

# CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

## IN SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

### In Demand Construction Careers

#### HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION MECHANICS AND INSTALLERS (HVAC)

**EDUCATION**

Individuals can enter this occupation through a post-secondary award in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) related field.

**IMPORTANT QUALITIES**

- Mechanical Skills
- Manual Dexterity
- Customer Service Skills
- Problem Solving
- Physical Flexibility
- Blueprint Reading

**WHAT THEY DO**

Install, service or repair heating, central air conditioning, or refrigeration systems in residence or commercial establishments.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$20.90**  
**HOURLY WAGE: \$33.00**

Employment of Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers is projected to grow 10.7% percent from 2018 to 2028, about as fast as average for all occupations.

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SWSC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Work in a variety of settings including residential homes and commercial businesses. They can also work in nuclear plants, military facilities, manufacturing and chemical plants, retail malls, hospitals and educational buildings.

### CARPENTER

**EDUCATION**

High school diploma or equivalent required. Post-secondary award is preferred. Apprenticeship opportunities are available with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters that allow individuals to start as an apprentice and progress to a journeyman level.

**IMPORTANT QUALITIES**

- Mathematical Skills
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Communication Skills
- Decision Making Skills
- Mechanical Skills
- Customer Service Skills
- Blueprint Reading

**WHAT THEY DO**

Construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. May also install cabinets, siding, drywall and built or roll insulation. Includes practice building and build doors or brackets in underground passageways.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$20.12**  
**HOURLY WAGE: \$33.87**

Employment of Carpenters is projected to grow 7.1% percent from 2018 to 2028, about as fast as average for all occupations.

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**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Carpenters work indoors and outdoors on a variety of projects such as wood or metal framing, concrete forms, interior and exterior finishes for new construction and remodeling for residential homes, apartment buildings, industrial buildings, offices, hospitals, schools, malls, stadiums, roads and bridges. Carpentry is physically demanding.

### In Demand Construction Careers

#### CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor's degree in Construction Management

**IMPORTANT QUALITIES**

- Communication Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Time Management
- Negotiation Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Decision Making Skills
- Money Management

**WHAT THEY DO**

Construction Managers oversee the work of people building and maintaining structures. They manage scheduling, budgeting, and organization of the work. Managers create estimates on labor requirements, negotiate project specifications, and communicate with customers.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$31.80**  
**HOURLY WAGE: \$48.83**

Employment of Construction Managers is projected to grow 4.7% percent from 2018 to 2028, about as fast as average for all occupations.

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**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Construction Managers typically work in office settings at the construction site. Many managers frequently travel to several sites when managing multiple projects.

### SKILLED CONSTRUCTION LABORER

**EDUCATION**

Construction laborers can enter the field with less than a high school diploma. Construction experience is preferred. There are also apprenticeship opportunities with the Laborers' International Union of North America that allow individuals to start as an apprentice and progress to a journeyman level.

**IMPORTANT QUALITIES**

- Manual Dexterity
- Physical Strength
- Multi-limb Coordination
- Physical Stamina
- Communication Skills

**WHAT THEY DO**

Construction Laborers perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools, clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding, clean up debris, as well as assist other craft workers.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$17.11**  
**HOURLY WAGE: \$32.30**

Employment of Construction Laborers is projected to grow 10.6% percent from 2018 to 2028, about as fast as average for all occupations.

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SWSC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

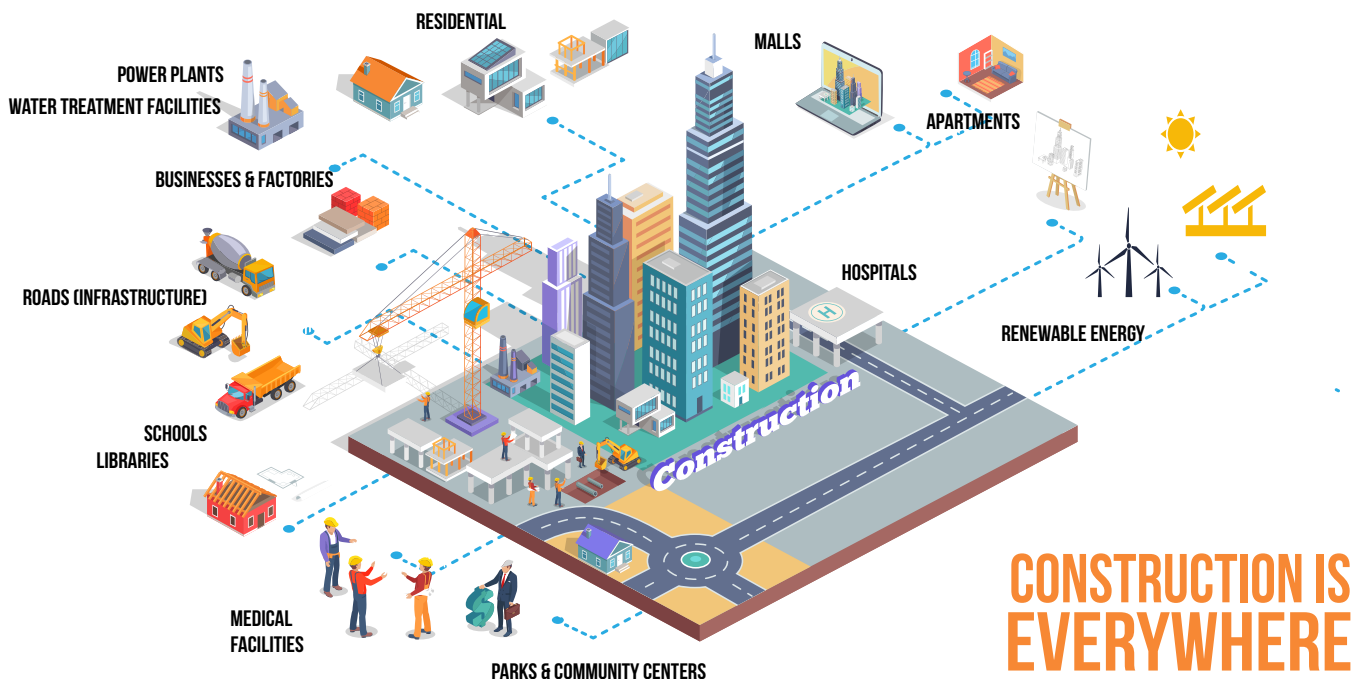
**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Construction laborers work in a variety of settings including building, highway & heavy, marine pipelines, distribution, landscaping and commercial cleaning. Construction laborers travel to where the project is located.

CONSTRUCTION IS  
PROJECTED TO GROW

5X

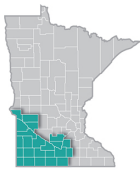
FASTER THAN THE OVERALL  
ECONOMY IN SOUTHWEST MN.



CONSTRUCTION IS  
EVERYWHERE

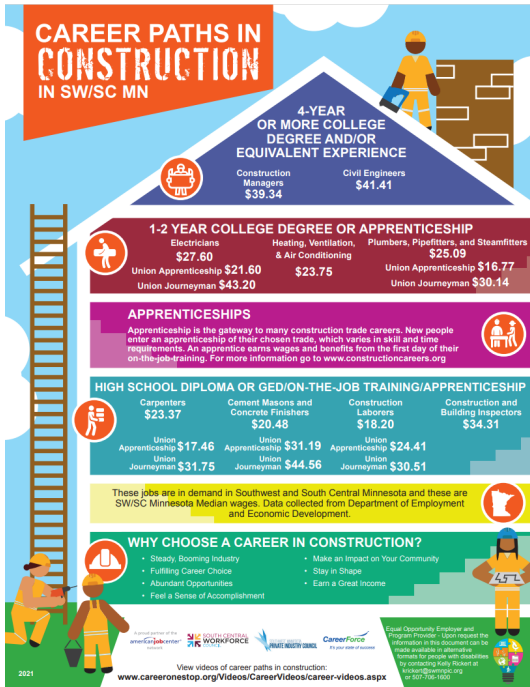


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## IN SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA



Despite above-average wages, only about 20 percent of construction vacancies required post-secondary education compared with 36 percent across all industries. Fifty percent of construction vacancies required experience of at least a year, and 25 percent required a license or certificate.

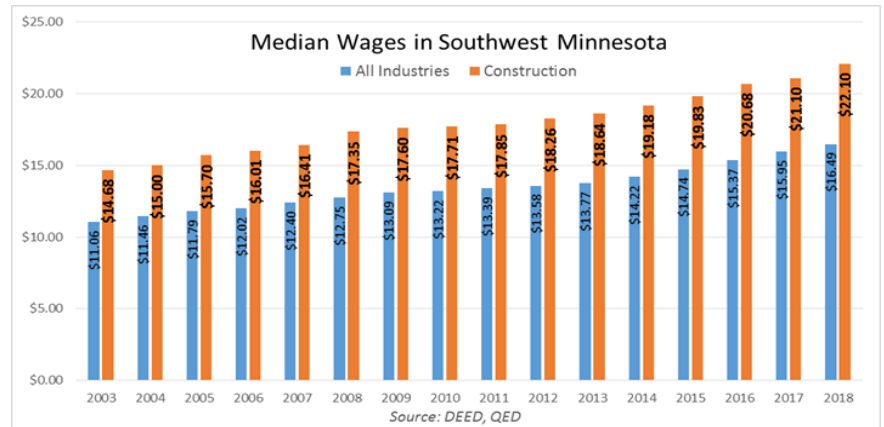
Education requirements in construction tend to be low because the industry follows a different model for training workers, not because the jobs are low skilled.

Employers and unions routinely provide training in the form of entrylevel jobs that provide informal training as well as more formal on-the-job training arrangements such as apprenticeships.

Formal apprenticeships are available in a range of construction occupations, including electrical, plumbing, carpentry, cement masonry, drywall installation, painting, roofing and other occupations.

Construction-related certificates and associate degrees are available through technical schools and community colleges in a number of different programs, including carpentry, electrical and power transmission installation, building/construction, finishing, management and inspection, and plumbing and related water supply services.

**Median wages for Construction Occupations in Southwest/South Central Minnesota are almost \$6 higher per hour than all other industries in the region.**

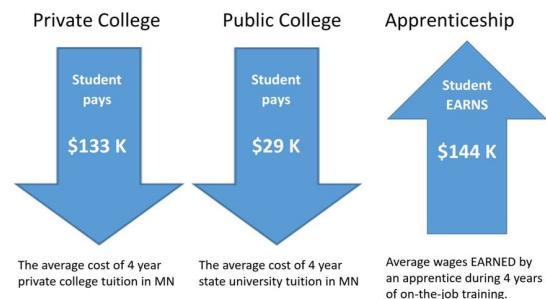


### NON-TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN SOUTHWEST/SOUTH CENTRAL MN

Carpenters \$20.51/hr	Cement Masons \$21.23/hr
Construction & Building Inspectors \$32.95/hr	Construction Laborers \$18.33/hr
Construction Managers \$43.85/hr	Cost Estimators \$28.82/hr
Electricians \$29.46/hr	Operating Engineers \$27.53/hr
Plumbers and Pipefitters \$26.64/hr	Roofers \$22.26/hr
Sheet Metal Workers \$20.66/hr	Architects \$33.07/hr
Architectural Drafters \$25.47/hr	Surveying and Mapping Technicians \$26.57/hr

An apprenticeship is an earn-as-you-learn training system where you gain skills during paid on-the-job instruction. While a student pays an average of \$133K in tuition costs for four years at a private college or \$29K at a state university, an apprentice earns an average of \$144K during four years of on-the-job training in a demand occupation with high paying wages

### Earn While You Learn



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