



# JOB QUALITY MATTERS: WHAT WORKERS THINK ABOUT ENERGY CONSTRUCTION

New studies show that oil and natural gas construction jobs provide workers with better pay, health and pension benefits than other industries.

As the United States works to rebuild our economy from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, Congress must be focused on getting Americans back to work. They should focus their efforts on creating and protecting reliable, good-paying, family-supporting jobs. Comprehensive new studies found quality job opportunities in oil and natural gas construction, and both union and non-union energy construction workers report that oil and natural gas jobs are better for them in both the short and long term.

## Key Findings

- ★ Within energy construction, workers report that natural gas and oil jobs pay better, last longer, and provide better opportunities than renewable energy jobs.
- ★ Workers say the oil and natural gas industry offers projects with longer durations than those in renewables industries, which means steadier income and more consistent benefits.
- ★ Energy construction workers cite safety, career opportunities, and daily commute as the most important drivers of job satisfaction.

Study: Construction Job Quality Across the U.S. Energy Industries in 2020, The Cicero Group

Study: The Quality of Jobs in Construction and Oil-and-Gas for High School Graduates, Peter Philips, Institute for Construction Economic Research (ICERES)

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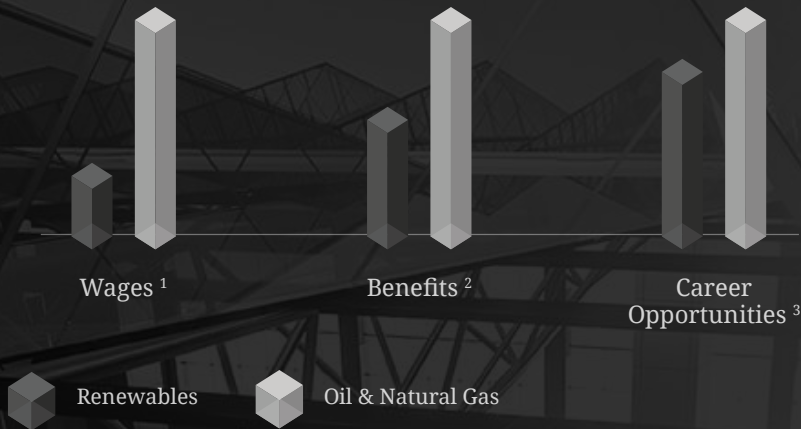
*Relative to many other high school graduates with no college education, high school graduates in construction, oil and natural gas are paid better while receiving more health insurance and pension coverage. This is both true for blue-collar and white-collar high school graduates in these two industries. It is especially true of union workers in construction and oil and natural gas.”*

- Peter Philips, University of Utah Labor Economist and ICERES study author

# Oil & Natural Gas Jobs Provide Stability & Opportunity

## Perceived Wages, Benefits, & Career Opportunities

slightly above average



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*I selected natural gas as my preferred energy industry to work for because they offer better benefits than the other projects I have seen.”*

-Operating Engineer, Union (M)

*“I prefer to work in oil because I have opportunities to get better compensation and benefits.”*

-Floor Installer and Finisher, Non-Union, (M)

## Range of Reported Project Duration in Months | = Median Project Duration



## Oil & Natural Gas: Jobs in the Modern Energy Infrastructure

Construction workers report that they want the flexibility to care for their families and strike a balance between work and life. Workers also want to be involved in projects that are within reasonable driving distance from their homes and families. The modern energy industry infrastructure in oil and natural gas provides construction workers higher wages and benefits, and the opportunity to work in these jobs while remaining closer to their homes and families.

All Wind and Solar Plant Sites in the United States<sup>1</sup>



All Oil and Natural Gas Upstream, Mid-stream, and Downstream Sites in the United States<sup>1</sup>

