

ment, and materials will permit increasing output per construction worker.

The rates of employment growth will differ among the various building trades. Employment growth is expected to be most rapid for structural metal workers; excavating, grading, and road machinery operators; and cement masons. Among the trades that will have a much slower growth are bricklayers, stonemasons, and marble and tile setters; painters; and carpenters.

TABLE 5.—*Estimated opening for selected craft occupations in the construction industry resulting from growth of employment requirements and from retirements and deaths, 1965-75*¹

[In thousands]

Occupation	Employment 1965	Employment requirements 1975	Openings, 1965-75		
			Total openings	Net growth	Deaths and retirements
Carpenters.....	665	670	165	5	160
Bricklayers, stonemasons, and tile and marble setters.....	180	200	50	20	30
Cement and concrete finishers ²	55	75	30	20	8
Electricians.....	165	200	65	35	30
Excavating, grading, and road machinery operators.....	190	265	105	75	30
Painters.....	285	305	95	20	75
Paperhangers.....	10	13	6	3	3
Plasterers.....	50	55	15	5	10
Plumbers and pipefitters.....	220	265	90	45	45
Roofers and slaters.....	55	65	20	10	8
Structural metal workers.....	40	60	30	20	8

¹ These projections were developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the course of its continuing occupational outlook research program, especially its work for the 1966-67 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

² Includes terrazzo workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Since the end of World War II, unemployment in the construction industry has averaged more than twice that of all workers. Two major reasons for the higher than average rate of unemployment in the construction industry are: (1) Construction activity is affected by weather and is a very seasonal industry, especially in the less temperate parts of the country where the winter months are a slow season; and (2) construction workers have to spend time finding new jobs as individual construction projects are completed. (Construction workers may work for a dozen or more employers in a calendar year.) Over the 1948-65 period, the unemployment rate for experienced workers in the construction industry has been between 2 and 2½ times the unemployment rate for all experienced workers, except in 1953 when it was 2.7.

SHORTAGES OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Because construction is cyclical as well as seasonal, the demand for construction workers rises and falls significantly over the course of the business cycle. The construction labor force is fairly flexible, with considerable movement of building trades workers between construction and other industries.⁴ But, despite this flexibility, the con-

⁴ See Special Labor Force Report No. 35—Job Mobility in 1961, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.