreased in 1993. Wages for the remaining seven trades increased in 1993.

**AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES, BY SELECTED TRADES, 1991-1993**



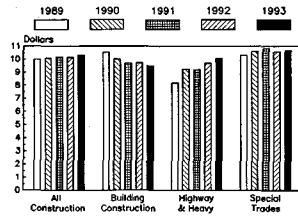
**TECHNICAL NOTES**

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 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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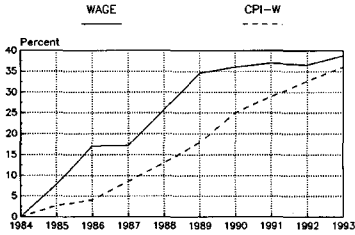
The following graph uses the data from the table on page one to illustrate the change in construction wages. There was only a slight change in wages for the construction industry as a whole as well as for special trades. Wages for highway and heavy trades increased while wages for building trades decreased.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,  
BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 1989-1993



The following graph compares the survey's annual average construction wage to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI-W (Consumer Price Index) using 1984 as a base. Although wages have remained above the CPI-W for the entire period, wages for the last four years increased at a slower rate than the CPI-W.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES,  
AND INFLATION (1984 Base),  
ALL CONSTRUCTION, 1984-1993



Number of Workers... Hourly Wage Rate... Low Median High Average

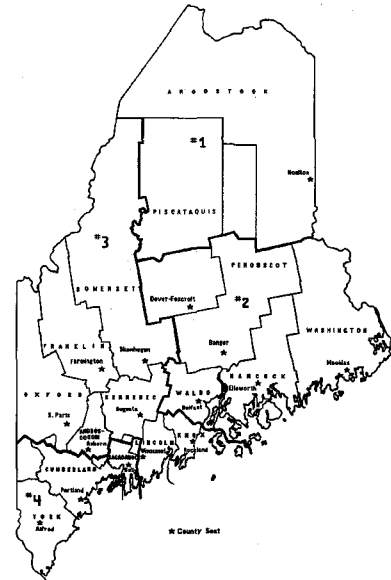
Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)

	Number of Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Asbestos Abatement Worker	89	\$7.00	\$9.50	\$17.00	\$10.17
Back-hoe Operator	179	6.00	10.00	19.00	10.23
Bituminous Raker & Spreader	12	5.50	7.50	11.00	7.77
Boilermaker	46	8.00	16.50	21.88	17.06
Bulldozer Operator	92	7.00	9.13	14.75	9.50
Carpenter	256	5.50	10.00	18.00	10.85
Cement Finisher	60	5.50	8.78	12.50	8.85
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	13	8.50	11.75	19.23	12.10
Crane Operator (>15 Tons)	11	7.15	14.00	15.00	12.82
Crusher Plant Operator	12	5.50	8.88	12.00	8.83
Dry-wall Applicator	109	5.00	12.00	16.00	11.50
Dry-wall Taper & Finisher	66	6.00	12.00	15.00	11.44
Electrician	515	5.00	14.00	26.00	14.11
Insulation Worker	149	5.00	9.00	21.00	9.26
Ironworker, Reinforcing	96	9.00	16.00	18.02	15.01
Ironworker, Structural	51	8.00	12.00	17.77	13.35
Laborer, Helper	1,055	4.25	7.50	25.03	8.19
Line Erector	24	4.90	11.75	18.25	11.31
Loader Operator, Front End	83	6.00	9.00	14.75	9.17
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	136	6.24	13.60	17.79	12.79
Mechanic, Refrigeration	47	8.00	14.00	21.50	14.08
Mechanic, Other	97	6.00	10.00	16.00	9.86
Millwright	162	6.00	16.00	17.39	14.85
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	10.80	16.00	10.83
Painter, Brush	206	6.00	8.50	17.81	8.83
Painter, Spray	23	5.25	11.00	14.40	11.00
Pipelayer	13	7.28	9.50	12.25	9.33
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	498	6.50	13.00	22.00	13.23
Roofer	180	5.50	8.83	14.00	8.83
Sheet Metal Worker	281	5.00	11.00	17.50	11.09
Sprinkler Fitter	39	6.75	12.50	17.90	12.50
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	141	6.00	7.75	12.75	7.88
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	227	5.50	8.00	14.00	8.12
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	44	6.50	8.50	13.50	8.70

Trades in More Than One SIC

	Number of Workers	Low	Median	High	Average
Asbestos Abatement Worker	105	7.00	9.75	17.00	10.62
Back-hoe Operator	322	6.00	10.00	25.00	10.46
Bituminous Raker/Spreader	83	5.50	8.75	14.60	8.96
Blaster	12	7.50	8.88	15.00	9.77
Boilermaker	71	8.00	19.88	21.88	17.96
Bulldozer Operator	168	6.00	9.45	17.50	9.70
Carpenter	1,461	5.50	10.00	26.00	10.16
Cement Finisher	116	5.50	9.13	13.00	9.33
Compressor Operator	11	5.50	8.06	11.00	8.17
Crane Operator (<15 Tons)	40	8.50	12.88	20.00	14.13
Crane Operator (>15 Tons)	60	7.15	13.43	16.50	13.04
Crusher Plant Operator	52	5.50	9.88	14.15	10.07
Driller, Rock	12	6.00	8.50	11.25	8.56
Dry-wall Applicator	135	5.00	11.00	16.00	10.72

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Trades in More Than One SIC (cont.)</b>					
Dry-wall Taper and Finisher	69	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$11.26
Electrician	643	5.00	14.50	26.00	14.15
Flagger	23	4.74	5.50	7.75	5.72
Grader/Scraper Operator	37	8.00	10.00	14.50	10.35
Hot Top Plant Operator	16	6.50	11.04	12.07	10.32
Insulation Worker	154	5.00	9.00	21.00	9.38
Ironworker, Reinforcing	114	8.00	16.00	18.02	14.57
Ironworker, Structural	134	6.60	13.25	20.89	13.05
Laborer, Helper	2,123	4.25	7.50	25.03	7.98
Line Erector	35	4.90	12.50	18.25	12.02
Loader Operator, Front End	213	6.00	9.45	15.36	9.73
Mason (Including Bricklayer)	194	5.50	13.15	17.79	12.56
Mechanic, Refrigeration	47	8.00	14.00	21.50	14.08
Mechanic, Other	239	6.00	10.00	16.80	10.22
Millwright	329	6.00	16.00	22.00	15.28
Oil Burner Repairer	42	8.00	10.80	16.00	10.83
Painter, Brush	249	6.00	8.50	17.81	9.06
Painter, Spray	47	5.25	10.00	16.29	10.87
Paver, Bituminous	60	6.50	9.63	13.50	9.85
Pipelayer	35	6.70	9.00	15.36	9.45
Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	595	6.25	13.37	22.00	13.41
Resilient Floor Layer	21	5.75	8.15	15.00	8.18
Roller Operator	111	5.50	9.20	13.50	9.29
Roofer	205	5.50	8.58	14.00	8.73
Sheet Metal Worker	300	5.00	10.88	18.46	11.02
Sprinkler Fitter	39	6.75	12.50	17.90	12.50
Truck Driver (2-Axle)	304	5.72	7.50	12.95	7.81
Truck Driver (3-Axle)	570	5.50	8.00	14.00	8.04
Truck Driver (Tractor-Trailer)	92	6.00	8.87	14.25	9.05



- AREA 1: Aroostook 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 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 Richmond), including the towns of Dresden, Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram, and Durham.

**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 1993 employment data:** Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

DETERMINATIONS ISSUED FOR 1993  
AREA BY MAJOR INDUSTRY

	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special *
Area 1	11	2	5	1
Area 2	38	11	8	3
Area 3	41	7	15	1
Area 4	19	7	6	0

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