

Impact

Construction Rising

Alongside summer comes high demand for construction workers, and in Pierce County, that demand is reaching peak levels. Already the second largest industry here, construction is expected to outpace all other industries in growth through 2023. Add to the equation more and more retirements from the industry and demand for qualified job candidates soars even higher.

But recent research shows that construction employers in the region feel like they don't have enough opportunities to connect with young job seekers, making it difficult to hire the next generation of workers. How do we connect supply and demand?



How to connect supply and demand

1. Are you an educator?

- Talk to your students about careers in construction (visit onetonline.org to learn more)
- Encourage students to consider enrolling at the Pierce County Skills Center
- Register your students for Career Day in the fall

2. Are you an administrator at an educational institution?

- Generate opportunities for students to try hands-on work
- Partner with local employers to offer career technical education, even if outside of school hours
- Register your schools on CareerLink Pierce County (workforce-central.org/CareerDay)

3. Do you employ construction workers?

- Encourage career progression and skill-building opportunities for current employees
- Partner with other employers, schools or workforce support programs to increase access to training opportunities
- Set up an account on CareerLink Pierce County to connect directly with young adults and interest them in your field (workforce-central.org/CareerDay)

4. Are you looking for a career change?

- Consider a construction career: Those in the field find it rewarding to measure a day's work in the visible progress of a construction project
- Sign up for local training opportunities listed later in this newsletter

Building Upward

"The construction industry has solid careers with family-wage jobs and opportunities for advancement," said Linda Nguyen. "As a community, we need to make sure we're talking about these types of jobs when we're asking young people—high schoolers especially—what they want to be when they grow up."

Join the conversation at the Construction Partnership (workforce-central.org/PCCP)



Hands-on Learning: Big Impacts

Some teams earn recognition for their schools by winning football trophies. Others, by winning music contests. But last month, a team of students at Rogers High School in Puyallup brought home statewide 1st place award for building a house.

Rogers HS wasn't the only Pierce County school to shine at the CTE Showcase of Skills in Olympia: Bates Technical College scored the "Model Home" recognition for their impeccable design, and the Pierce County Skills Center also completed an expertly-crafted house.

"It's remarkable that we have so much talent right here in Pierce County in an industry we know is growing," said Linda Nguyen, CEO of WorkForce Central. "We couldn't be more proud of our local students for their successes in Olympia last month."

"When students tackle hands-on, relevant projects, they learn better and more deeply,"

Eleni Papadakis
Executive Director of the
Washington State
Workforce Board



In January, students at 20 schools across the state began building tiny homes from blueprints, instructions and a \$2,500 materials stipend. On March 27, they gathered in Olympia to apply final touches and watch as their houses were adjudicated. Even with the same set of instructions, each house developed its own personality, and best of all? The homes will now house homeless families in Seattle.

"When students tackle hands-on, relevant projects, they learn better and more deeply," said Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director of the Washington State Workforce Board, in an editorial published by The Olympian. "This is truly a real-world opportunity for CTE students from across the state to show what they can do, while making a real difference in the lives of homeless people."

"The real winners are the people who won't have to spend the night in the cold because of the hard work of these students," said Nguyen.

See more photos from the event at <https://www.facebook.com/CTEshowcaseofskills/> or on Twitter using the hashtag #CTEshowcase.





What Construction Jobs Are Hot?

As Pierce County's fastest-growing industry, jobs in construction range from operating machinery on a steamy roadbed to designing floorplans in an air-conditioned office.

Check out which jobs are in the highest demand through 2023*.



Construction jobs projected to grow at the fastest annual growth rate through 2023:

ANNUAL GROWTH	JOB TITLE / CLASS	MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
4.3%	Roofers	\$44,830
4.2%	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	\$41,100
4.2%	Fence Erectors	\$38,800
4.1%	Structural Iron and Steel Workers	\$79,370



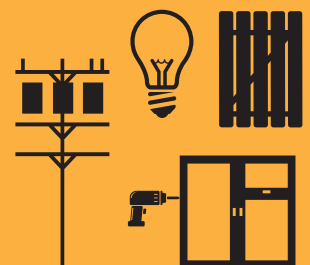
Construction positions expected to create the most new jobs by 2023:

2013 JOBS	NEW JOBS BY 2023	TOTAL 2023 JOBS	JOB TITLE / CLASS	MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
4.3%	1,521	5,798	Carpenters	\$51,410
4.2%	1,142	4,105	Construction Laborers	\$42,450
4.2%	653	2,425	Electricians	\$70,690
4.1%	605	2,404	Painters, Construction & Maintenance	\$39,420



Construction jobs without enough projected workers to fill anticipated openings through 2023:

JOB TITLE / CLASS	MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
Security and Fire Alarm System Installers	\$50,850
Electrical Powerline Installers and Repairers	\$85,310
Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	\$56,490
Fence Erectors	\$38,880



Data pulled from 2016 sector reports, available at www.workforce-central.org/data2016

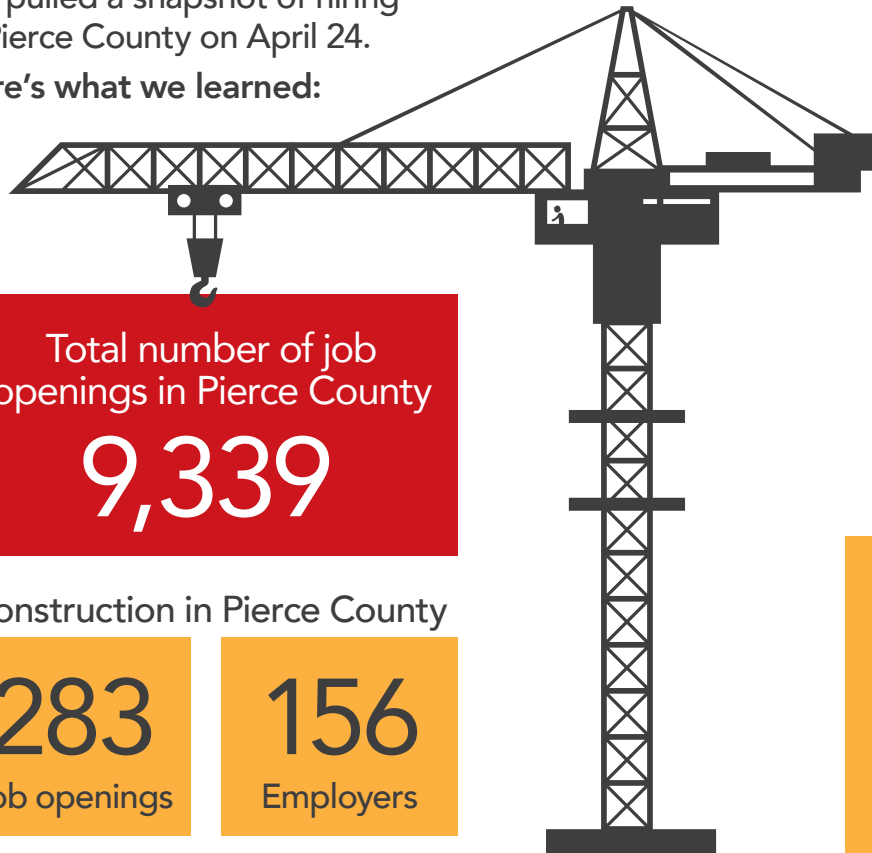


BY THE NUMBERS:

Jobs & Demand

We pulled a snapshot of hiring in Pierce County on April 24.

Here's what we learned:



Total number of job openings in Pierce County

9,339

Construction in Pierce County

283

Job openings

156

Employers



Job titles with the most openings

1. Laborer
2. Electrician
3. Carpenter
4. Project Manager
5. Superintendent

Top employers looking for construction workers

1. State of Washington
2. Northwest Abatement Services
3. Oldcastle
4. Waste Connections
5. FPI Management

Data pulled via CEB TalentNeuron.
For more information on the tool, visit cebglobal.com/talent-neuron.
Contact WorkForce Central for details on other industries or job titles: 253-254-7845.

Interested in training for one of these jobs?

None requires a traditional college degree. Explore available apprenticeships at www.lni.wa.gov/apprenticeship, or visit one of our resources:

Bates

Technical College

Apprenticeship Training Programs
South Campus, Room A115
253.680.7575

apprentice@bates.ctc.edu

Clover Park

Technical College

Advising & Counseling Office
Building 17, Room 150
253.589.5548

<http://cptc.edu/advising>

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