

# 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 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.



Ironworkers Local 75 offers an apprentice training program that teaches the latest skills in structural and reinforcing ironwork and safety on the job.

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 Arizona, about 147,000 workers are represented by unions and 122,000 workers are members of unions.

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.