



## Construction laborers

Perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools of all types: air hammers, earth tampers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment, and a variety of other equipment and instruments. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding, and clean up rubble, debris, and other waste materials. May assist other craft workers. Construction laborers who primarily assist a particular craft worker are classified under "Helpers, Construction Trades" (47-3010).

## Cognitive and mental requirements

The qualifications that workers need to use judgement, make decisions, interact with others, and adapt to changes in jobs.

In 2024, more than basic people skills were required for 4.6 percent of construction laborers, and basic people skills were required for 95.4 percent.

**Table 1. Percentage of construction laborers with cognitive and mental requirements, 2024**

Requirement	Yes	No
<b>Adaptability: Work schedule variability</b>	70.1	29.9
<b>Pace: Pause control</b>	40.3	59.7
<b>Telework</b>	<0.5	>99.5
<b>Work review: Presence of supervisor</b>	84.2	15.8
<b>Work review: Supervising others</b>	<5	>95
<b>Working around crowds</b>	<0.5	>99.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

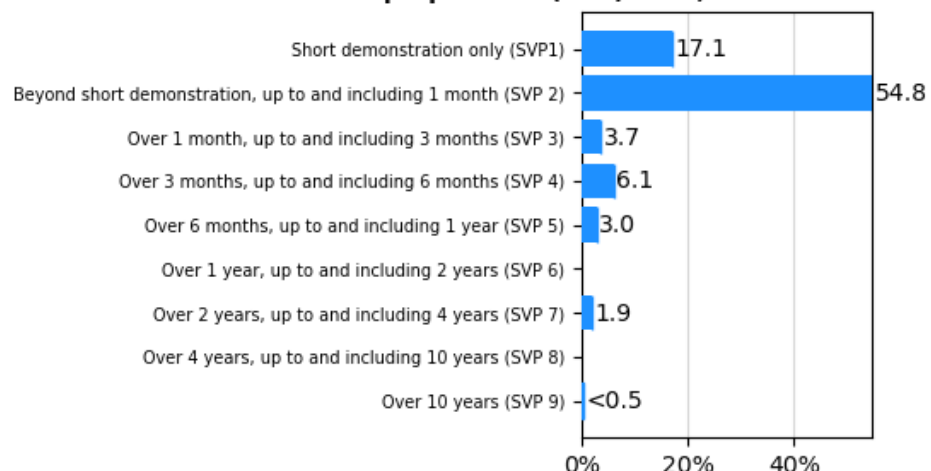
## Education, training, and experience requirements

The minimum level of formal education required, credentials necessary, on-the-job training, and prior work experience necessary for average performance in jobs.

In 2024, prior work experience was required for 16.9 percent of construction laborers and on-the-job training was required for 81.1 percent.

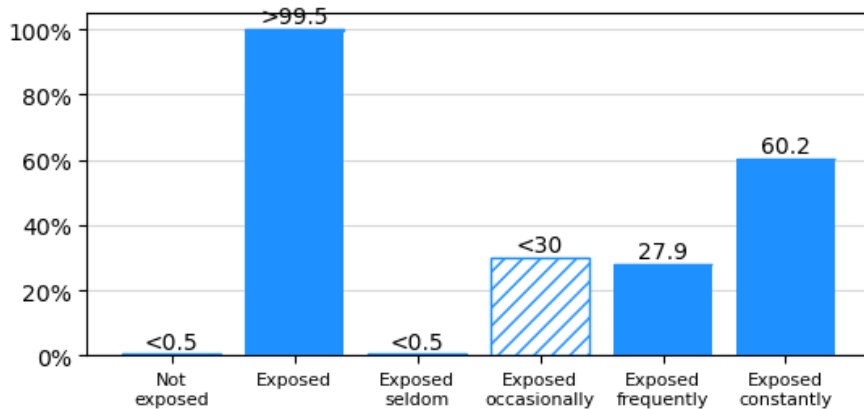
No minimum education was required for 78.2 percent of construction laborers.

**Chart 1. Percentage of construction laborers by specific vocational preparation (SVP) level, 2024**



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

**Chart 2. Percentage of construction laborers with outdoor exposure and duration, 2024**



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

## Environmental conditions

The various tangible or concrete hazards or difficulties that are in the vicinity of where jobs' critical tasks are performed.

In 2024, greater than 99.5 percent of construction laborers were not exposed to extreme cold, and greater than 99.5 percent were not exposed to extreme heat. Wetness was not present for 63.9 percent, 72.9 percent were not exposed to heavy vibrations, and less than 0.5 percent were not exposed to the outdoors.

## Physical demands

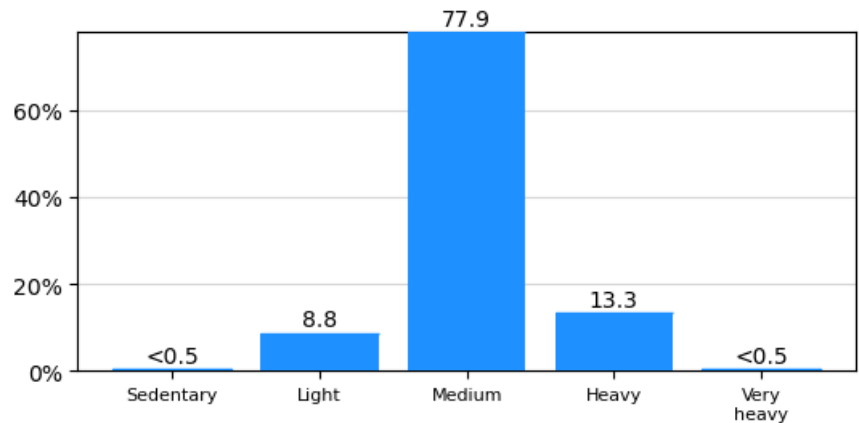
Refer to the physical activities required to perform tasks in jobs. The presence and, in some cases, duration of these activities are published.

In 2024, reaching at or below the shoulder was required for greater than 99.5 percent of construction laborers and was not required for less than 0.5 percent. For 38.3 percent of workers, reaching at or below the shoulder was occasionally performed, 47.6 percent frequently, and for less than 0.5 percent reaching at or below the shoulder occurred constantly.

Performing work in low postures was required for greater than 99.5 percent of construction laborers and was not required for less than 0.5 percent. For 30.6 percent of workers, stooping was required to perform low work.

On average, construction laborers spent 9.5 percent of the workday sitting and 90.5 percent of the workday standing.

**Chart 3. Percentage of construction laborers by strength level requirements, 2024**



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

**Table 2. Percentage of construction laborers with physical demands, 2024**

Requirement	Yes	No
Choice of sitting or standing	<5	>95
Climbing structure-related ramps or stairs	29.9	70.1
Driving	54.9	45.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey