

Mobility + Infrastructure

Labor Market Insights + Community Impacts · Austin Metro + Surrounding Counties

12-county region including: Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Milam, Travis, Williamson County

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Building the Workforce Behind Central Texas Growth

- Austin’s unprecedented growth and major infrastructure projects like the IH-35 expansion, Project Connect, and airport redevelopment require **10,000** skilled workers annually.
- Currently, regional training programs meet only **60%** of this demand and workforce shortages risk project delays, impacting economic and community development.
- By prioritizing workforce readiness, we ensure that infrastructure investments focus on creating local career pathways and delivering much needed infrastructure to support our growing community.

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Employment & Projected Growth by Priority Occupation

Austin metro and surrounding counties, 2025-2030

OCCUPATION	AVG. ANN. WAGE	5-YEAR EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES		NET EMP. GROWTH	ANN. % GROWTH
		2025	2030		
Construction Laborers	\$44,300	14,486	16,316	1,830	2.4
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$82,100	9,087	10,140	1,053	2.2
Electricians	\$62,100	8,227	9,352	1,125	2.6
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$59,800	6,101	6,795	694	2.2
Carpenters	\$54,500	5,921	6,601	680	2.2
Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters	\$67,800	5,050	5,621	571	2.2
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$57,200	5,001	5,532	531	2.0
HVAC Mechanics and Installers	\$65,200	3,961	4,489	528	2.5
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	\$52,000	2,548	2,806	258	2.0
Sheet Metal Workers	\$60,400	1,035	1,139	104	1.9
Total Industry Employment*	\$78,300	169,485	188,383	18,898	2.1

*Industry total includes all occupations and is not limited to the priority occupations shown above. | Source: JobsEQ, Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX MSA, 2025Q4

HIRING TRENDS

Demand for Skilled Talent Continues to Rise

- Texas ranks second nationally for proposed data centers, with **24** active facilities and more planned. Continued expansion is expected to increase demand for construction and skilled trades talent across the Austin region.
- In 2025, mobility and infrastructure priority occupations generated over **13,600** total job postings—up by **1,600** from 2024—with over **2,300** employers competing for talent, and **3,400** monthly hires. Truck drivers, mechanics, HVAC, electricians, and plumbers led demand.
- Between January and April 2026, job postings for M+I priority occupations exceeded **5,700** with over **1,400** employers hiring for talent.

Source: OpportunityAustin, Lightcast, HWOL, Job Postings, 2026

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Turning Workforce Strategy Into Action

Explore how regional partners are turning collaboration into action. Click or scan to connect with workforce opportunities.



Austin Infrastructure Academy Impact

Since launching in March 2025, the Austin Infrastructure Academy (AIA) has brought together employers, educators, community organizations, and workforce partners to strengthen Austin's skilled trades talent pipeline. In its first year, AIA connected over **1,500** residents to career opportunities, enrolled more than **1,000** participants, and supported training aligned directly with high-demand infrastructure occupations. Through a combination of employer partnerships, career exploration events, K-12 engagement, and barrier-reducing support, AIA is helping local job seekers access training that leads to real, family-sustaining careers while building awareness of infrastructure career pathways for the next generation of talent.

[Learn More](#)



Supporting the Expanded Electrician Pipeline

As manufacturing, data centers, life sciences, and other industries grow across the Austin metro, demand for electricians and other skilled trades is rising. To help meet workforce needs, Opportunity Austin joined Texas State Technical College, the Texas Association of Manufacturers, the Texas Association of Business, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas, and other industry leaders in supporting a Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation rule change that grants electrician trainees partial training-hour credit after passing required exams while they work toward Journeyman status. Opportunity Austin council members from White Construction and Bartlett Cocke helped successfully advocate for the board's approval of the change.

[Learn More](#)



Expanding Access to CDL Careers Through Regional Training and Reentry Partnerships

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area recently celebrated the graduation of ATDS Truck Driving School CDL trainees. For the first time in the region, the cohort also included an individual completing CDL training while transitioning from Federal Correctional Institution Bastrop, marking a milestone in reentry workforce programming through the PROWD grant and federal partnerships. This milestone highlights growing collaboration to expand access to high-demand CDL careers and strengthen reentry and workforce pathways across the region.

[Learn More](#)



Get Involved!

Looking to connect with future talent and strengthen your workforce? Click or scan to join the M+I Sector Partnership.

