

# LABORERS

Laborers provide much of the physically demanding labor at building, highway and heavy construction projects, tunnel and shaft excavations and demolition sites. In addition to assisting other trades workers, laborers clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations and clean up rubble and debris. They perform a variety of excavation, tunneling and pipe work, and work on their own on highly specialized tasks. The installation of utility pipe, for example, requires the set up and operation of laser guidance equipment for precise pipe elevation and placement. Tunnel and shaft projects require workers to be trained and experienced in the use of drilling equipment and explosives. Laborers operate jackhammers, earth tampers, cement mixers, buggies, skid steer loaders, "walk behind" ditch diggers, small mechanical hoists, laser beam equipment, and surveying and measuring equipment. In addition to working on building and transportation projects, laborers work on other projects, such as hazardous waste cleanup and asbestos and lead abatement. In hazardous waste removal, they may: operate, maintain, and read monitoring devices; perform material and atmospheric sampling; build, clean, or maintain facilities for hazardous material removal and decontamination; and package and transport hazardous or radioactive materials.

**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM & REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be 18 years of age, have a High School Diploma or equivalent, possess a valid driver's license, and pass a drug test. Applications are taken at each Laborer Local Hall on the first Tuesday of each month, during designated hours. Applicants will be notified by mail of the location, date, and time that they should report for aptitude testing. Individuals who successfully complete the aptitude testing are granted an oral interview 1-2 weeks after testing. Upon completion of this process, applicants are assessed on an overall score, and then placed on an eligible listing of applicants or the local union applied, in ranking order, highest to lowest. As a need for apprentices arises, individuals are taken off the list and contacted for employment.

**WAGE INFORMATION:** Apprentices start at 75% of the wage scale. Journeyman wages range from \$26.60 to \$32.27 hourly (depending on local) plus health care and pension benefits.

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY CLASSES:** Any type of construction safety training would be beneficial - Building Trades courses, algebra, and geometry.

**WORKING CONDITIONS:** Laborers work in all types of weather conditions and at various heights.

**ABILITIES:** Must be able to work at high levels from ladders and scaffolds. Must be physically fit to perform all types of construction jobs.

WAGE + BENEFITS	1 <sup>ST</sup> YR APPR.
\$26.60-\$32.27 + \$25.73-31.40	75% of wage

**Illinois Laborers & Contractors Joint Apprenticeship & Training Program**  
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