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Integrated Education Technology, Training, and Demand for Skilled Trades

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Projected Needs for Skilled Trades

- The Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) produces 10-year industry and occupation employment projections every two years. The latest projections, produced in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, estimate industry and occupation needs for the 2023 to 2033 period.
- Projections for industries with skilled trade needs include:

Industry	2023 Employment	2033 Projection	Projected Growth
Construction	53,069	58,719	5,650 (1% annually)
Manufacturing	28,675	31,750	3,075 (1% annually)
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	23,551	25,801	2,250 (0.9% annually)
Transportation and Warehousing	25,648	27,964	2,316 (0.9% annually)
Utilities	4,250	4,500	250 (0.6% annually)

- Projections for occupations with skilled trade needs include:

Occupation	2023 Employment	2033 Projection	Projected Growth
Construction and Extraction	63,318	70,585	7,267 (1.1% annually)
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	37,632	41,846	4,214 (1.1% annually)
Production	29,910	32,079	2,169 (0.7% annually)
Transportation and Material Moving	64,413	70,895	6,482 (1% annually)

Training and Apprenticeships for Skilled Trades

- Occupational training requirements vary for skilled trades. For example:
 - Classic journeyman trades, such as carpenters, electricians, and plumbers, require completion of a multi-year apprenticeship with on-the-job hours and classroom instruction and exam passage for certification.
 - Mechanic and technology trades, such as automotive service technicians and mechanics, renewable energy technicians, and robotics and automation technicians, typically require trade school training.
 - Obtaining a commercial driver’s license requires completion of a standardized training program from a registered provider.
- New Mexico has invested in expanding apprenticeship programs, and more than 60 programs are now registered in the state. Legislation passed during the 2024 legislative session created the workforce development and apprenticeship trust fund, which distributes \$5 million each year to support apprenticeship programs.
 - To receive U.S. Department of Labor approval, registered state programs offer apprenticeships that range between one and five years in length and typically involve 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and 144 hours of classroom instruction.
 - As of February 2026, WSD reported 2,607 active apprentices. Despite roughly doubling support for apprenticeships beginning in FY25, the number of registered apprentices remains relatively flat with prior years. Rather than increasing the number of state-supported apprenticeships, WSD reports that increased funding primarily supported increases in per-apprenticeship payments.