

WHY YOU MIGHT WANT A CAREER IN THE TRADES

High demand = lots of job opportunities

501,000 new construction workers needed

Above normal hiring to meet demand in 2024 in the U.S.¹

More than 80% of skilled tradespeople say their jobs are satisfying²



Interesting work

94% of people in skilled trades jobs said their work was interesting. 89% said they work with cutting-edge technology.³



Lower stress

Construction workers reported the second lowest sense of stress in any job.⁴



Fulfilling impact

Construction workers said they had the second-highest happiness compared to other jobs.⁴



Make money while training and make more on the job

- Many training programs in the skilled trades pay students while they learn.
- Community college training programs can be finished in just 1 to 4 semesters.
- All skilled trades jobs have different options for licenses, specializations and certifications.
- People with skilled trades jobs have higher than average incomes. Plumbers and electricians make 29% more than the average American worker.⁵



Earn while you learn with apprenticeships

Career pathways



What the skilled trades offer

What?



Construct, maintain, repair and install buildings and structures

How much?

A carpenter working on performing arts and sports events:

\$110K

average salary⁶

What does this look like for you?

- Learn on the job, in high school or through a local nonprofit.
- Make \$30K or more a year, even with little experience.⁶



Install, maintain and repair power, communication, lighting and control systems

Top earning electricians make:

\$100K+

average salary⁶

- Electricians are needed everywhere. Work in government, schools and hospitals, on boats, on movie sets and more.
- Make up to \$48K as you train as an apprentice and more as you work.⁸



Install, maintain or repair heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems

Top earners in HVAC make:

\$80K+

average salary⁶

- Keep homes comfortable, safe and energy efficient.
- Use science, math, engineering and technology every day.⁶



Install and repair water, gas, and other piping systems

Top earning plumbers make:

\$100K+

average salary⁶

- Make \$58K as a plumbing technician and up to \$200K+ if you own your own business.⁷
- Make an impact with safe drinking water, healthy homes and good sanitation.



Fix and install electric or gas appliances in homes

Top earning repairers working in the construction sector make:

\$90K+

average salary⁶

- Make independent decisions every day.
- Be a leader in smart home and green tech.



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Sources

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² Angi. 2021. Skilled trades in America: How the great resignation could provide great opportunity for skilled trades. <https://www.angi.com/research/reports/skilled-trades/#part2>
³ StanleyBlack&Decker. StanleyBlack&Decker 2022 Maker Index. (2022). https://www.stanleyblackanddecker.com/sites/default/files/2022-07/makers_index_infographic_final.pdf
⁴ Van Dam, A. (2023, January 18). Analysis | The happiest, least stressful, most meaningful jobs in America. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/01/06/happiest-jobs-on-earth/>
⁵ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (May 2021). National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm
⁶ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (May 2021). Occupational Outlook Handbook. <https://www.bls.gov/ooah/construction-and-extraction/home.htm>
⁷ Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC). PHCC Workforce Development Center. Recruit "Workforce Development Flyers." <https://www.phccweb.org/training-education-old/workforce-development/workforce-development-center/>
⁸ Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC). The IEC Apprenticeship Program: What happens when I graduate from the program? <https://www.ieci.org/apprenticeship>