

TABLE 6.—*Age distribution and median age of all employed males and males employed in the construction industry, 1950 and 1960 (14 years old and over)*

[Percentage distribution]

Years of age	1960		1950	
	All employed males	Employed in construction	All employed males	Employed in construction
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 19.....	5.7	3.2	4.9	2.9
20 to 24.....	8.4	8.4	9.7	9.3
25 to 29.....	10.4	10.5	12.2	12.3
30 to 34.....	12.0	12.7	12.2	12.2
35 to 44.....	24.2	26.2	23.5	24.6
45 to 54.....	20.7	21.7	18.8	20.1
55 to 64.....	13.8	13.4	13.0	13.5
65 and over.....	4.8	3.9	5.6	5.1
Median age (years).....	40.6	40.8	39.7	40.4

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7.—*Median age and proportion 45 years of age or more for selected building trades, 1950 and 1960 (males, 14 years of age or more)*

Occupation	Median age		Change in years 1950 and 1960	Proportion 45 and over	
	1950	1960		1950	1960
Brickmasons, stonemasons, and tile setters.....	40.4	37.7	-2.7	39.8	30.4
Carpenters.....	43.4	43.3	-.1	46.1	45.5
Cement and concrete finishers.....	41.7	40.0	-1.7	41.6	35.0
Electricians.....	39.2	40.8	+1.6	34.2	37.8
Excavating, grading, and road machinery operators.....	37.8	39.8	+2.0	25.6	34.3
Painters.....	43.6	45.4	+1.8	46.4	50.9
Paperhangers.....	49.2	50.9	+1.7	57.6	65.5
Plasterers.....	41.0	40.1	-.9	41.1	36.4
Plumbers and pipefitters.....	40.9	42.2	+1.3	38.6	41.8
Roofers and slaters.....	36.3	37.0	+.7	28.3	30.1
Structural metal workers.....	39.2	41.0	+1.8	33.8	37.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Seven of the eleven selected building trades shown in table 7 experienced an increase in median age between 1950 and 1960. Only two had a change of 2 or more years.

In general, the median age was highest in occupations growing slowest, or even declining, reflecting the relatively slight influx of young workers. For example, the three occupations with the highest median age in both 1950 and 1960—paperhangers, painters, carpenters—recorded employment declines during the 10-year period.

POPULATION AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT

Trends in the contract construction industry are closely related to population growth. A growing population requires additional housing units, schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, factories, and highways. Logically, the relationship between population and construction employment would seem to be particularly close for housing, schools, and hospitals. In addition, population growth increases the need for