

# GDOT Newsletter

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Volume 84



## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



## 4 Reasons Skilled Trades Are More Important Than Ever

Exploring the post-pandemic workforce & industry demand

The past three years have shown the world what many of us already knew: Skilled trade jobs directly and indirectly impact nearly every facet of American life.

It's nearly impossible to watch the news without hearing stories about jobs, the economy and the workforce in general. In our post-pandemic world, people across multiple generations upset the apple cart when it came to the "great resignation." However, one thing has been clearer than the sunshine on a fresh spring day — skilled trades have emerged as an area of focus for not only business and political leaders, but for the individuals who are entering the workforce and making decisions about their careers. Let's take a closer look at what sets our industry apart and why skilled trades are more important than ever.

### 1. There is a growing demand for a skilled trade workforce.

According to ManpowerGroup, skilled trades are the hardest positions to fill. In addition, a large number of skilled trade workers are nearing or at retirement age. This means there is a large gap in employment that will need to be filled on top of the gap that already exists today. Only one in five students graduating from high school have indicated an interest in pursuing a skilled trade — causing alarm that is rippling through a variety of industries. Today, the high demand for skilled trade workers means the opportunity for increased earnings, the ability to take advantage of flexibility that may not have previously existed in certain markets, and long-term job security as it's been proven that skilled trade positions are not going anywhere anytime soon.

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## Falling Short: Construction Must Prioritize Worker Safety

A building boom across the United States, particularly in nonresidential projects, has many construction firms and contractors concerned about the availability of workers. To keep up with demand, some contractors have resorted to lowering their hiring standards. But in one of the most perilous professions in America, these actions could have serious implications for the safety of workers.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows construction and extraction occupations had the second most occupational deaths in 2021—the most recent data available—at a rate of 12.3 fatalities for every 100,000 workers. Falls continue to be a leading cause of construction deaths and injuries on jobsites, with more than 300 fall-related deaths each year and thousands of serious injuries. Despite increased awareness and stringent regulations, these incidents continue to disrupt workers' lives and livelihoods, as well as businesses' abilities to operate.

There has not been a notable reduction in construction fall-related deaths or injuries over the past 10 years, but these accidents are mainly preventable. Increased focus, education and training are vital to combatting these hazards in the construction industry.

### **LESS EXPERIENCED WORKERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER FALLS ON JOBSITES**

It's critical that construction employers pay close attention to the experience level of workers. Nationwide claims data show construction workers with less than two years of experience with a company account for more than half (53%) of all reported construction fall claims since 2020.

This underscores the importance for builders to ensure all workers, and especially those new to their company, are properly trained and equipped with the necessary safety gear to prevent such accidents from occurring.

This issue isn't just about complying with regulations. It's about protecting the lives of our workforce and ensuring their well-being on the job.

### **GROWING COSTS OF WORKER INJURIES**

In addition to the human cost of falls on jobsites, there is a significant financial burden that companies must bear. Across all industries, the average workers' compensation claim cost in 2022 rose by 15% over 2021, Nationwide's data reveals.

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## About The GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



**CEI DBE Supportive Services**

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