**OVERVIEW**

Employing more than 24,460 people in Pierce County, construction is the second-largest industry in Pierce County. Data indicate surpluses in the majority of construction occupations, but employers report difficulty recruiting enough workers to fill open positions. Demand for workers is not expected to ease: construction is one of the fastest-growing industries in the county, and employers anticipate retirements to further increase demand for workers as the workforce ages.

With an average annual wage of $60,899—nearly $3,000 more than the regional average wage—construction provides a viable career option regardless of education level. However, the construction industry lacks connections to high school students that otherwise would help them fill local vacancies. Students may go through high school without being exposed to opportunities in construction, finding it only after many years working low-paid retail or service jobs. Employers want to find new and increased ways to reach potential candidates sooner in their careers.

**PROJECTED TALENT SUPPLY**

- **Unemployed:** 2,394
- **Newly-Trained:** 108

**Over the next five years (2018-2023), the projected construction talent pipeline shows a need for skilled labor.**

**Projected Talent Supply**

- **Bachelor's Degree:**
  - Jobs: 46
  - Workers: 133
  - Graduates: 53
  - UI Claims: 76

- **Associate Degree or Postsecondary Award:**
  - Jobs: 38
  - Workers: 17
  - Graduates: 30
  - UI Claims: 38

- **On-the-Job Training:**
  - Jobs: 837
  - Workers: 2,326
  - Unemployed: 2,289
  - Graduates: 38
  - UI Claims: 38

**2018 - 2023 PROJECTIONS FOR THE PIERCE COUNTY CONSTRUCTION TALENT PIPELINE**

This chart outlines the annual estimate of workers and job openings by education level in Pierce County.

**MATCHES FOR GRADUATES QUALIFIED TO WORK AS PLUMMERS, PIPEFITTERS, AND STEAMFITTERS**

- **Classification Instructional Program:**
  - Pipefitter and Sprinkler Fitter
  - Plumbing Technology/Plumber
  - Plumbing and Related Water Supply Services/Other

- **Standard Occupational Classification:**
  - Plumbers, Pipefitter and Steamfitters
  - First-Line Supervisor of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
  - Septic Tank Services and Sewer Pipe Cleaners

**Pierce County employs more than 24,460 construction workers.**

As one of the fastest-growing industries, the construction industry is a key area of focus within the county.

Qualifications and experience in one occupation may translate into opportunities in another. This is one way employers and employees manage talent surpluses and shortages.