

2024-2025 FIELD GUIDE TO

The Skilled Trades

Ready to custom-build your career? Check out a sample of the many in-demand Alabama construction jobs. Explore career opportunities at GoBuildAlabama.com



GO BUILD



GO BUILD

Visit GoBuildAlabama.com

Boilermakers

TRAITS: PHYSICAL STAMINA | MANUAL DEXTERITY
TECHNICAL SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

BOILERMAKER:
\$28.27

The name "boilermaker" originates from the craft of making, installing and repairing boilers, but that's not all that these tradespeople do. Boilermakers produce steel fabrications from plates and sections, which means they also install and repair closed vats and other large vessels that hold and process oil, chemicals, beer and hundreds of other products.

Brick & Block/ Cement Masons

TRAITS: PHYSICAL STRENGTH | MATH SKILLS
DEPENDABILITY



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

BRICK & BLOCKMASON:
\$26.35
CEMENT MASON:
\$25.00

Brick and blockmasons bind building materials such as brick, concrete block, cinder block, structural tile and terracotta block with mortar and other substances to construct or repair walls, floors, fireplaces and other structures. Cement masons work with concrete—one of the most durable materials used in construction—to place and finish concrete walls, foundations, beams, columns and panels.

Carpenters/ Millwrights

TRAITS: AGILITY | HAND-EYE COORDINATION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

CARPENTER:
\$20.78
MILLWRIGHT:
\$23.39

A carpenter works with wood and other materials to construct and maintain buildings and other structures. Carpenters also may erect scaffolding, build tunnel bracing, construct wooden forms for pouring concrete or build concrete forms for tunnels, bridges or other projects. A millwright installs, assembles and dismantles machinery used by construction sites, factories and power plants. These tradespeople use manuals and many powerful tools to get each machine up and running.

Continued on back →

Electricians

TRAITS: BALANCE | HAND-EYE-FOOT COORDINATION
MECHANICAL APTITUDE



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
ELECTRICIAN:
\$23.14

Electricians install and maintain the electrical systems and wiring that power the nation's businesses, factories and homes. These tradespeople use blueprints to determine the locations of circuits, outlets, load centers and panel boards and adhere to local, state and national building codes. When installing, electricians use hand tools such as screwdrivers, conduit benders, pliers and wire strippers. Later, they use various equipment to test connections and ensure components are compatible and safe.

Equipment Operators

TRAITS: READING SKILLS | MANUAL DEXTERITY
KEEN PERCEPTION



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:
\$21.05

Equipment operators are responsible for operating the machinery used to pave and surface roads as well as move heavy materials at construction sites. For paving, surfacing and tamping equipment operators, duties may include clearing and grading land, building and maintaining roads and bridges, digging trenches, spreading asphalt and constructing offshore oil rigs.

Insulation Workers

TRAITS: DETAIL-ORIENTED | MANUAL DEXTERITY
PHYSICAL STRENGTH



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
INSULATION WORKER:
\$21.00

Insulation workers install the materials used to control and maintain the temperature of buildings and mechanical equipment. Some types of insulation are fastened with adhesive, staples or tape, while others, particularly in attics or exterior walls, are blown in using a machine. Mechanical insulation workers operate primarily on mechanical equipment whereas floor, ceiling and wall insulation workers deal with the structural elements of residential, commercial and other buildings.

Lineworkers

TRAITS: BALANCE | HAND-EYE COORDINATION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
LINEWORKER:
\$25.68

Lineworkers are responsible for the construction and maintenance of our country's electrical power systems, including the installation and repair of power lines, transformers, capacitor banks, insulators, fuses and more. The job often requires working high in the air, occasionally up to 300 feet off the ground, and sometimes requires working in underground vaults or trenches.

Pipefitters/ Plumbers

TRAITS: ATTENTION TO DETAIL | MATH SKILLS
MANUAL DEXTERITY



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
PIPEFITTER/PLUMBER:
\$24.87

Pipefitters and plumbers are responsible for keeping pipe systems maintained according to specifications and codes. Pipefitters work with the high-pressure and low-pressure pipe systems used in manufacturing, the generation of electricity and the heating and cooling of buildings, while plumbers install and repair water, waste disposal, drainage and gas systems in buildings of all sizes.

Roofers

TRAITS: STRENGTH | BALANCE
STAMINA



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
ROOFER:
\$22.00

Roofers build, maintain and repair the roofs of schools, hospitals, factories, homes and other structures. These tradespeople use membranes, shingles, slate asphalt, aluminum, wood, gravel and more to ensure construction is safe and effective. These tradespeople must work with a variety of hand tools and power tools. They must also develop physical fitness and an indifference to height and weather conditions.

Sheet Metal Workers/ HVAC Technicians

TRAITS: READING SKILLS | MANUAL DEXTERITY
KEEN PERCEPTION



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
SHEET METAL WORKER:
\$18.46
HVAC TECHNICIAN:
\$24.88

Sheet metal workers fabricate, install and maintain heating and air conditioning systems as well as perform architectural sheet metal work and a variety of other jobs involving sheet metal. Additionally, sheet metal workers construct appliances, heaters and boilers. HVAC technicians are trained to install, maintain and repair heating and air quality in most buildings. Some workers specialize in a single area such as heating, air conditioning or refrigeration.

Structural Iron & Steel Workers

TRAITS: STRENGTH | BALANCE
STAMINA



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
STRUCTURAL IRON & STEEL WORKER:
\$25.51

Ironworkers are responsible for constructing (and sometimes dismantling) bridges, towers and much more. By bolting or welding structural columns, beams and girders together, they construct the all-important "skeleton" of a structure. Ironworkers are sometimes required to interpret blueprints, and since they are constructing the framework of buildings, they often work at significant heights.

Welders

TRAITS: HAND-EYE COORDINATION | GOOD VISION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
WELDER:
\$21.62

Welding, the process of fastening two pieces of metal together by softening with heat and applying pressure, is a versatile trade that equips welders to work in a variety of industries. Several other construction trades—such as pipefitters, boilermakers and sheet metal workers—incorporate welding skills. These tradespeople often work from blueprints, using their knowledge and training to determine the best way to join the parts.

2024-2025 FIELD GUIDE TO

The Skilled Trades

Ready to custom-build your career? Check out a sample of the many in-demand Alabama construction jobs. Explore career opportunities at GoBuildAlabama.com



GO BUILD



GO BUILD

Visit GoBuildAlabama.com

Boilermakers

TRAITS: PHYSICAL STAMINA | MANUAL DEXTERITY
TECHNICAL SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

BOILERMAKER:
\$28.27

The name "boilermaker" originates from the craft of making, installing and repairing boilers, but that's not all that these tradespeople do. Boilermakers produce steel fabrications from plates and sections, which means they also install and repair closed vats and other large vessels that hold and process oil, chemicals, beer and hundreds of other products.

Brick & Block/ Cement Masons

TRAITS: PHYSICAL STRENGTH | MATH SKILLS
DEPENDABILITY



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

BRICK & BLOCKMASON:
\$26.35
CEMENT MASON:
\$25.00

Brick and blockmasons bind building materials such as brick, concrete block, cinder block, structural tile and terracotta block with mortar and other substances to construct or repair walls, floors, fireplaces and other structures. Cement masons work with concrete—one of the most durable materials used in construction—to place and finish concrete walls, foundations, beams, columns and panels.

Carpenters/ Millwrights

TRAITS: AGILITY | HAND-EYE COORDINATION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE

CARPENTER:
\$20.78
MILLWRIGHT:
\$23.39

A carpenter works with wood and other materials to construct and maintain buildings and other structures. Carpenters also may erect scaffolding, build tunnel bracing, construct wooden forms for pouring concrete or build concrete forms for tunnels, bridges or other projects. A millwright installs, assembles and dismantles machinery used by construction sites, factories and power plants. These tradespeople use manuals and many powerful tools to get each machine up and running.

Continued on back →

Electricians

TRAITS: BALANCE | HAND-EYE-FOOT COORDINATION
MECHANICAL APTITUDE



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
ELECTRICIAN:
\$23.14

Electricians install and maintain the electrical systems and wiring that power the nation's businesses, factories and homes. These tradespeople use blueprints to determine the locations of circuits, outlets, load centers and panel boards and adhere to local, state and national building codes. When installing, electricians use hand tools such as screwdrivers, conduit benders, pliers and wire strippers. Later, they use various equipment to test connections and ensure components are compatible and safe.

Equipment Operators

TRAITS: READING SKILLS | MANUAL DEXTERITY
KEEN PERCEPTION



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:
\$21.05

Equipment operators are responsible for operating the machinery used to pave and surface roads as well as move heavy materials at construction sites. For paving, surfacing and tamping equipment operators, duties may include clearing and grading land, building and maintaining roads and bridges, digging trenches, spreading asphalt and constructing offshore oil rigs.

Insulation Workers

TRAITS: DETAIL-ORIENTED | MANUAL DEXTERITY
PHYSICAL STRENGTH



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
INSULATION WORKER:
\$21.00

Insulation workers install the materials used to control and maintain the temperature of buildings and mechanical equipment. Some types of insulation are fastened with adhesive, staples or tape, while others, particularly in attics or exterior walls, are blown in using a machine. Mechanical insulation workers operate primarily on mechanical equipment whereas floor, ceiling and wall insulation workers deal with the structural elements of residential, commercial and other buildings.

Lineworkers

TRAITS: BALANCE | HAND-EYE COORDINATION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
LINEWORER:
\$25.68

Lineworkers are responsible for the construction and maintenance of our country's electrical power systems, including the installation and repair of power lines, transformers, capacitor banks, insulators, fuses and more. The job often requires working high in the air, occasionally up to 300 feet off the ground, and sometimes requires working in underground vaults or trenches.

Pipefitters/ Plumbers

TRAITS: ATTENTION TO DETAIL | MATH SKILLS
MANUAL DEXTERITY



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
PIPEFITTER/PLUMBER:
\$24.87

Pipefitters and plumbers are responsible for keeping pipe systems maintained according to specifications and codes. Pipefitters work with the high-pressure and low-pressure pipe systems used in manufacturing, the generation of electricity and the heating and cooling of buildings, while plumbers install and repair water, waste disposal, drainage and gas systems in buildings of all sizes.

Roofers

TRAITS: STRENGTH | BALANCE
STAMINA



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
ROOFER:
\$22.00

Roofers build, maintain and repair the roofs of schools, hospitals, factories, homes and other structures. These tradespeople use membranes, shingles, slate asphalt, aluminum, wood, gravel and more to ensure construction is safe and effective. These tradespeople must work with a variety of hand tools and power tools. They must also develop physical fitness and an indifference to height and weather conditions.

Sheet Metal Workers/ HVAC Technicians

TRAITS: READING SKILLS | MANUAL DEXTERITY
KEEN PERCEPTION



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
SHEET METAL WORKER:
\$18.46
HVAC TECHNICIAN:
\$24.88

Sheet metal workers fabricate, install and maintain heating and air conditioning systems as well as perform architectural sheet metal work and a variety of other jobs involving sheet metal. Additionally, sheet metal workers construct appliances, heaters and boilers. HVAC technicians are trained to install, maintain and repair heating and air quality in most buildings. Some workers specialize in a single area such as heating, air conditioning or refrigeration.

Structural Iron & Steel Workers

TRAITS: STRENGTH | BALANCE
STAMINA



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
STRUCTURAL IRON & STEEL WORKER:
\$25.51

Ironworkers are responsible for constructing (and sometimes dismantling) bridges, towers and much more. By bolting or welding structural columns, beams and girders together, they construct the all-important "skeleton" of a structure. Ironworkers are sometimes required to interpret blueprints, and since they are constructing the framework of buildings, they often work at significant heights.

Welders

TRAITS: HAND-EYE COORDINATION | GOOD VISION
PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



AVERAGE HOURLY RATE
WELDER:
\$21.62

Welding, the process of fastening two pieces of metal together by softening with heat and applying pressure, is a versatile trade that equips welders to work in a variety of industries. Several other construction trades—such as pipefitters, boilermakers and sheet metal workers—incorporate welding skills. These tradespeople often work from blueprints, using their knowledge and training to determine the best way to join the parts.