

What is an Ironworker?

Ironworkers build the skyline of every great city – erecting the steel frames of soaring skyscrapers. Ironworkers also help build highways, bridges, hospitals and sports stadiums – weaving the reinforcing steel bars essential to concrete construction.



- There are four types of Ironworkers:
 - **Structural** – Erect and connect fabricated steel beams, often at great heights, that form a building or project skeleton. Jobs are primarily industrial and commercial.
 - **Reinforcing** – Install steel bars, known as rebar, and post-tensioning cables to reinforce concrete structures. Sometimes called *rodbusters*.
 - **Ornamental (architectural)** – Install metal windows, metal stairways, catwalks, elevator fronts, building entrances and railings.
 - **Rigging and machinery-moving** – Load, move and set machinery, curtain walls and structural steel, as well as operate forklifts, cranes and aerial lifts.
- Union Ironworkers complete a rigorous apprenticeship program. The four-year work-study program includes 160 hours in the classroom each year. The requirements for the apprenticeship program include:
 - Minimum age of 18
 - High school diploma or GED certificate
 - Good physical condition, agility and sense of balance
 - Drug and alcohol free
- The median pay for ironworkers nationwide is \$22.18 an hour, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Journeymen Ironworkers with Local 229 earn \$33 an hour.
- Employment of ironworkers is projected to grow 22 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- The starting pay for apprentices is 50 percent that of fully trained Ironworkers, known as journeymen. Apprentices earn more as they become more skilled.

Ironworkers Local 229

5155 Mercury Point

San Diego, CA 92111

Phone: 858.571.5238

Website: www.local229.org