

# Construction Laborer

## About my job:

As a construction laborer, I perform many physical labor tasks on construction sites.



## What I do every day:

- Dig trenches, backfill excavations or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels and other tools
- Erect or dismantle scaffolding, traffic barricades, ramps or other structures
- Provide assistance to carpenters, plasterers or masons
- Smooth freshly poured cement or concrete, using floats, trowels or powered cement finishing tools
- Operate jackhammers or drills to break up concrete or pavement
- Install sewer, water or storm drain pipes, using pipe-laying machinery or laser guidance equipment
- Grind, scrape, sand or polish surfaces such as concrete, marble, terrazzo or wood flooring using abrasive tools or machines
- Position and seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes

## What makes my job great?

### Job growth:

Employment of construction laborers is projected to grow 24 percent from 2012 to 2022.

### Short-term training:

The majority of construction laborers have a high school diploma. Many attend technical high schools to gain skills. Apprenticeships are available.

### Good pay:

The average median salary is \$37,500/year. (That means that 50 percent of construction laborers earn less than this number, and the other 50 percent earn more.)

### Benefits:

Most construction laborers work full time, with benefits that may include:

- **Health care**
- **Paid vacation**

# How can you become an construction laborer?



## Academic/training credentials:

Experience is not required for entry-level positions but is very helpful in distinguishing you from other candidates. National Center for Construction Education and Research certification is available through many technical schools. An associate degree is typically required for these positions.

## Skills and requirements:

- Problem-solving skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience with math and measurement

## Where you can find jobs:

- Online job boards
- Local career fairs
- Networking
- Company websites
- Social Media
- Department of Career Services at colleges

## Potential job titles:

- Construction laborer
- Construction worker
- Curb and gutter laborer
- Drain layer
  - Drop crew laborer
  - Post framer
  - Skilled laborer
- Union laborer

## Potential local employers:

- Cypress Construction Company
- Trimor Corporation
- Simon Roofing
- Ross Builders Co.



# Local educational opportunities

## Two-year Institutions (associate degrees and certificates):

- Lakeland Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management
  - Construction management certificate
  - Facility management certificate
- Contact Civil Engineering Department Chair at 440.525.7184
- Cuyahoga Community College: Associate of Applied Science in Construction Engineering Technology
  - Construction project management certificate
- University of Akron: Associate of Applied Science in Construction Engineering Technology



## Four-year institutions:

- Kent State University: Bachelor of Science in Construction Management
- University of Akron: Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Technology

## Technical prep:

- A-TECH: carpentry program or building maintenance technology
- Auburn Career Center: construction program
- Lake Shore Compact: construction management program or commercial building trades program
- TECC: construction trades program



## Coursework per educational entity:

**Secondary pathway:**  
Construction

**Postsecondary program:**  
Construction Management

An Example of Course with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits

Secondary	7	English I	Algebra I	Physical Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Core & Sustainable Construction		
	8								
	9	English II	Geometry	Biology	World History	Health (.5) PE (.5)	Plan Reading	World Languages	
	10								
	11	English III	Algebra II	Chemistry	U.S. History	Construction Technology	Carpentry & Masonry Skills	World Languages	
	12	English IV	Trigonometry/ Calculus	Environmental Science	U.S. Government	Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing	Structural Systems		
Postsecondary	Year 1 1st Semester	Construction Methods & Materials	English Composition I	Intro to Engineering Technology	First Year Experience	Intro to Technical Mathematics	Reading Construction Drawings	Architectural Building Codes & Standards	
	Year 1 2nd Semester	Introduction to Business	Civil Drafting	Construction Materials Testing	Technical Comm.	General Physics I			
	Year 2 1st Semester	Intro to Entr.	Business Law I	Building Construction I	Construction Estimating	Safety in Construction	Arts & Humanities Elective		
	Year 2 2nd Semester	Professional Personal Selling	Scheduling and Building Info. Modeling	Green Building & LEED® Rating System	Construction Administration & Inspection	Social & Behavioral Sciences Elective			
High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses									
High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (Including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses									
Required Courses									
Recommended Electives									
Ohio   Department of Education		Ohio MEANS Jobs		Ohio   Board of Regents		University System of Ohio			

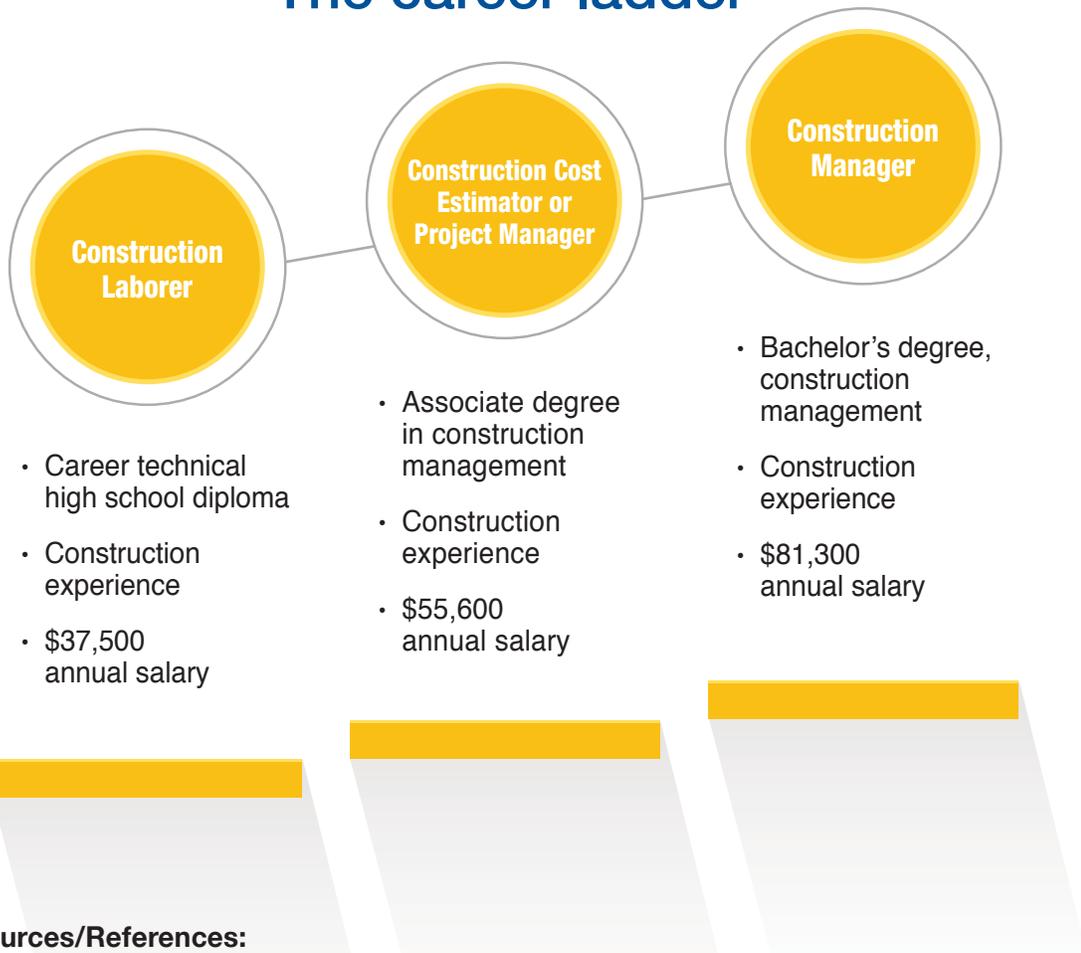
# How can I grow my career?



## Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Construction helper
- Construction laborer
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Project manager
- Construction manager

## The career ladder



### Sources/References:

Ohio Means Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

O\*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information