Who are infrastructure workers?

The infrastructure workforce captures the wide range of workers who are directly involved in the **construction, operation, design, and governance** of the country’s various infrastructure systems.

*Photo source: Unsplash*
Infrastructure workers account for 11 percent of all workers nationally.

### Employment in infrastructure vs. other sectors

- **Health care and social assistance**: 18.1 million
- **Retail trade**: 15.2 million
- **Infrastructure**: 14.5 million
- **Educational services**: 12.7 million
- **Accommodation and food services**: 12.1 million
- **Manufacturing**: 12.0 million
- **Administrative and support services**: 8.3 million
- **Professional, scientific, and technical services**: 8.0 million
- **Finance and insurance**: 5.6 million
- **Real estate and rental and leasing**: 2.0 million

**Source:** Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics
Infrastructure occupations pay higher wages, particularly at the 10th and 25th percentile.

Source: Brookings analysis of BLS OES data
Infrastructure workers often need less **formal education** and rely more on **work experience** and **on-the-job training**.

- **12%** Share of infrastructure workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- **80%** Share of infrastructure workers with short- to long-term on-the-job training.

*Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Projections and OES data*

*Photo source: Unsplash*
Workers in “digital mobility” refer to all those workers involved in the full lifecycle of AVs and other transportation technologies.
Workers in digital mobility include 9.5 million workers across 329 occupations.
Digital mobility workers are concentrated in transportation and manufacturing hubs

MAP 1
Share of digital mobility workers by state, 2017

Share of digital mobility employment
- 5.37% - 6.33%
- 6.34% - 7.52%
- 7.53% - 8.69%

Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics

Photo source: Unsplash
Need to think about skills, training, and varying degrees of automation
Research Perspectives on Transportation Jobs & Automation Impacts

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