



It pays to join an Ironworker Local

The skills that come from the training provided by construction trade unions command a premium, according to a report recently issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nationally, union members in all industries had median weekly earnings of [\\$950 in 2013](#), while those who were not union members earned \$750. The gap was even greater among construction and extraction occupations where the national median wage for [union workers neared \\$1,100 a week](#) compared to \$675 for non-union workers.

In 2013, the union membership rate remained unchanged at 11.3 percent, reported the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Private industries with high unionization rates included utilities (25.6 percent), transportation and warehousing (19.6 percent), telecommunications (14.4 percent), and construction (14.1 percent).

In California, nearly 2.6 million workers – or about 1 in 6 - are represented by unions and 2.43 million workers are members of unions, about 16.4 percent of the workforce.

Meanwhile, job opportunities remain strong in construction, according estimates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Jobs for ironworkers](#) are projected to grow 22 percent between 2012 and 2022, and median income for ironworkers is nearly 33 percent higher than the median for all jobs.