

Labor Shortages Affect Construction Bidding

By Maila Kim

Finding good workers is hard these days. And by 2026, it's going to be tougher still. This isn't just a small problem. It's a huge labor shortage that's going to change how you bid on jobs.

If you're pricing out work for 2026, you need to be extra careful. If you guess wrong on your labor costs, don't account for prices going up, or mess up the project timeline, you could lose all your profit before your crew even shows up.

Let's break down what the labor shortage means for you, and go over three steps to help you stay ahead.

The Labor Gap: How Big Is It?

It's big. The construction industry needs more people than it can find.

You've probably noticed that it's gotten harder in recent years to fill open roles. In fact, nine in ten contractors have openings for trade workers that they can't fill. That's really a big problem, especially since the industry needs to

hire approximately 723,000 workers per year to keep up with the demands.

But it isn't because there's less work. Public and private projects are constantly added to project databases such as ConstructConnect® Project Intelligence every day. The real problem is that the number of qualified people just doesn't exist. This issue is getting bigger every year, which means the gap just keeps growing.

Why the Shortage?

A big reason for the labor gap is that many skilled workers are heading toward retirement. Right now, one in five construction workers is fifty-five or older. The average age for a skilled tradesperson is almost forty-three, and it's only going up.

As the experienced workers are getting ready to retire, there aren't enough young people entering the construction workforce. If construction companies don't start getting creative to attract young workers, such as recruiting through social media or apprenticeship programs, they will face challenges in 2026 and beyond.



And that's not all. Immigration rules that are more strict have put additional strain on the construction labor market. One third of construction businesses say that federal immigration actions have caused project delays.

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984

Click to read more

Opportunities

LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Public notices and participation activities

Click for details

Doreen's Jazz New Orleans

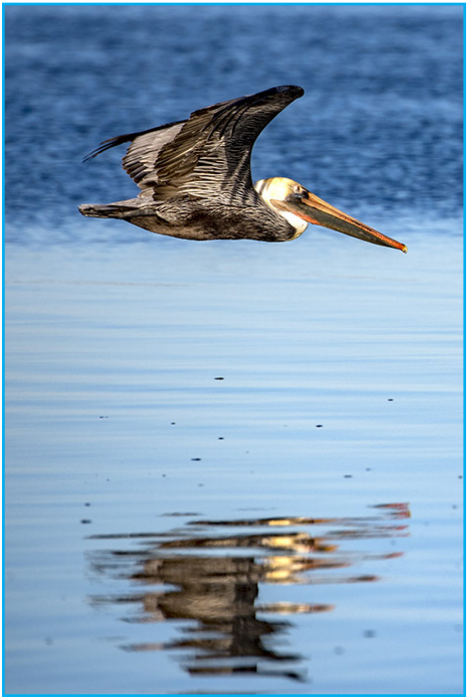
- Private lessons from Queen Clarinet
- Band performances at your venue
- Master classes for groups

504-908-7119
doreenja@bellsouth.net
www.doreensjazz.org

Small Business Exchange Louisiana DEI

- Advertise
- ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses
- Telephone Follow-Up (Live)
- Agency/Organization Letters
- Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation
- Customized Reports Available

For more info contact
Valerie Voorhies at
vuv@sbeinc.com



LOUISIANA

BUSINESS

JOURNAL

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

With a database of over 1.6 million notices, SBE assists agencies with public legal notices

Advertisements

Placed in various Louisiana Business Journal digital publications every month and at www.louisianabusinessjournal.com

Special Follow-Up Services

Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534

1984

41

Years

2025

Advertise in our digital

LBJ

weekly or whenever wherever to whomever you need to reach among agencies contractors diversity firms

PLAQUEMINES PORT IS NOW THE LOUISIANA GATEWAY PORT

EVERY SHIP GENERATES TAX REVENUE

By taxing hundreds of ships annually, the Louisiana Gateway Port uses the revenue for many benefits, including increasing local jobs, improving roads, and providing reliable ferry operation. Discover all the ways the Port helps Plaquemines Parish thrive.

- \$6.5B generated for Louisiana's economy
- \$136.6M generated from Port tenants
- \$18.3B in total economic impact

Now hiring!
Explore roles with top pay and great benefits. Go to <https://louisianagatewayport.com> today.

Find out more:
Phone: (504) 221-8735

LOUISIANA GATEWAY PORT
PLAQUEMINES PARISH
Turning bigger ships faster.

Balthazar Electriks

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

We deliver a wide range of products and services to proudly serve construction, industrial, utility, and commercial businesses

- ELECTRICAL**
Wire, Distribution, Wiring Devices, Installation Material
- LIGHTING**
Bulbs, Ballasts, Exits/Emergency Lights, Installation Options
- SECURITY**
Smoke, Carbon Monoxide and Metal Detectors, Surveillance Equipment, and Batteries
- COMMUNICATIONS**
Fiber Optic Cable, Telecommunication Systems, and Office Equipment

Contact info: 3623 D'Hemecourt Street • New Orleans, LA 70119
504-891-5504 • 504-891-5580 • Belectriks@balthazarinc.com • www.Balthazarinc.com

LAGNIAPPE BAKEHOUSE

Lagniappe Baking is a neighborhood bakehouse owned by pastry chef Kaitlin Guerin, a 2025 James Beard Award nominee. The one-of-a-kind assorted pastry boxes highlight the local, seasonal bounty of the Crescent City's agriculture. Each box challenges your taste buds with flavor combinations and leaves you anticipating the next.

www.lagniappebaking.com

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2025

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 11:00 am–12:30 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1133412921559>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification!

SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
Monday, December 8, 2025, 9:00 am–10:00 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/73913>

CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc.
is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

Certificate of Proclamation
Louisiana Business Journal
In recognition of the 1st publication since Hurricane Katrina and to the rebuilding of business in your community.

Mitchell J. Landrieu
MAYOR MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU • CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
June 16, 2010

DATE