

CRANE OPERATOR



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Columbia
Chapter
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

CEMENT MASON/CONCRETE FINISHER



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HEAVY EQUIPME



CRANE OPERATOR

\$30.18 PER HOUR / **\$62,767** PER YEAR*

Don't you wish your entire career could involve a screen and a joystick? No, we aren't talking about becoming a professional video game player. Mobile crane operators use state-of-the-art heavy machinery to move construction materials, earth, and even petroleum products over short distances. A series of joysticks, levers, and pedals allows the operator to use his or her knowledge of load calculations to place materials around a construction site.

EDUCATION

Two to three years of classroom training and up to five years of related work experience is commonly required. Craft professionals handling toxic chemicals or other dangerous equipment must receive specialized training in safety awareness and procedures.

*Figures represent 2015 Oregon statewide average annual salaries, not including overtime, per diem, benefits, or other incentives. Check qualityinfo.org for your specific area.



CEMENT MASON/ CONCRETE FINISHER

\$23.31 PER HOUR / **\$48,481** PER YEAR*

Are you a smooth operator? Do you enjoy applying the finishing touch on projects? Consider a career as a cement mason or concrete finisher. Cement masons smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete such as floors, walks, beams, columns, roads, or curbs using a variety of equipment and hand and power tools.

EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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CARPENTER

\$20.77 PER HOUR / **\$43,212** PER YEAR*

Do you like building, traveling, and being outdoors? Why not consider a career that is fun and offers financial freedom? Commercial and industrial carpenters construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures. These carpenters are involved in many different kinds of construction, from building to highways and bridges to power plants.

EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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GLAZIER

\$23.32 PER HOUR / **\$48,514** PER YEAR*

A glazier cuts, fits, installs, removes, and repairs glass in things like windows, mirrors, skylights, tabletops, display cases, and shower doors. They work in homes and commercial buildings like stores, banks, and offices.

EDUCATION

Four to five years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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ELECTRICIAN

\$33.02 PER HOUR / **\$68,687** PER YEAR*

If you're into sound systems, robotics, or tinkering with wires, you are probably thinking about a career as an electrician. Electricians install and maintain all of the electrical and power systems for our homes, businesses, and factories. They install and maintain the wiring and control equipment through which electricity flows. They also install and maintain electrical equipment and machines in factories and a wide range of other businesses. Electricians in large factories usually do maintenance work that is more complex.

EDUCATION

Two to four years of classroom and on-the-job training. A high school diploma or GED is required for most apprenticeship programs.

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DRYWALL FINISHER/ CEILING TILE INSTALLER

\$23.78 PER HOUR / **\$49,456** PER YEAR*

Artistic talent, physical strength and endurance, an eye for careful precision, and a chance to work on stilts! These are some key assets needed for a career in this trade. The job requires a lot of standing, stretching, lifting of heavy loads, and kneeling. Skilled tradespeople must measure, cut, and install drywall boards and ceiling tiles correctly, then they shape, fill, and finish to perfection. These materials provide the architectural appeal, fire protection, sound protection, and structural integrity to houses, office buildings, warehouses, shopping malls, etc.

EDUCATION

Two to three years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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IRONWORKER

\$27.02 PER HOUR / **\$56,199** PER YEAR*

Ironworking is the ultimate in hands-on construction. If you are looking for an exciting career where you can balance from the top of a brand new skyscraper, then ironworking is for you. Ironworkers place and install iron or steel girders, columns, and other construction materials to form the infrastructure all around us. Ironworkers must always be paying attention to details to check vertical and horizontal alignment with plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels—then they bolt or weld the piece permanently in place.

EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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HVAC TECHNICIAN

\$22.60 PER HOUR / **\$47,012** PER YEAR*

Are you into model building or have named yourself Mr. or Ms. Fix It? Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technicians are always piecing things together as they install, maintain, and repair systems. Can't decide between a career in mechanical systems or electronics? HVAC covers it all! Motors, compressors, pumps, fans, thermostats, and computerized switches control systems in residential, commercial, and industrial structures. Technicians can also specialize in specific equipment such as hydronics (water-based heating systems), solar panels, or commercial refrigeration.

EDUCATION

One to two years of classroom and on-the-job training. Some states require licensure by passing a written examination.

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

\$24.68 PER HOUR / **\$51,343** PER YEAR*

Heavy equipment operators use machinery to move construction materials, earth, and other heavy materials at construction sites and mines. They operate equipment that clears and grades land to prepare it for construction of roads, buildings, and bridges, as well as airport runways, power generation facilities, dams, levees, and other structures. Construction equipment is more technologically advanced than it was in the past. For example, global positioning system (GPS) technology is now being used to help with grading leveling.

EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom and on-the-job training.

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MILWRIGHT



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MASON



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LABORER



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PLUMBER/PIPEFITTER



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PILEDRIVER



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PAINTER



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ROOFER



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SHEET METAL WORKER



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RIGGER



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MILLWRIGHT

\$23.81 PER HOUR / **\$49,523** PER YEAR*

Do you take things apart and put them back together just to see how they work? Do you always have the right tool for the job? Maybe becoming a millwright is the right path for you. Millwrights work on construction sites and in factories assembling and disassembling machinery. This work can involve intricate technical repairs or heavy machining tools, depending on the project. Millwrights have to be able to understand technical manuals for many different types of machines as well as a high level of problem solving skills.

EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom on-the-job training.



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MASON

\$27.94 PER HOUR / **\$58,108** PER YEAR*

If you dream of building a structure with your own two hands or restoring historical buildings, you may want to get training in masonry. Brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons use bricks, concrete blocks, and natural stones to build attractive, durable surfaces and structures. These craft professionals have created buildings, walls, and roads for thousands of years, and will continue to do so long into the future.

EDUCATION

One to two years of classroom and three to four years of on-the-job training.



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LABORER

\$17.43 PER HOUR / **\$36,264** PER YEAR*

Construction laborers and helpers work on almost all construction sites, performing a wide range of tasks from the very easy to the extremely difficult and hazardous. They may operate hand and power tools of all types. Although many of the tasks they do require some training and experience, most tasks usually require little skill and can be learned quickly.

EDUCATION

Typically no educational requirements, but on-the-job training is required.



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PLUMBER/PIPEFITTER

\$34.83 PER HOUR / **\$72,441** PER YEAR*

Are you always tinkering with objects, reading plans, and making something useful? Do people ask for your help with fixing mechanical things? Consider plumbing and pipefitting. These trades do much more than fix sinks and toilets in homes; they design and install piping systems that distribute water and remove waste from buildings, and also connect heating and cooling systems. Plumbers and pipefitters have to be knowledgeable in water distribution, blueprint reading, local ordinances and regulations, mathematics, mechanical drawing, physics, welding, and soldering.

EDUCATION

Four to five years of classroom and on-the-job training. In most states, plumbers and pipefitters must be licensed before they may work independently, which requires two to five years of experience and passing a written examination.



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PILEDRIIVER

\$31.38 PER HOUR / **\$65,264** PER YEAR*

Do you like to be first? Piledrivers are usually the first workers at a commercial construction site. They drive metal sheet piling to hold back dirt during excavations; drive concrete, metal, and wood pilings as part of the foundation system for skyscrapers; and drive wood and concrete to hold up docks, wharves, and bridges. Some work as commercial divers involved in underwater construction. You also may get to work with welding equipment.

EDUCATION

Four years of classroom and on-the-job training.



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PAINTER

\$17.08 PER HOUR / **\$35,518** PER YEAR*

Do you have an artsy side? Do you have a secret collection of paint chips from your local home improvement store? Try your hand at becoming a professional painter. Painters are responsible for choosing and applying just the right paint, stain, varnish, or other finish to buildings and industrial structures. This career path ranges from industrial spray painters who apply coatings to prevent deterioration to decorative artisans who create faux finishes.

EDUCATION

Two to four years of classroom and on-the-job training. Helpers and apprentices receive training on topics such as color harmony, surface preparation, application techniques, and paint mixing.



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ROOFER

\$18.85 PER HOUR / **\$39,218** PER YEAR*

Take your construction career to new heights! Roofers work outdoors using modern materials and methods to install shelter and coverings for all types of homes and businesses. Roofers need to understand and read blueprints, schematics, and technical drawings; read work orders and specifications; and provide customer service.

EDUCATION

Four years of classroom and on-the-job training.



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SHEET METAL WORKER

\$26.46 PER HOUR / **\$55,031** PER YEAR*

Are you a visual person? Do you enjoy math, mechanics, and fitting puzzles together? Sheet metal workers cut and mold sheets of metal into products for installing and repairing ventilation and air ducts. They also construct airplanes, automobiles, and billboards. Most sheet metal fabrication shops are completely computerized, so sheet metal workers may be responsible for programming control systems on various pieces of equipment.

EDUCATION

Four to five years of classroom and on-the-job training.



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RIGGER

\$25.63 PER HOUR / **\$53,314** PER YEAR*

Are you interested in practical physics? Do you love to work outdoors? That combination is a good start to becoming a rigger. Riggers attach loads of construction equipment to cranes or structures using cables, pulleys, and winches. Quick load calculations are necessary for each load, and engineering principles are always in play. Riggers use various suspension techniques to get their load around obstacles on a construction site to the desired location.

EDUCATION

One to two years of classroom and on-the-job training.



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WELDER



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WELDER

\$19.41 PER HOUR / **\$40,368** PER YEAR*

Do you love playing with a little bit of fire? Welders join objects together by applying heat or pressure. Skilled welders have a thorough knowledge of welding principals and metals. They use blueprints and drawings to build anything from ships to cars to bridges. Welders are also crucial in maintaining power plants of all types, and have the opportunity to travel throughout the year.



EDUCATION

Three to four years of classroom and on-the-job training. Some welding positions require general certifications, or certifications in specific skills such as inspection or robotic welding. The American Welding Society certification courses are widely used throughout the United States.

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SURVEYOR

\$32.69 PER HOUR / **\$68,851** PER YEAR*

If math, measuring, and engineering are your strengths, consider a career in site layout. Surveyors are the first on the site to gather data about the elevation, contour, and dimensions of the land being developed. This data gets used for everything, including mapmaking, mining, engineering, and general construction. Survey jobs are available in every segment of the construction industry, including highway and bridge construction, pipeline, and mining.



EDUCATION

Most surveyors have a bachelor's degree, and all states require surveyors to be licensed, which often requires up to five years of work experience.

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