

The Construction Industry Drives Our Economy

The construction industry employs nearly 10 million workers and typically accounts for 5 percent of the annual gross domestic product of the U.S. and Canada—more than most other sectors of the economy, including agriculture, mining, transportation and utilities.

- LIUNA represents workers in every construction sector, with most of its strength in building construction and construction of highway and infrastructure projects, such as dams, bridges, tunnels and factories. In homebuilding—which accounts for about half of all construction dollars spent—LIUNA has begun an effort to help more residential construction workers unite for better jobs and to provide homebuilders with a superior workforce.
- Unions like LIUNA play a crucial role in stabilizing the labor market. Construction contractors often employ workers only for the duration of a project. When workers successfully complete a project, they have in effect worked themselves out of a job. Through their union, workers are able to move on to the next job, helping to ensure a reliable income, and a stable, skilled workforce for employers.

LIUNA is a strong voice for a stronger construction industry—as the construction industry grows, so grows the economies of North America, potentially creating more opportunity for all working people.

- In partnership with many construction industry associations, LIUNA is a strong voice for infrastructure improvements that help create family-supporting jobs and build a stronger, more competitive economy. The union has been a leading voice on Capitol Hill and in Parliament in the successful fight for improved infrastructure funding.
- Construction is hard, dirty and sometimes dangerous work. The occupation accounted for 10.2 percent of all non-fatal workplace injuries in the U.S. in 2005. One out of five work fatalities in 2005 occurred on private sector construction sites, the highest fatality rate of any industry sector. Due to language barriers and for those without a union, a lack of a voice on the job, Hispanic construction workers are much more likely to suffer fatal injuries.
- LIUNA works to improve safety and health on the job by working with employers, members and government agencies.
- Through training, construction English classes, English-Spanish guidebooks, fighting for stronger worker protections and labor-management safety programs, LIUNA is working to make jobsites safer.

LIUNA helps make construction work a family-supporting career.

- LIUNA is known for providing one of the best free continuing education systems in the world. For those who have not had the advantages of higher education, or who choose construction as a career, the union provides free training and certification in a variety of skills—such as hazardous materials remediation, tunneling, concrete work and more—opening the door to advancement and helping contractors compete through quality.
- Because of their skills and the bargaining power that comes from their unity, union construction workers earn on average 36 percent more than their unrepresented counterparts. The difference for many is the difference between working poor or middle class. A typical U.S. union construction worker earns \$37,080 compared with a non-union construction worker who earns \$23,940.