

TRENDS FOR CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Overview

Construction is a major industry in the United States. With the spending of government money to build new schools and roads, the construction industry is growing. Employment is varied from a range of companies that employ several thousand to companies that employ fewer than 10. Many opportunities are available to individuals that desire to own their own company. Earnings are significantly higher than most industries because of the skills and the working conditions.

Carpentry

Job opportunities for carpenters are expected to be plentiful, due primarily to extensive replacement needs. The total number of job openings for carpenters is usually greater than for other craft occupations.

- Although employment is expected to grow slowly, job opportunities should be excellent because many carpenters leave the occupation each year.
 - Many builders use specialty carpentry subcontractors who do one or two work activities, so versatile carpenters able to switch specialties should have the best opportunities for steady work.
 - Nearly one third of carpenters are self-employed.
-

Electrical Trades

Job opportunities for skilled electricians are expected to be very good as the demand outpaces the supply of workers trained in this craft. There is expected to be a shortage of skilled workers during the next decade because of the anticipated smaller pool of young workers entering training programs.

- Job opportunities are expected to be very good for qualified electricians.
 - Most electricians acquire their skills by completing a formal 4-or 5-year apprenticeship program.
 - In contrast to other construction trades, about one-third of all electricians' work in industries other than construction.
 - About one out of ten electricians are self-employed.
-

Masonry Trades

The employment for masons is expected to grow slowly. The demand for the services for these workers outpace the supply of workers in this craft.

- Most learn their trade on the job, either through formal 3-year apprenticeship programs or by working as helpers.
 - Jobs are often outdoors and require a lot of bending and kneeling.
 - Only one in 20 are self-employed in this trade.
-

Cabinetmaking

Overall employment is projected to decline. Increased automation and imports will result in a decrease among woodworking machine operators, while demand for customized wood products will spur minimal growth among precision woodworkers. Employment is greater for those who have advanced training because of the growing sophistication of machinery and the constant need for retraining. The continual need for repair and renovation, make job opportunities particularly good for custom cabinetmakers.

TRENDS FOR CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

- Job prospects will be best for highly skilled workers and those with knowledge of computer-controlled machine tool operation.
 - Most woodworkers are trained on the job; basic machine operations may be learned in a few months, but becoming a skilled cabinetmaker often requires 2 or more years.
-

Training

The Construction Education Foundation and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) have developed and maintain a training process which is nationally recognized, standardized, portable, and competency-based.

- Accreditation of CEF standardized programs will greatly assist construction craft training.
 - A National Register is provided for NCCER Certified Craft Instructors.
 - A National Register is provided for individuals who have completed NCCER Certified Programs.
 - Co-op and apprenticeship programs provide craft workers who are competent in all aspects of their trade and are able to work independently or in teams.
-