

**Occupational Profile  
Plumbers/Pipefitters  
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 87502**

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
430	500	500	550
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
70	16.3	50	10
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
No	1:1	No	1:2
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$10.61	\$10.20	\$10.41	\$9.94

**Job Description:**

Although plumbing, pipefitting, and steam fitting sometimes are considered a single trade, workers generally specialize in one of these three areas. Plumbers install and repair the water, waste disposal, drainage, and gas systems in homes, commercial and industrial buildings. Plumbers also install plumbing fixtures—bathtubs, showers, sinks, and toilets—and appliances such as dishwashers and water heaters. Pipefitters install and repair both high and low-pressure pipe systems used in manufacturing, in the generation of electricity, and in heating and cooling buildings. They also install automatic controls that are increasingly being used to regulate these systems.

**Average Education Required**

Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree.

**Related Occupations**

Other occupations in which workers install and repair mechanical systems in buildings are boilermakers; stationary engineers; electricians; elevator installers and repairers; industrial machinery repairers; millwrights; sheet-metal workers and duct installers; and heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
1710	Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning	43.0%
8820	Self-employed & Unpaid Family Workers	18.4%
1620	Heavy Construction, except Highway	11.7%
1790	Misc. Special Trade Contractors	3.2%
1540	Nonresidential Building Construction	2.4%

**Skills Required**

- Installation -- Installing equipment, machines, wiring, or programs to meet specifications
- Operation and Control -- Controlling operations of equipment or systems
- Equipment Selection -- Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job
- Repairing -- Repairing machines or systems using the needed tools
- Coordination -- Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions
- Troubleshooting -- Determining what is causing an operating error and deciding what to do about it
- Problem Identification -- Identifying the nature of problems

Equipment Maintenance -- Performing routine maintenance and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed