Construction Wages and Benefits in Kent County, MI

Craft	Average Rate	Average Fringe Benefits Pct.	Benefits	Total Compensation	"Prevailing" Wage	% Diff
HVAC Mechanics[1]	$24.82	26.6%	$6.59	**$31.41**	47.63	51.6%
Block/Stone Masons	$25.39	25.5%	$6.47	**$31.86**	36.98	16.1%
Bricklayers	$23.37	26.3%	$6.15	**$29.52**	36.98	25.3%
Carpenters	$19.78	25.1%	$4.97	$24.75	34.25	38.4%
Cement Masons	$22.19	27.8%	$6.16	**$28.35**	32.60	15.0%
Drywall Finishers	$17.32	22.0%	$3.81	$21.13	35.42	67.6%
Electricians[2]	$21.70	28.8%	$6.25	$27.95	38.88	39.1%
Ironworkers - Structural	$19.93	31.0%	$6.18	$26.11	41.46	58.8%
Metal Bldg. Mechanic[3]	$14.50	20.0%	$2.90	$17.40	39.47	126.8%
Pipefitters	$24.88	28.5%	$7.09	**$31.97**	47.63	49.0%
Plumbers	$21.87	32.0%	$7.00	**$28.87**	47.63	65.0%
Sheet Metal Workers	$25.60	20.0%	$5.12	**$30.72**	39.42	28.3%
Sprinkler Fitters	$18.00	27.0%	$4.86	$22.86	46.51	103.5%
Welders[4]	$21.07	28.7%	$6.04	$27.11	38.50	42.0%
Laborers, General[5]	$14.64	19.9%	$2.92	$17.56	28.86	64.4%

Average =52.7%

Average hourly compensation (including benefits) for all workers in the East North Central Region (MI, OH, IN, IL, and WI) was **$28.30**. Hourly wages in non-union (merit shop) construction exceed this average in many crafts. Construction workers in Michigan frequently receive wages that are close to or above the average – regardless of whether or not they are unionized. The prevailing wage law provides these workers with an additional wage boost at taxpayer expense. Source: Mackinac Center calculations based on PAS Inc. Merit Shop Wage Report, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

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[1] Compared to "Plumber, Pipefitter, Welder, HVAC and Refrigeration" used by state for prevailing wage.
[2] Compared to "Inside Wireman"
[3] Compared to "Pre-Engineered Metal Work"
[4] Compared to "Operating Engineer, Class F"
[5] Compared to "Laborer, Class A"