



CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS
AND TRADES

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Southeastern Wisconsin's construction trades are building a bright future for our industry and our state.

It's predicted that construction activity will continue to increase through 2012. Contractors are already reporting larger backlogs this year than last, and indicate they are responding to more bidding opportunities. With a mild fall stretching into early winter, there are worries about an impending shortage of skilled craftworkers for upcoming years.

These trends are projected to continue over the long run, which highlights the need for a strong workforce that can handle this increase in workload.

Take these statistics into consideration:

- Construction industry employment growth is among the highest in the state, increasing by 43% in a decade.
- Most construction crafts are expected to see a 14% to 25% increase in employment numbers between now and 2012.
- Currently, the apprentices graduating each year replace only between 40% and 60% of those retiring.
- Over one-third of our craftworkers are over the age of 45.
- 17% of the journeymen who are working with a new apprentice today will be eligible to retire before that apprentice completes the program.
- More than 50% of our current craftworkers will retire in the next 15 years.
- Since most area workers take advantage of the opportunity to retire prior to traditional retirement age, we may have only 10 years of working life left on one-third of our workforce and 15 years on half of it.



LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WORKING TOGETHER

There's never been a better time to promote our industry and attract the next generation of workers. The apprenticeship program and construction careers offer multiple benefits to the state, our local communities and our families:

- Journeyworkers contributed over \$2.3 billion to the Wisconsin economy in 2004.
- Southeastern Wisconsin construction journeyworkers generate over \$160 million in state income and sales tax revenue annually.
- Southeastern Wisconsin construction journeyworkers average annual earnings are \$42,582, which is \$7,712 or 22% more than average Wisconsin worker earnings of \$34,870.
- Their benefits average 46% of base wage rates, more than the 33% benefits rate for university employees.
- Southeastern Wisconsin construction apprentices generate over \$3.3 million in state income and sales tax revenue, with very little cost to the state to manage apprenticeship training programs.
- The difference in cost to the state between apprentice training costs and university student education costs is over \$10,000 per year.
- The difference in cash flow for a four-year apprenticeship program versus a four-year college degree is nearly \$160,000.
- There are over 30,000 skilled construction tradesworkers in southeastern Wisconsin, who create more than 32,000 more jobs regionwide.
- Over 82% of southeastern Wisconsin construction journeyworkers spending activity flows into private businesses in the state.
- Over the course of a four-year training program, state income tax generated by southeastern Wisconsin construction apprentices would total over \$8.5 million.

