

DATA CENTERS · ISSUE #8

THE BUILDERS

Adult / Community Edition · Prestige

CREDITS

The Builders · Data Centers #8 · Adult / Community edition

Story and production: GOTB Consulting, Chicago

*Lead: Mateo Olmedo · Heroes: Commons, Gridline, Undertow, The Auditor · On screen:
Lena Ashgrove, Channel 5 · Cameo: Dess*

AI-GENERATED ART, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

All characters, the town of Prairie Bend and Channel 5 are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is a coincidence. No real logos are shown. Real places, agencies and utilities are named only where public sources are cited; officials appear by role.

Every number was checked against public sources (see Sources). Disputed points carry a CONTESTED stamp and the strongest case on each side.

Nonpartisan: no parties, no politicians.

Site safety: never enter an active construction site; workers wear hard hats, safety glasses and harnesses at height.

Lettering: Bebas Neue, Oswald, Kalam, Libre Baskerville, Courier Prime, Special Elite (set in Pillow; no fonts embedded).

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THE CAST



MATEO OLMEDO

Two chairs, one level.
Gives each side its
strongest voice.



THE AUDITOR

Sees it, reports it.
Cannot fix it alone.



GRIDLINE

Lineworker hero. Reads
the load, never makes
power.



COMMONS

Crews and neighbors.
Lantern up.



FACT FILE · 01



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

COMMONS

RAILS, RUNWAYS, FIBER: THIS WHOLE
ARC RESTS ON THESE PEOPLE.



FACT FILE · 02



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

THE AUDITOR

ELECTRICIANS, 2025: ABOUT 821,000 JOBS; MEDIAN \$63,190, VERSUS \$50,980 FOR ALL OCCUPATIONS.



FACT FILE · 03



VERIFIED

Electricians held about 821,000 jobs in 2025; median pay \$63,190 (May 2025), \$30.38/hour. Median for all U.S. occupations, May 2025: \$50,980.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"; U.S. BLS, OOH, "Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters"

GOTB / DC FILE

HEARING ROOM

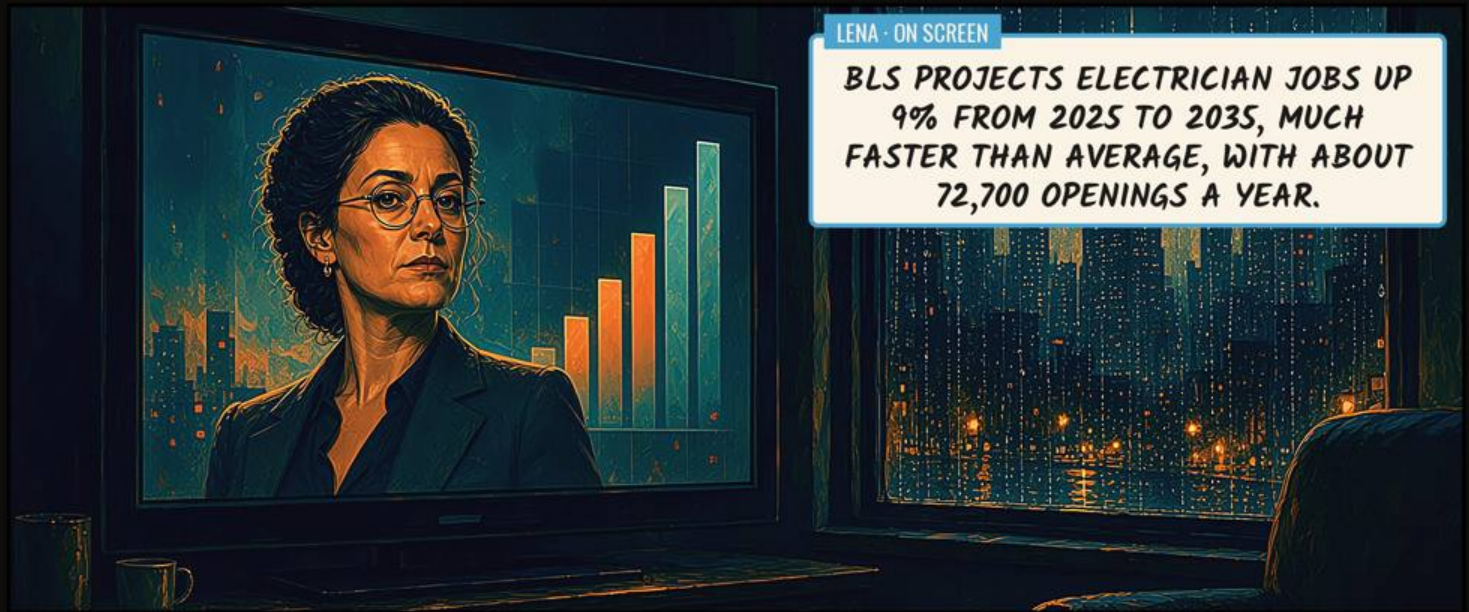


FACT FILE · 04

Framing panel: the two chairs present the strongest case on each side. Figures appear on the panels that follow, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE



LENA · ON SCREEN

**BLS PROJECTS ELECTRICIAN JOBS UP
9% FROM 2025 TO 2035, MUCH
FASTER THAN AVERAGE, WITH ABOUT
72,700 OPENINGS A YEAR.**



FACT FILE · 05

Electrician jobs projected to grow 9% 2025-2035 ("much faster than average"; all occupations 3%); about 72,700 openings a year.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

GOTB / DC FILE

GRIDLINE

BLS NAMES AI AND DATA-CENTER DEMAND AS A REASON THE GRID NEEDS UPGRADES, AND WHY ELECTRICIANS WILL BE NEEDED.



FACT FILE · 06



BLS expects AI and data-center demand to raise electricity demand, requiring grid upgrades and creating jobs for electricians.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

GOTB / DC FILE

DESS

FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. ABOUT 2,000
PAID HOURS EACH YEAR ON THE JOB,
PLUS CLASSROOM.



DESS

PAY RISES AS SKILLS RISE.



FACT FILE · 07



Most electricians learn through a 4- or 5-year apprenticeship, typically 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training each year plus technical instruction. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Unions and contractor associations, among others, sponsor apprenticeship programs; apprentice pay rises as they learn.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

GOTB / DC FILE

THE EXAM

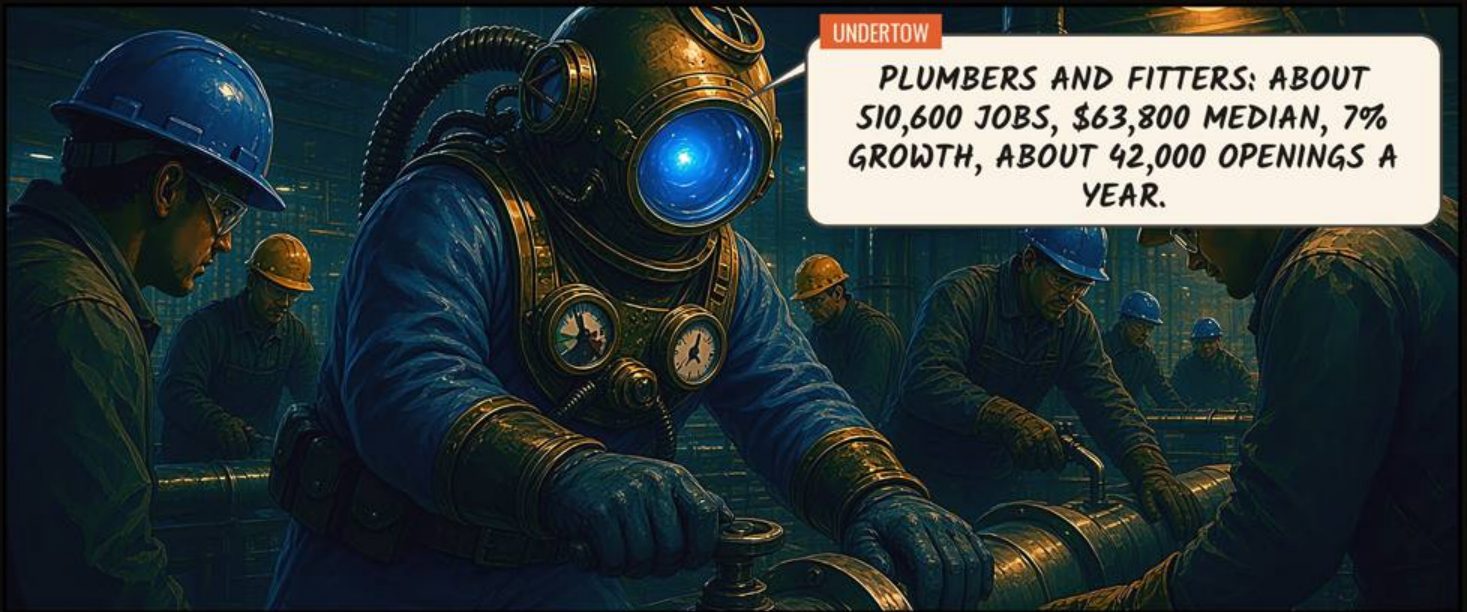


FACT FILE · 08

Most states require electricians to pass a test and be licensed. Electricians wear safety glasses and protective clothing; working with electricity is dangerous.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

GOTB / DC FILE



FACT FILE · 09

Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters held about 510,600 jobs in 2025; median \$63,800; projected +7%; about 42,000 openings a year. Plumbers/fitters: 4- or 5-year apprenticeship, typically 2,000 paid hours a year plus instruction including math, applied physics and chemistry.

Source: U.S. BLS, OOH, "Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters"

GOTB / DC FILE

THE BUCKET TRUCK

COMMONS

**LINE INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS:
MEDIAN \$95,320.**



COMMONS

**CONSTRUCTION LABORERS AND
HELPERS: \$46,680.**



COMMONS

DIFFERENT RUNGS, SAME SITE.



FACT FILE · 10

Electrical power-line installers and repairers, 2025 median pay \$95,320. Construction laborers and helpers, 2025 median pay \$46,680.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"; U.S. BLS, OOH, "Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters"

GOTB / DC FILE

CHAIR ONE



MATEO

CHAIR ONE: SCHEDULES ARE REAL.



MATEO

A DELAYED PROJECT COSTS
EVERYONE, INCLUDING WORKERS
WAITING FOR THE NEXT JOB.

FACT FILE · 11



Framing panel: the two chairs present the strongest case on each side. Figures appear on the panels that follow, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

CHAIR TWO



MATEO

CHAIR TWO: IF THE JOBS LEAVE TOWN EVERY EVENING, THE NEIGHBORS CARRY THE NOISE AND GET NONE OF THE PAYCHECKS.



FACT FILE · 12

Framing panel: the two chairs present the strongest case on each side. Figures appear on the panels that follow, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

THE SPONSOR BOARD



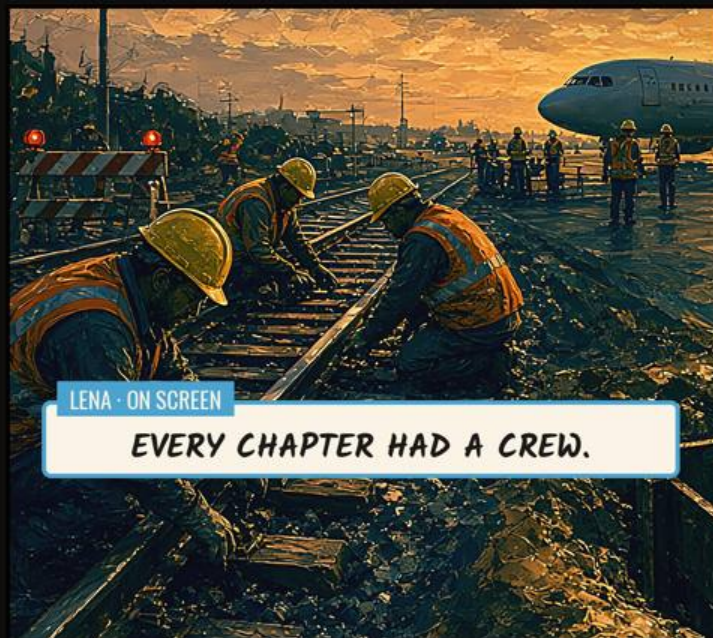
FACT FILE · 13



Unions and contractor associations, among others, sponsor apprenticeship programs; apprentice pay rises as they learn.

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

GOTB / DC FILE



FACT FILE · 14

Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

SUNRISE OVER THE SITE

COMMONS

LANTERNS UP.



COMMONS

TOOLS UP.



COMMONS

BUILD IT RIGHT.



FACT FILE · 15



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

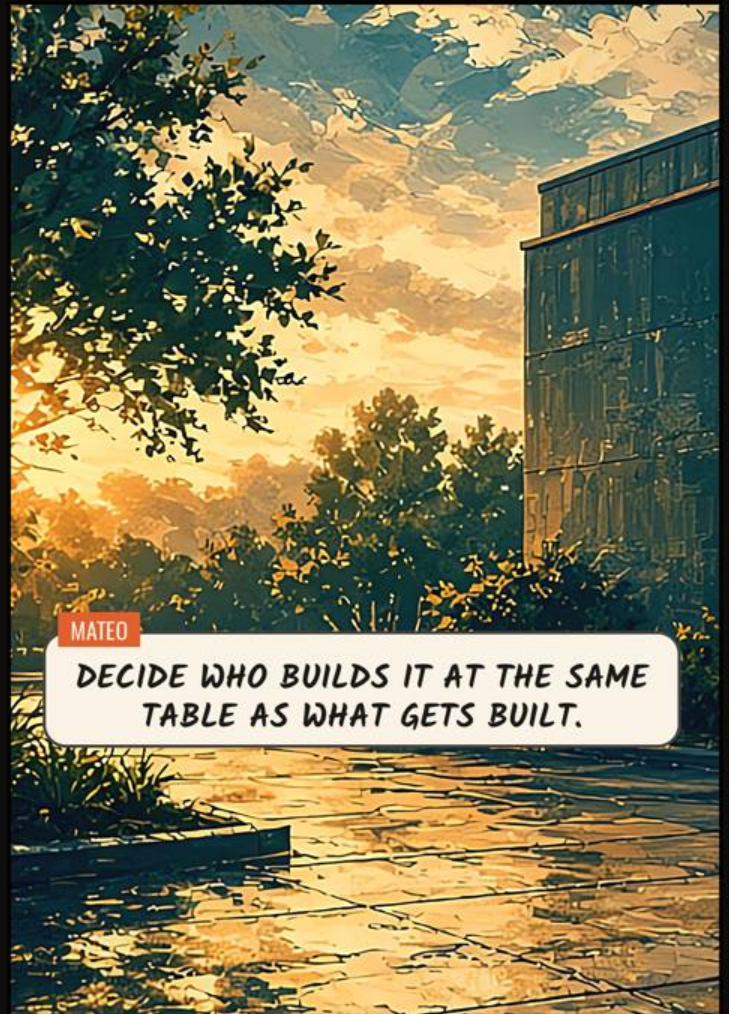
MATEO

TWO CHAIRS, ONE LEVEL.



MATEO

DECIDE WHO BUILDS IT AT THE SAME
TABLE AS WHAT GETS BUILT.



GOTB Consulting, Chicago: infrastructure and procurement for the power, water and public works these projects depend on.

BY THE NUMBERS

821,000

Electrician jobs in 2025. Median pay \$63,190. (BLS)

\$50,980

Median pay for all U.S. occupations, May 2025. (BLS)

+9% · 72,700

Projected electrician growth 2025-2035; openings a year. (BLS)

4-5 YEARS

Typical apprenticeship: about 2,000 paid hours a year plus classes. (BLS)

510,600 · \$63,800

Plumber, pipefitter and steamfitter jobs; median pay. Growth +7%. (BLS)

\$95,320

Median pay for power-line installers and repairers, 2025. (BLS)

TWO CHAIRS, ONE LEVEL

The strongest case on each side, labeled. Nonpartisan.

HIRE WHO'S READY

Schedules are real. A delayed project costs everyone, including workers waiting for the next job.

TRAIN LOCAL FIRST

If the jobs leave town every evening, neighbors carry the noise and get none of the paychecks.

ASK IN PUBLIC

Who sponsors the apprenticeships, how many seats, and who gets them?

WHAT BOTH SHARE

Safe sites, skilled crews, good pay, decisions made in the open.

YOUR TURN

Which trade would you try first? _____

SOURCES

Full list with fact IDs: FACT_BASE.md and NUMBER_CHECK.md (GOTB internal).

U.S. BLS

U.S. BLS, Occupational Outlook Handbook, "Electricians"

U.S. BLS

U.S. BLS, OOH, "Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters"

ABOUT GOTB CONSULTING

WHO WE ARE

A Chicago firm working on infrastructure and procurement for the systems communities depend on.

DATA CENTERS

Siting, delivery and community questions.

POWER

Grid connections, substations and lines.

WATER

Supply, treatment and cooling.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, pipes and public spaces.

THE END



TWO CHAIRS, ONE LEVEL.

Decide who builds it at the same table as what gets built.

GOTB CONSULTING · CHICAGO

Data centers · Power · Water · Public works

AI-generated art, fictional characters