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OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

**AN OVERVIEW OF REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS IN TENNESSEE:  
2025 UPDATE**



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# Introduction

In July 2024, the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) released a report on apprenticeships. The report provided an overview of registered apprenticeships in Tennessee – what they are, how they work, and how many individuals participate in them. The report also included eight conclusions and one policy option. (See the [full report](#) for more.)

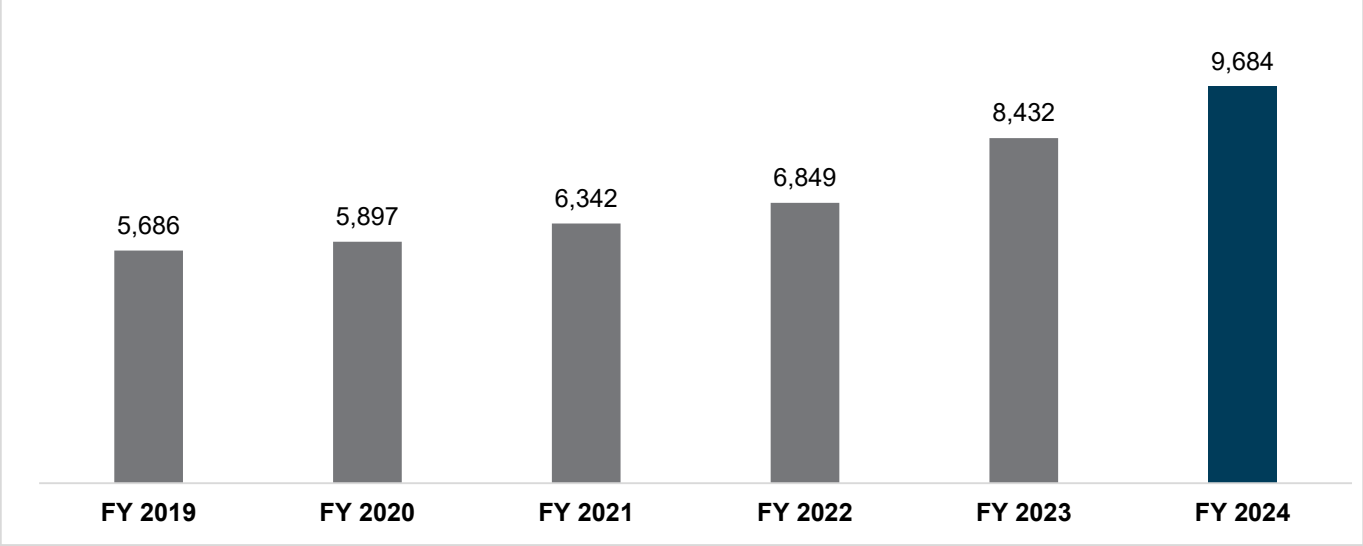
This publication updates OREA’s 2024 report on the topic with the latest data on total registered apprentices in Tennessee, total new apprentices, industries with the most registered apprentices, occupations with the most registered apprentices, and total registered teacher apprentices.<sup>A</sup>

A registered apprenticeship is a work-based learning model certified by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) that combines supervised on-the-job training, paid work experience, classroom instruction, and mentorship.<sup>B</sup> This allows apprentices to obtain formal training in a desired occupation while receiving work experience and pay from an employer. The Tennessee Office of Apprenticeship, part of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, oversees and assists apprenticeship programs in the state.

## Overall growth of active registered apprenticeships continues in Tennessee

From federal fiscal year (FY) 2014 through FY 2023, the number of total active registered apprentices in Tennessee grew from 4,300 to 8,432. From 2023 to 2024, the total number of active registered apprentices continued growing to 9,684.

**Exhibit 1: Total active apprentices in Tennessee continued to grow between 2023 and 2024**



Source: USDOL RAPIDS.

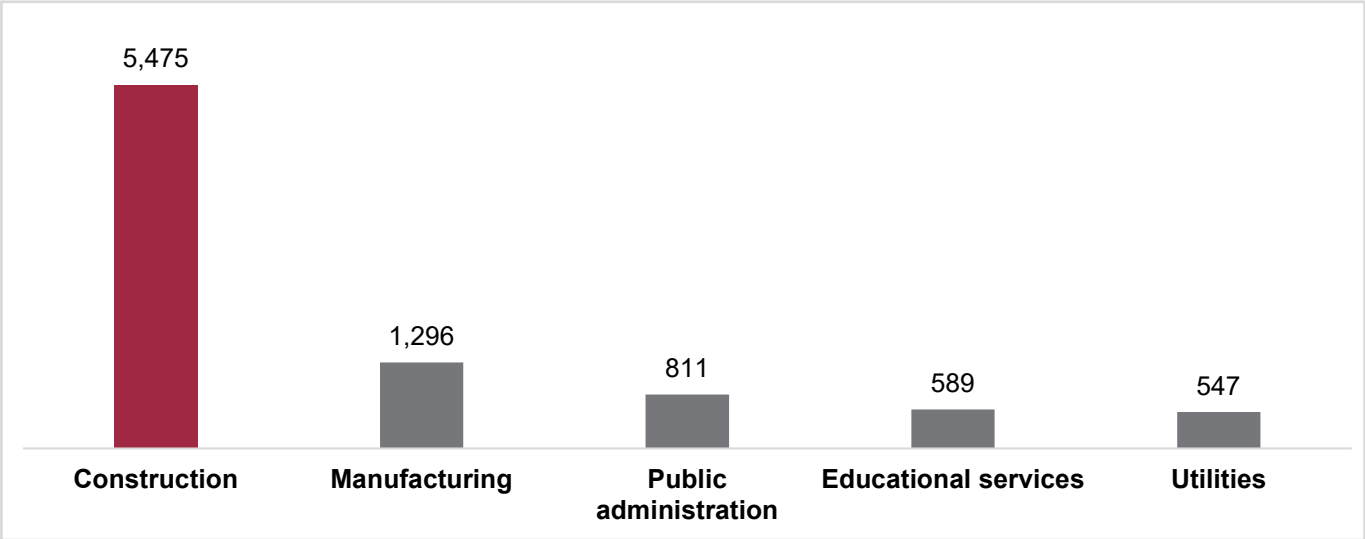
<sup>A</sup> Both the original report and this update rely on data from the U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS). RAPIDS is maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Federal Office of Apprenticeship. Data used is exclusively from the *Apprentices by State Workload* category of RAPIDS data, although there are other categories which could be used which provide different counts of registered apprentices. The dashboard is updated monthly, and these changes can be retroactive, causing minor differences with the counts included in the original report.

<sup>B</sup> Apprenticeships can be registered or unregistered. This publication focuses on registered apprenticeships. Unregistered apprenticeships are not certified by the U.S. Department of Labor or its state affiliates, such as the Tennessee Office of Apprenticeship.

# Construction and manufacturing continue to have the highest number of registered apprentices

The largest industries by total number of active registered apprentices in 2024 were construction (5,475), manufacturing (1,296), public administration (811), educational services (589), and utilities (547). These five industries accounted for 90 percent of all active apprentices in 2024, with construction and manufacturing accounting for 70 percent of the total. The concentration of apprenticeships in these five industries remained fairly stable but declined slightly between 2023 and 2024, dropping from 92 percent to 90 percent.

**Exhibit 2: The industries with the largest number of active apprentices remained unchanged in 2024**

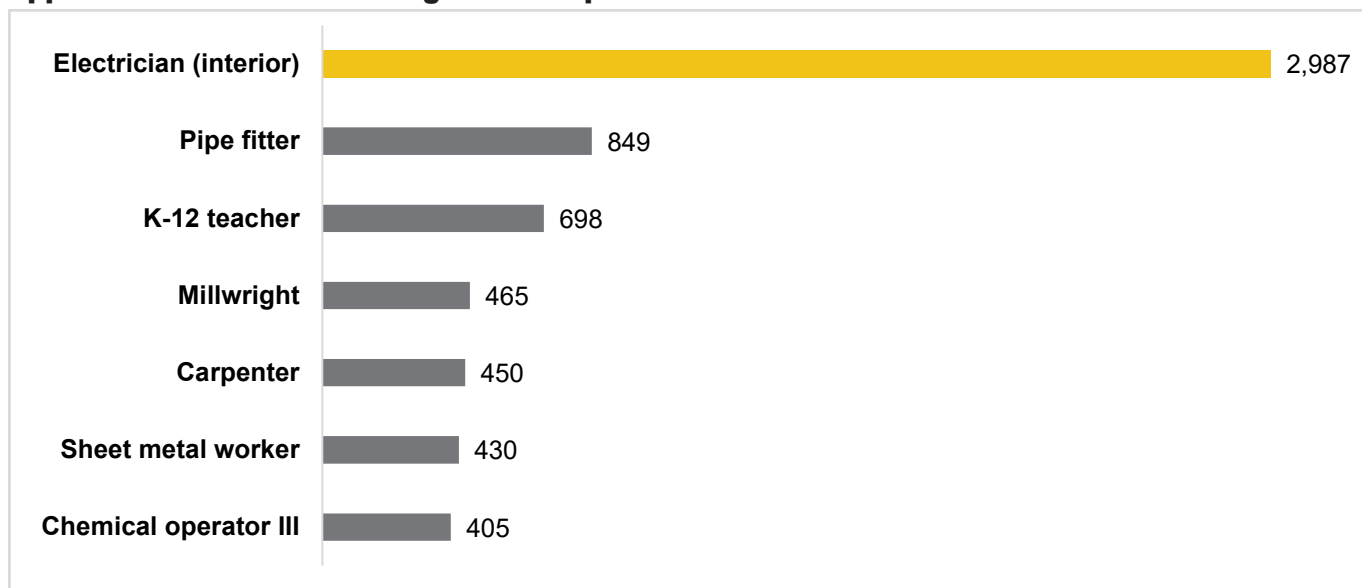


Source: USDOL RAPIDS.

# Electrician remains the occupation with the highest number of registered apprentices in Tennessee

Electricians (interior), with 2,987 apprentices, accounted for more than three times the number of apprentices as the next highest occupation in Tennessee in 2023 and 2024. The next highest occupation in 2024 was pipe fitter (849), which increased from 783 in 2023. Other occupations that had some of the highest number of active apprentices in the state in 2024 include K-12 teacher (698), millwright (465), carpenter (450), sheet metal worker (430), and chemical operator III (405).

**Exhibit 3: Electricians (interior) accounted for more than triple the number of active apprentices than the next highest occupation in 2024**



Source: USDOL RAPIDS.

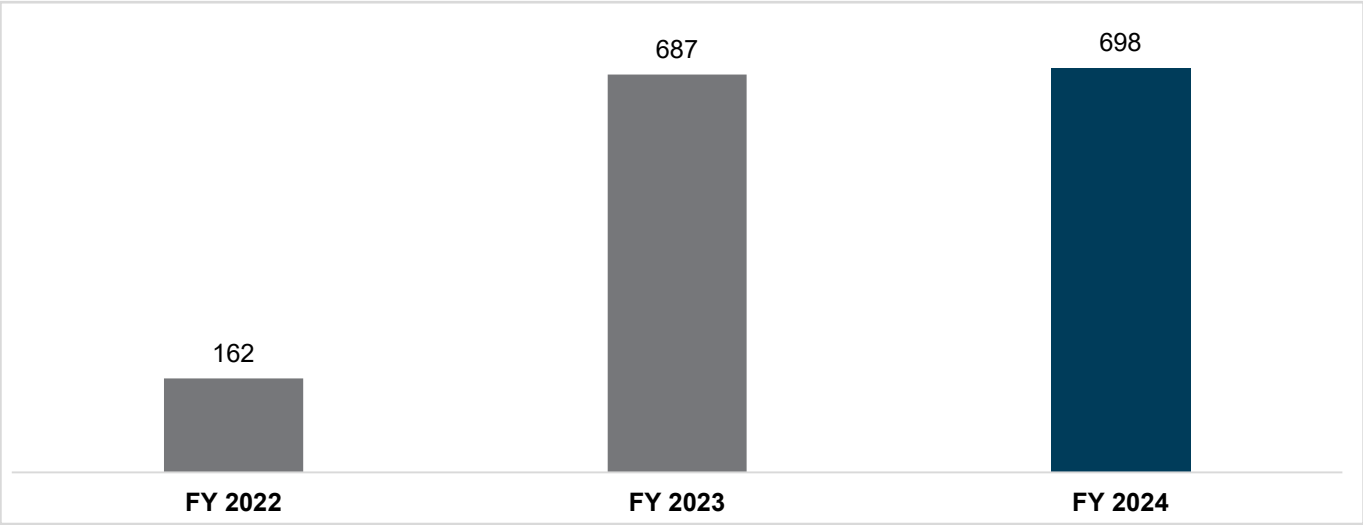
As with industries, apprenticeships are concentrated in certain occupations. Roughly two-thirds (65 percent) of all active apprentices are in the seven occupations shown in Exhibit 3. The concentration in these seven occupations decreased slightly from 2023 to 2024 when the top seven accounted for 67 percent for the previous year. The remaining 35 percent of registered apprenticeships in 2024 are spread among more than 200 other occupations.

## **Registered teacher apprentices have increased, but the growth rate slowed in 2024**

The USDOL approved Tennessee as the first state to establish a permanent registered teacher apprenticeship program in January 2022 with a partnership between the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System and Austin Peay State University. A registered teacher apprenticeship includes both classroom training at higher education institutions in Tennessee and classroom work experience as a teaching paraprofessional or teacher-in-residence.

Following this partnership, the number of registered teacher apprentices and programs grew across the state. In the first year of national approval (2022), Tennessee had a total of 162 active apprentices training to become teachers. By the following year (2023), the total number had increased to 687. In the most recent year of data (federal fiscal year 2024), the total had increased further to 698, though the growth was reduced.

**Exhibit 4: While the number of active teacher apprentices continued to grow in 2024, the growth was minimal**



Source: USDOL RAPIDS.

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