

# Settlements Report

Total Package Increases for  
Union Craft Workers in Construction

2022 YEAR END

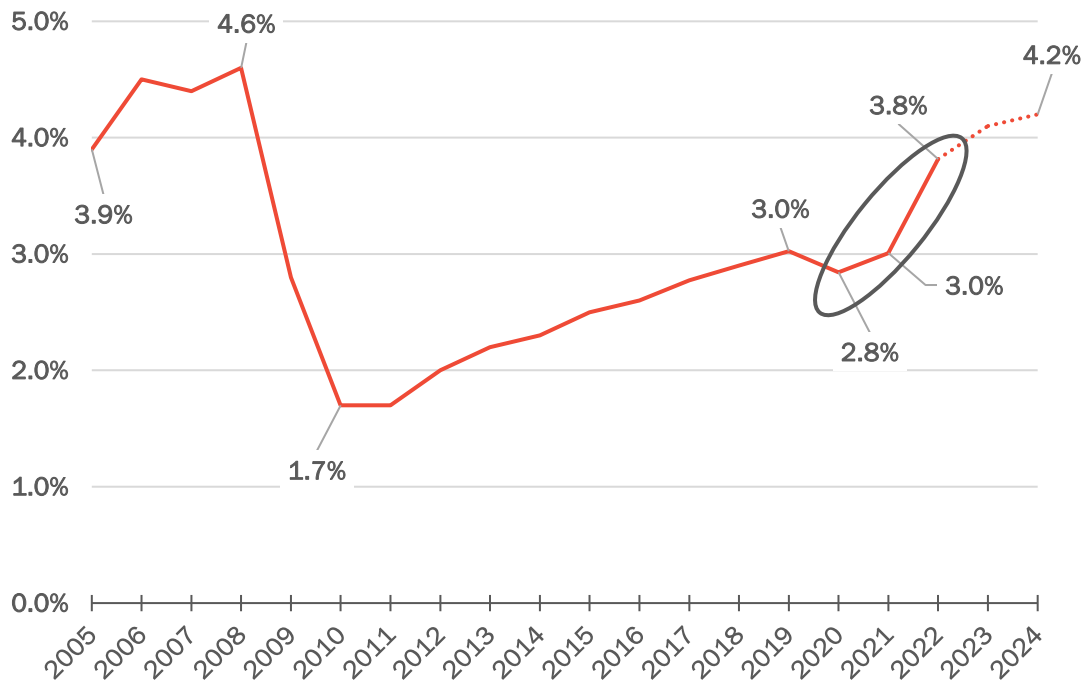


## SECTION I. FIRST-YEAR TOTAL PACKAGE INCREASES IN 2022

The Construction Labor Research Council (CLRC) reports that *the first year of new settlements reached in 2022 for union craft workers in the construction industry had an average increase of 3.8 percent.* All data in this report are based on the total package (wages, fringe benefits and other employer payments). As shown in **Exhibit 1.1**, settlements grew by 0.8 percent from 2021 to 2022 and by 1.0

percent from 2020 to 2022, a steep rate of growth. The change in the size of increases (i.e., the slope of the line) was sharper in 2022 than at any time in more than a decade. High inflation has impacted union craft pay rates more than two other recent factors—the craft labor shortage and COVID-19. CLRC projects future new settlements to average approximately 4.2 percent by 2024.

**Exhibit 1.1**  
First-year increases, shown as percentages



**Section I – First Year**

This section contains results for the first year of newly bargained settlements and is useful for understanding current trends.

**Section II – All Years**

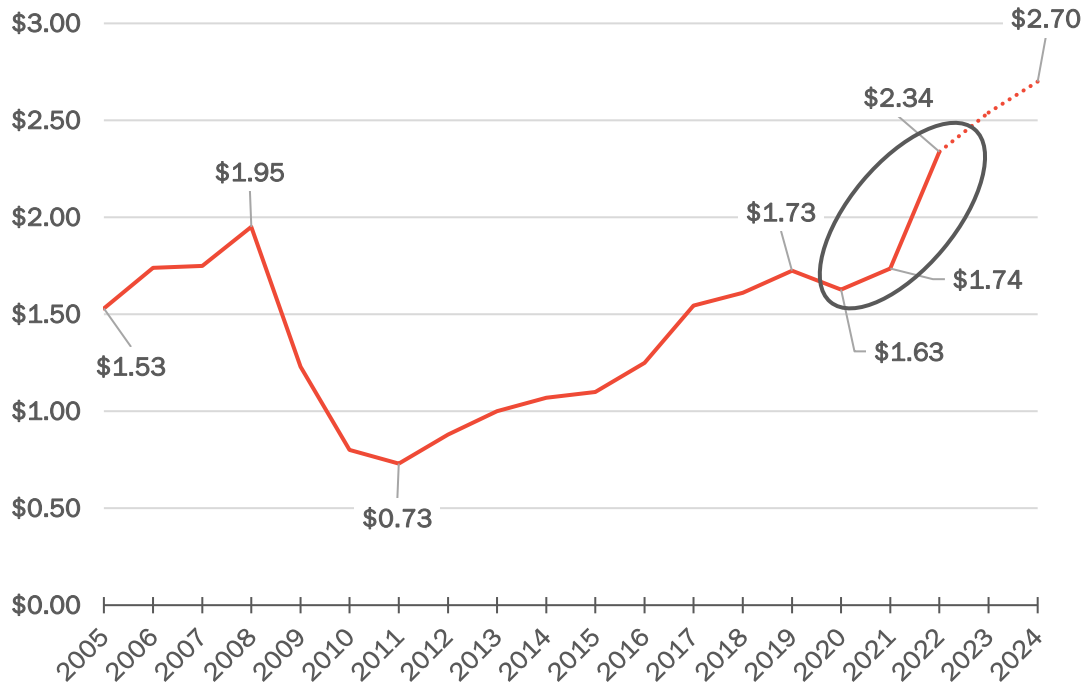
Section II (page 9) of this report covers all years of negotiated settlements and is better for summarizing the total amount actually paid/earned by contractors/employees. It also contains data on already negotiated future increases, which is useful for making projections.

The average monetary value for first-year increases during 2022 was \$2.34, as shown in **Exhibit 1.2**, a substantial \$0.71 jump from the recent low of \$1.63 in 2020. There was little

change in the increases in 2020 and 2021, likely due to COVID-19. CLRC projects first-year increases to average approximately \$2.70 in 2024.

### Exhibit 1.2

*First-year increases, shown as dollar amounts*



#### The following associations sponsor this report:

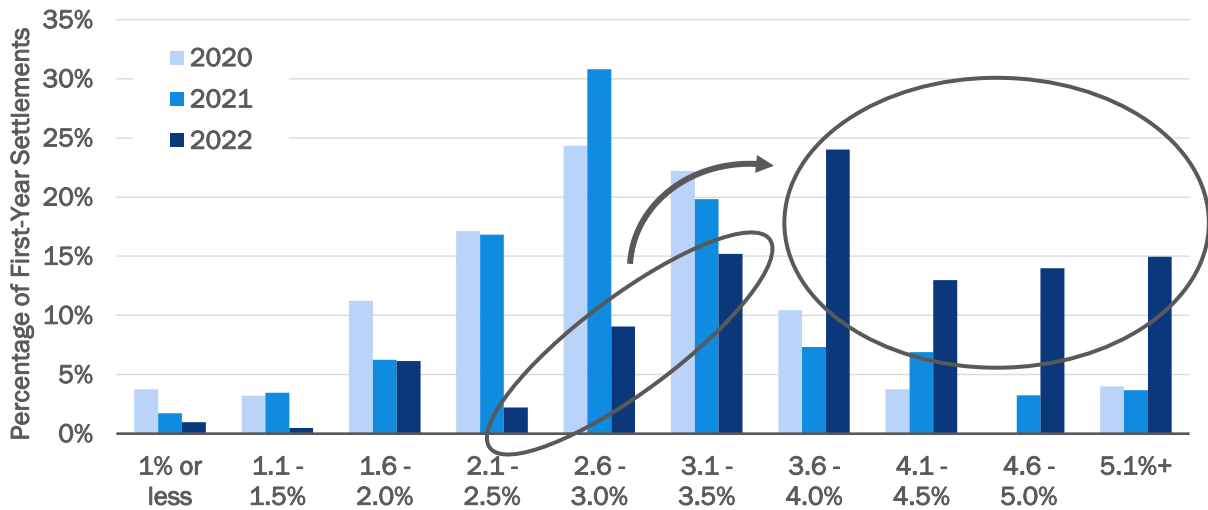
- Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
- Central States Insulation Association (CSIA)
- FCA International (FCA)
- International Council of Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (ICE)
- Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
- National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)
- North American Contractors Association (NACA)
- Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)
- Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA)
- The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)

**Exhibit 1.3** displays the percentage distribution for the first-year increases of new settlements reached in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Many settlements migrated to the higher increases on the right side of the chart.

The mode shifted an entire percentage point higher from 2021 (2.6-3.0%) to 2022 (3.6-4.0%). In calendar year 2022, 66 percent of new settlements were for 3.6 percent or more; in 2021, 21 percent were in that range.

**Exhibit 1.3**

*Distribution of first-year increases in new settlements, shown as percentages*

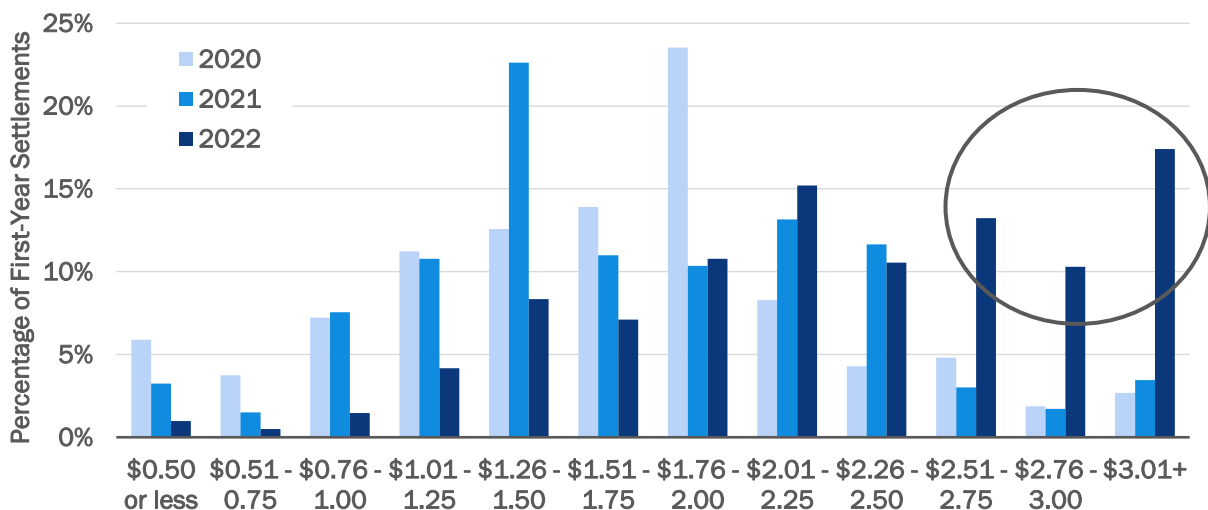


The distribution of first-year increases as dollar amounts for 2020, 2021 and 2022 are shown in **Exhibit 1.4**. Like **Exhibit 1.3**, the most common increase amounts have moved to the higher values on the x-axis in 2022. Forty-one percent settled at \$2.51 or higher in

2022 compared to eight percent in 2021. It should be noted that many settlements (59 percent) were still below \$2.51, with \$2.01-2.25 being the second most common range in 2022.

**Exhibit 1.4**

*Distribution of first-year increases in new settlements, shown as dollar amounts*

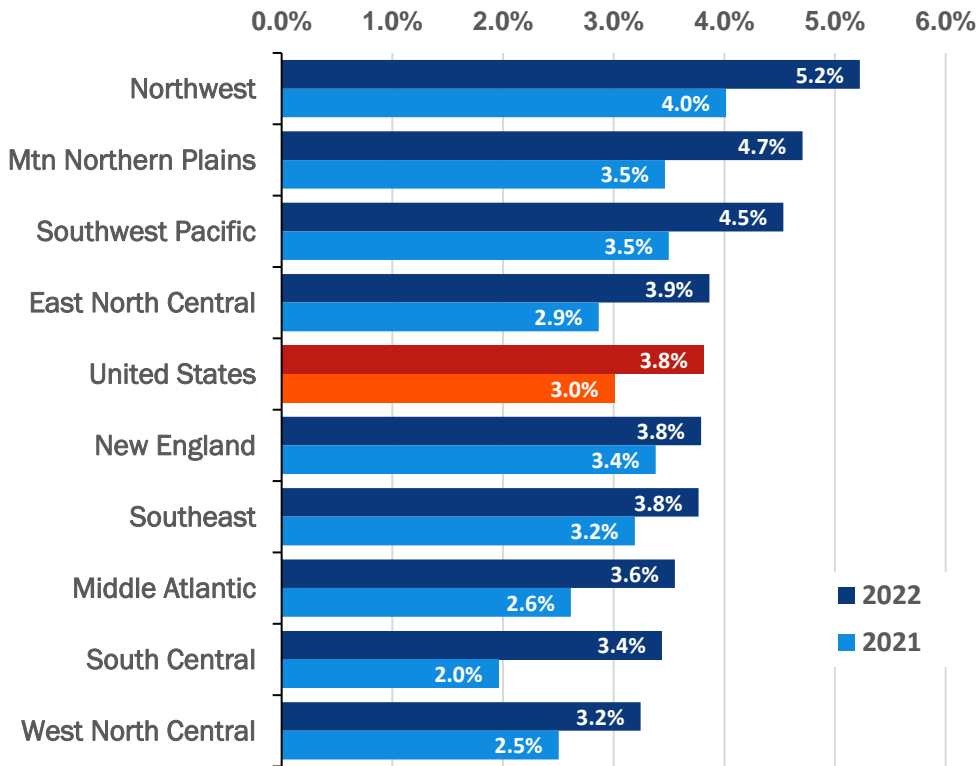


**Exhibits 1.5 and 1.6** display the results (percentages and dollar amounts, respectively) for first-year increases for 2021 and 2022 by region in descending order based on 2022 data. As expected, given the substantial change in the size of increases, **Exhibit 1.5** shows that every region saw growth. The western part of the U.S.—the Northwest and Southwest Pacific regions—had

the largest increases in 2022, along with the adjacent Mountain Northern Plains region. All three of these regions averaged at least 4.5 percent. Interestingly, the smallest change was not in one of the two southern regions as is often the case; it was in the West North Central region. No region was below 3.2 percent.

**Exhibit 1.5**

*First-year increases in new settlements as percentages, by region in descending order*



**Regions**

**New England:** CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

**Middle Atlantic:** DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA

**Southeast:** AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA

**East North Central:** IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI, WV

**West North Central:** IA, KS, MO, NE

**South Central:** AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

**Mountain Northern Plains:** CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

**Southwest Pacific:** AZ, CA, HI, NV

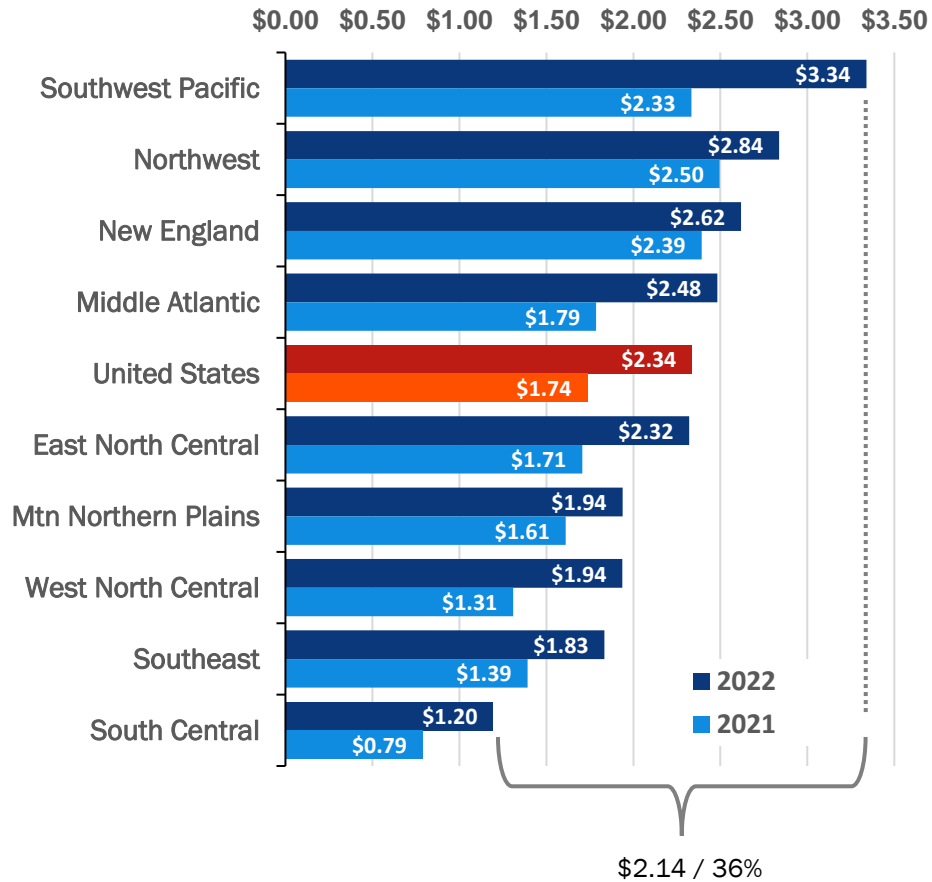
**Northwest:** AK, ID, OR, WA

**Exhibit 1.6** shows the nine CLRC regions with the average dollar amount of their first-year increases. The largest average increases by far were in the Southwest Pacific region (\$3.34) while the South Central region had the lowest average (\$1.20). There was a \$2.14

gap between the lowest and highest regions—the South Central increase is about one third (36 percent) the size of the Southwest Pacific increase. The monetary increases were larger in 2022 than in 2021 for every region.

**Exhibit 1.6**

*First-year increases in new settlements as dollar amounts, by region in descending order*

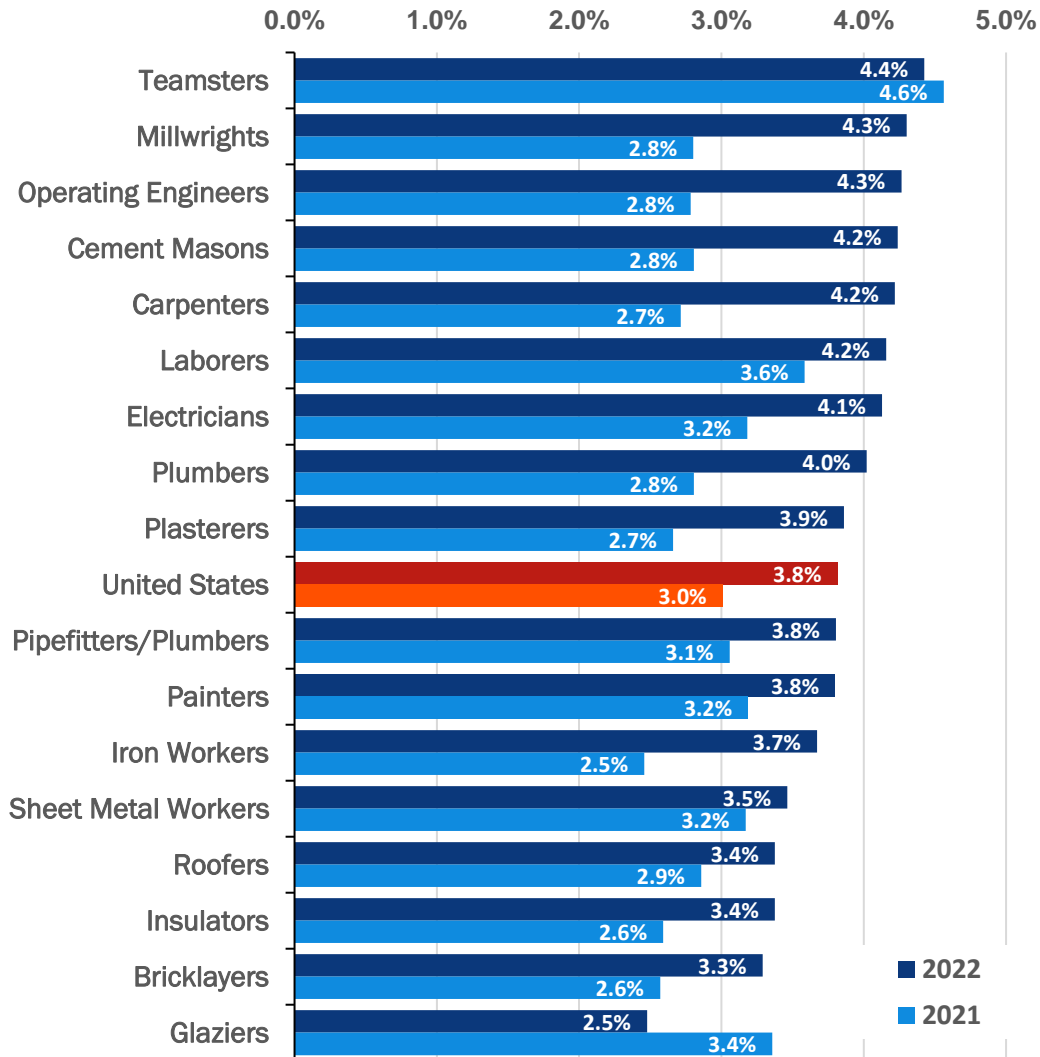


**Exhibits 1.7 and 1.8** display the results (percentages and dollar amounts, respectively) for first-year increases for 2021 and 2022 by craft in descending order based on 2022 data. As displayed in **Exhibit 1.7**, nearly every craft averaged at least 3.3

percent and eight averaged at least 4.0 percent in 2022. Last year only two crafts averaged 3.3 percent or more. Fifteen crafts saw an increase of at least half a percent from 2021 to 2022.

**Exhibit 1.7**

*First-year increases in new settlements as percentages, by craft in descending order*

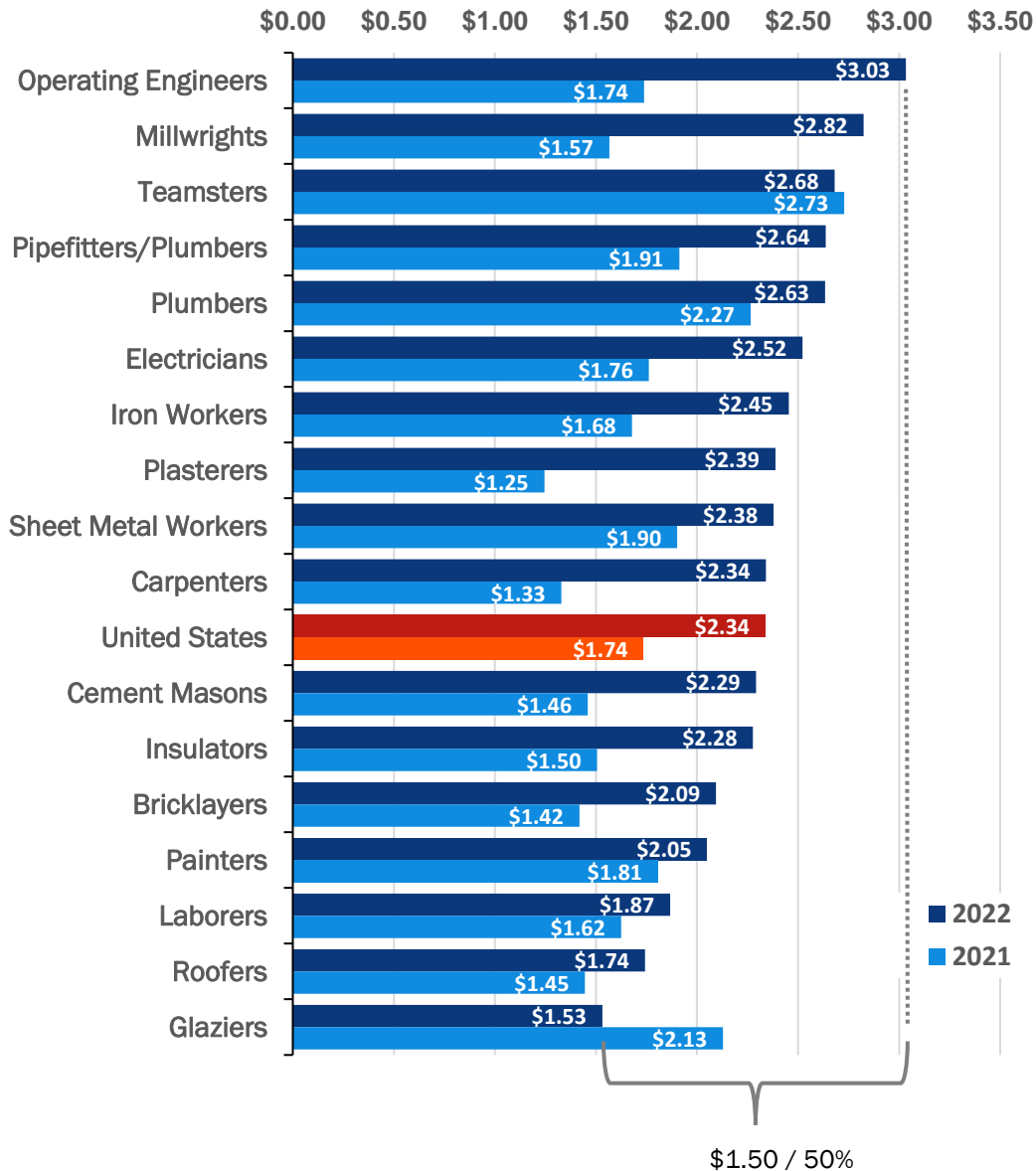


**Exhibit 1.8** shows the various crafts with the average dollar amount of their first-year increases. Operating Engineers broke the \$3.00 threshold in 2022. As usual, the range

was tighter for crafts than regions, with a \$1.50 range for the crafts—the smallest increase was about 50 percent as much as the largest.

### Exhibit 1.8

*First-year increases in new settlements as dollar amounts, by craft in descending order*





## Technical Notes

### **Continually Updated Results**

CLRC continually updates its database. Consequently, results may change slightly in ensuing issues as new settlements data are added.

### **Methodology for U.S. Average**

The overall/U.S. average is calculated by first averaging each craft, and then averaging those craft averages so that each craft is weighted equally. Interestingly, the settlement weighted average (straight average of all settlements) is remarkably close to the craft weighted average shown here.

### **Data Savvy**

In addition to actual differences, variation in rates from craft to craft, region to region and year to year throughout this report can be influenced by the composition of the data sample. For example, a craft with a large/small average increase may be partially affected by having more data from regions with higher/lower increases. Similarly, high/low increases in a particular region may be partially due to that region having more/less data from crafts with higher/lower increases.

### **Section II Explanation**

Section II of this report includes not only the first year of new settlements, but also the ensuing years (all years after the first year). For example, it includes data from newly negotiated settlements in 2022 (this is what is analyzed in Section I), the 2nd year of settlements reached in 2021 and the 3rd year of settlements from 2020, and so on. This data is useful for understanding the total amount paid/earned by contractors/employees. Data from all years of a contract is also useful for making projections based on already negotiated future increases (CLRC already has hundreds of data points for the years after 2022).

## SECTION II. TOTAL PACKAGE INCREASES FOR ALL CONTRACT YEARS

The average total package increase in 2022 for all contract years for union crafts in construction was 3.1 percent. CLRC projects increases to reach approximately 3.9 percent by 2024. These results are lower than those shown

in **Exhibit 1.1** (first year only settlements) since they reflect many more settlements and include data from 2021, 2020 and even earlier (prior to the recent uptick in increases).

### Exhibit 2.1

All increases, shown as percentages

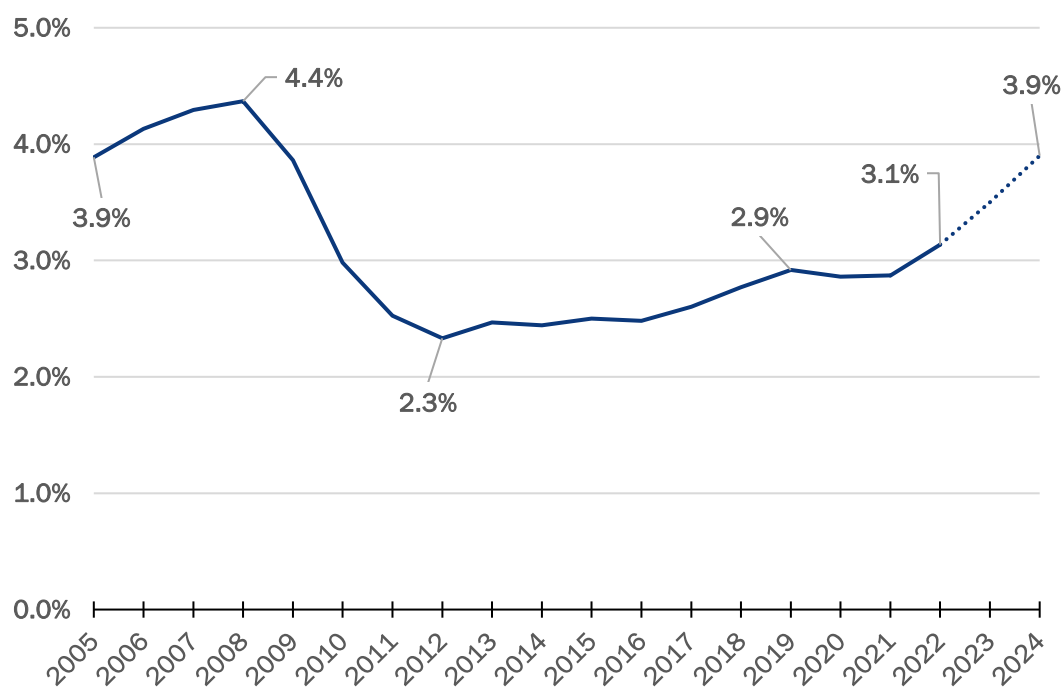


Exhibit 2.2 shows an increase of \$0.22 in 2022. CLRC projects that the average monetary increase will be approximately \$2.35 by 2024. New, first-year settlements negotiated in 2022 averaged \$2.34 (see Exhibit 1.2); the \$1.92 value here reflects the

average of what contractors are paying across all years of settlements, which includes the out years of multiyear settlements negotiated two or more years ago, before the large rise in inflation.

**Exhibit 2.2**

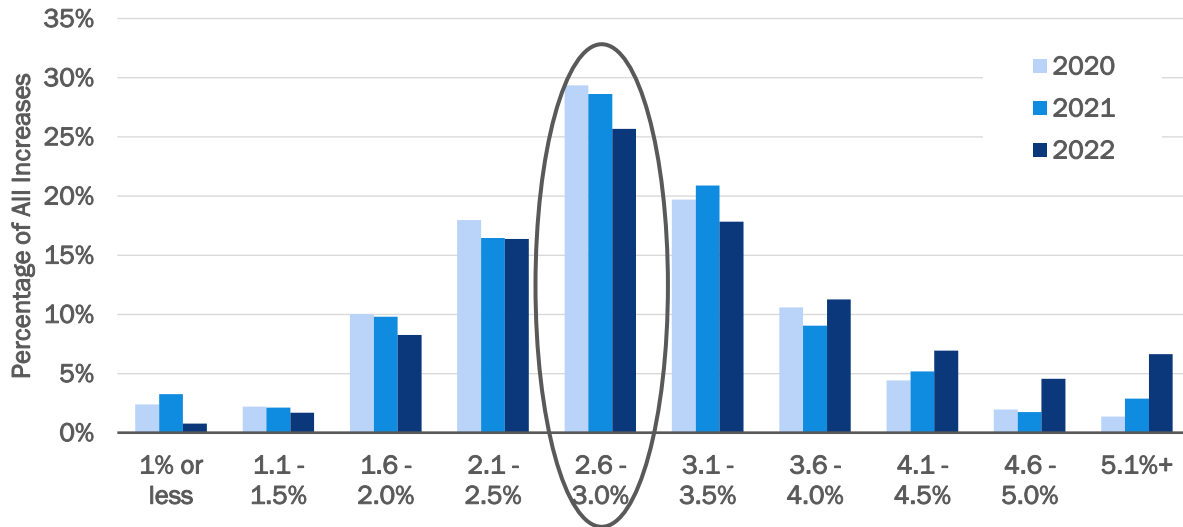
*All increases, shown as dollar amounts*



**Exhibit 2.3** illustrates how increases as a percentage are distributed across a range. Even with the recent larger increases (**Section I**), the most common range for all increases has been unchanged for three years (2.6–3.0%). That is because exhibits in

**Section II** contain data for all years of settlements. The growth in settlements in 2022 that are greater than 4.0 percent is due to the influence of new larger settlements covered in **Section I**.

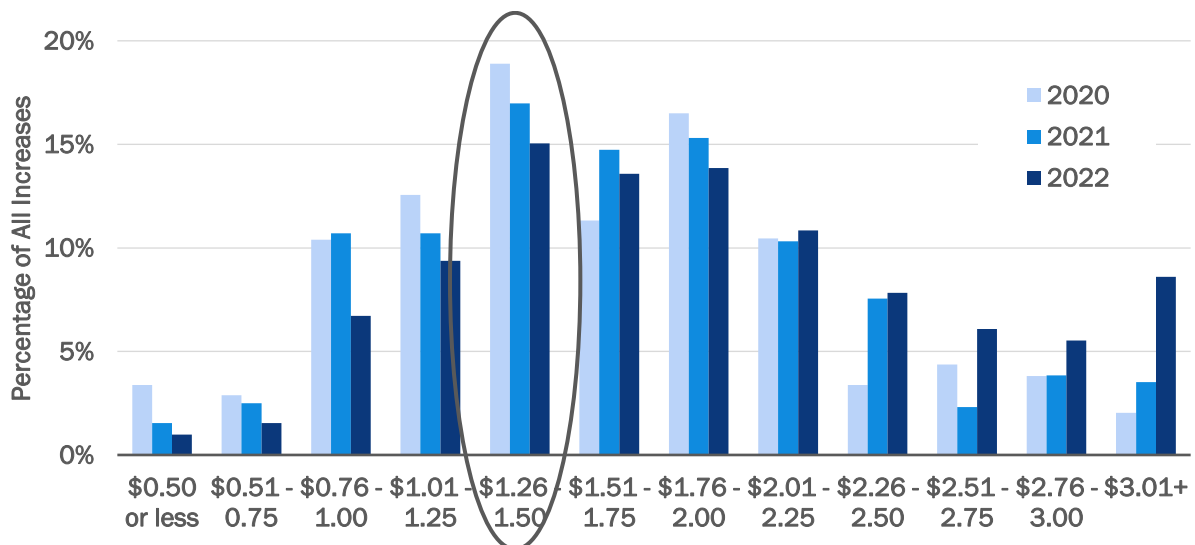
**Exhibit 2.3**  
*Distribution of all increases, shown as percentages*



**Exhibit 2.4** shows that the most common range, conveyed in monetary values, for the past three years has been \$1.26–1.50.

However, there have been many more increases this year than in the past two years that are at least \$2.51.

**Exhibit 2.4**  
*Distribution of all increases, shown as dollar amounts*

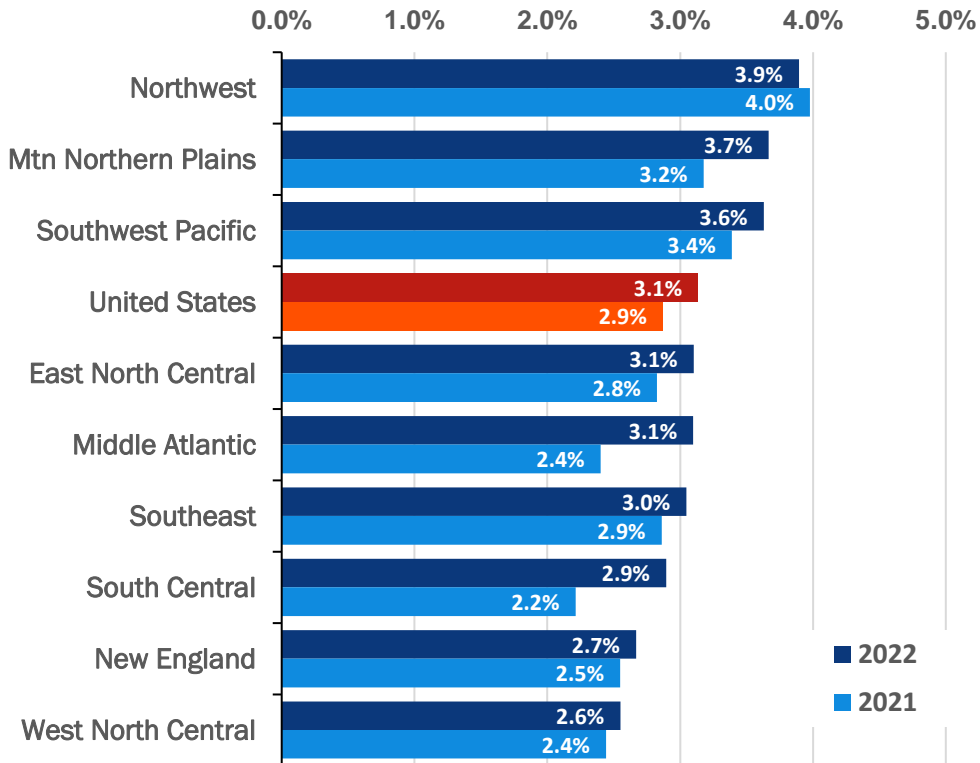


**Exhibits 2.5 and 2.6** display the results for all increases for 2021 and 2022 (percentages and dollar amounts, respectively) by region in descending order based on 2022 data. The largest average increases in 2022, as shown in **Exhibit 2.5**, were the same ones as those in **Section I** (the western part of the U.S. plus the Mountain Northern Plains), which indicates that these regions have had the highest

increases for several years. The smallest increases were in the West North Central region. Interestingly, the New England region had smaller increases than the traditionally lower Southeast and South Central regions. Even though the Northwest region’s average dropped slightly in 2022 (which could be a data sampling issue), it continued to hold the top spot.

**Exhibit 2.5**

*All increases as percentages, by region in descending order*



**Regions**

**New England:** CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

**Middle Atlantic:** DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA

**Southeast:** AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA

**East North Central:** IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI, WV

**West North Central:** IA, KS, MO, NE

**South Central:** AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

**Mountain Northern Plains:** CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

**Southwest Pacific:** AZ, CA, HI, NV

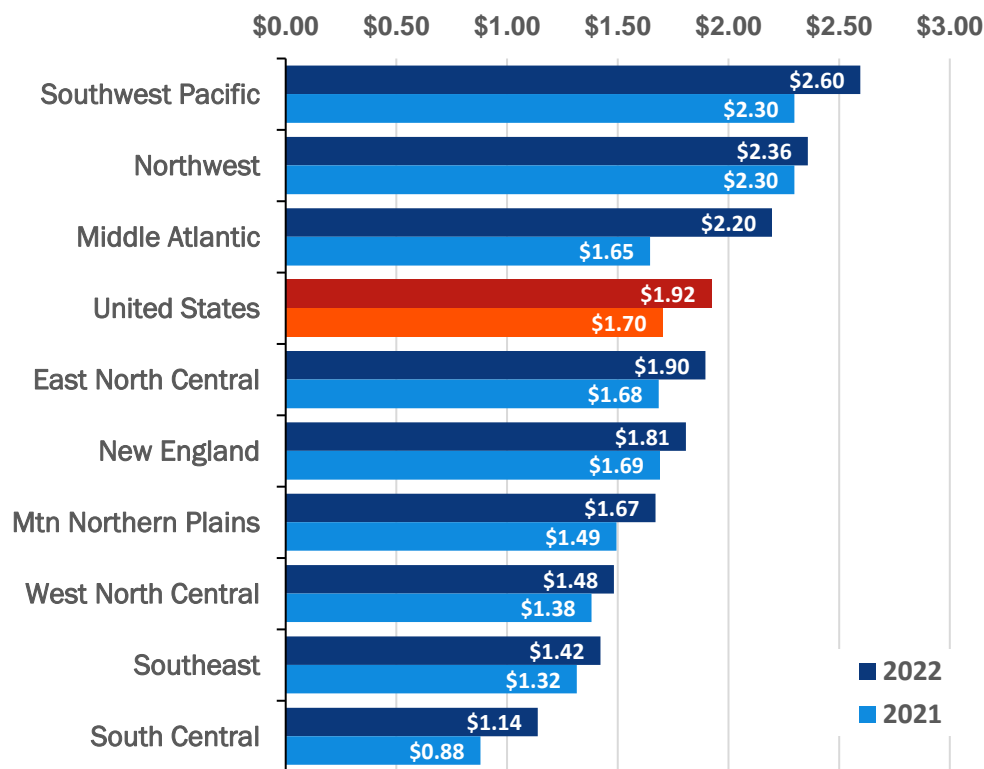
**Northwest:** AK, ID, OR, WA

**Exhibit 2.6** shows the regions with the dollar amount of their increases. Similar to **Exhibit 2.5**, the largest increases were on the West Coast (Southwest Pacific and Northwest regions). Those two regions, along with the Middle Atlantic, were the three regions averaging over \$2.00. Since many of the bigger total package rates\* and larger percentage increases are on the West Coast, it is a natural consequence that the monetary

values for increases—a product of those two variables—are larger there as well. The smallest increases were in the Southeast and South Central regions, which also have the lowest total package rates. Over time, the distance in total package rates between the West Coast and the southern regions will grow as the higher rates also receive the larger increases and the lower rates the smaller increases.

### Exhibit 2.6

*All increases as dollar amounts, by region in descending order*



\* See CLRC's annual publication, *Union Craft Labor Costs in Construction*, for total package rates by craft and region.

Exhibits 2.7 and 2.8 display the results for all increases for 2021 and 2022 by craft (percentages and dollar amounts, respectively) in descending order based on the 2022 data. Exhibit 2.7 shows that the largest average increases in 2022 belonged

to Teamsters at 3.6 percent. They had some of the larger settlements in both the western and eastern parts of the U.S. Most crafts had an average of at least 3.0 percent. Every craft was clustered no more than half a percentage point from the U.S. mean

**Exhibit 2.7**

*All increases as percentages, by craft in descending order*

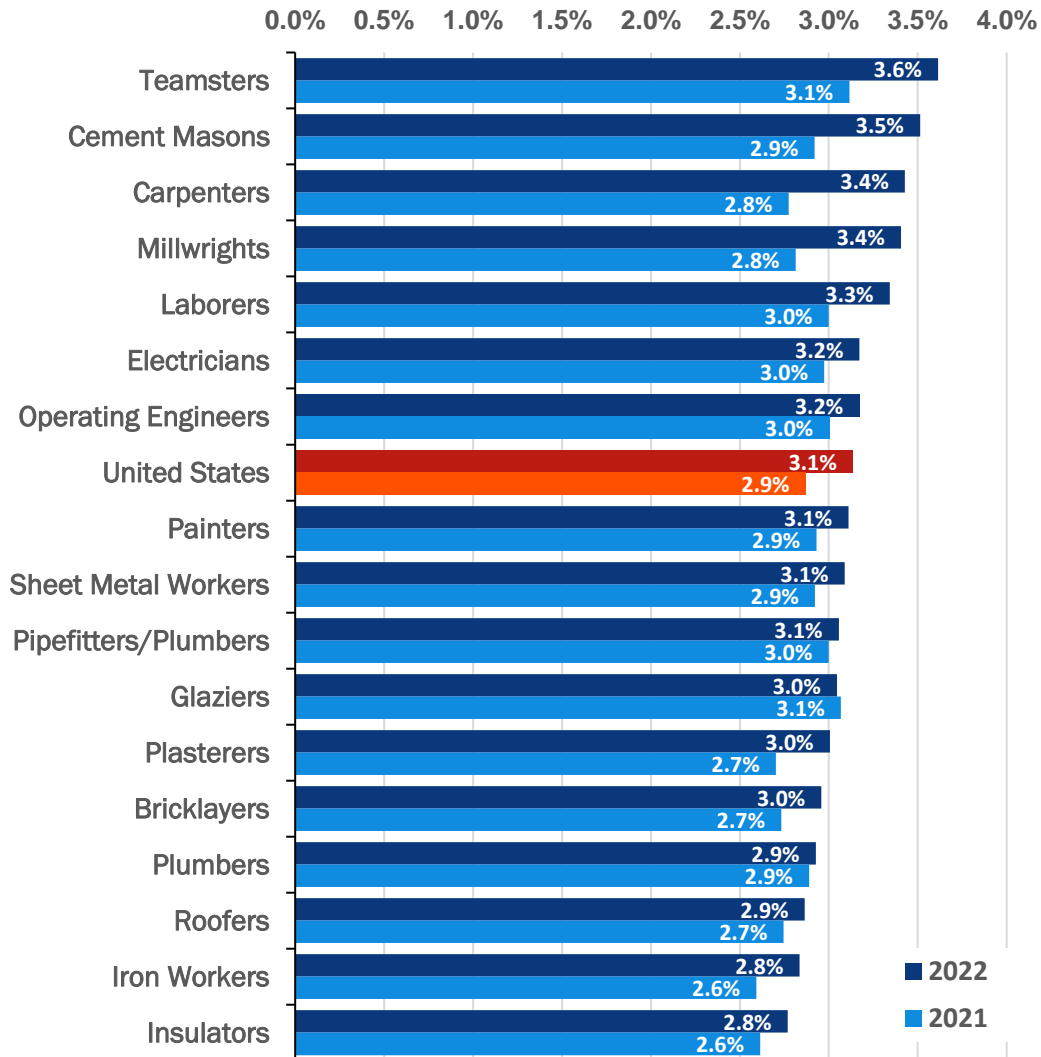
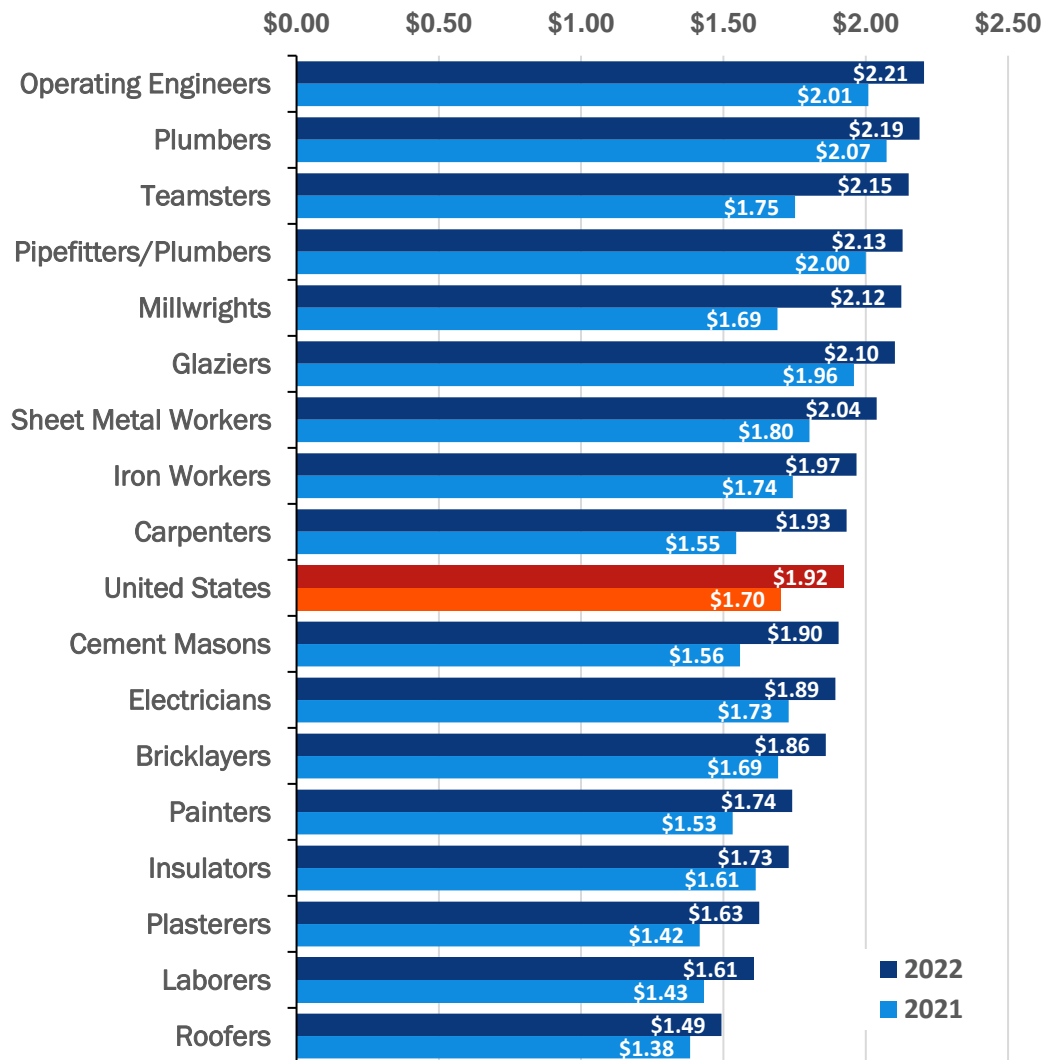


Exhibit 2.8 presents the crafts with the dollar amount of their increases. Seven crafts averaged at least \$2.00 in 2022. The vast

majority of the crafts—15 of 17—were clustered within \$0.30 of the U.S. average.

### Exhibit 2.8

All increases as dollar amounts, by craft in descending order





**Exhibit 2.9** provides even more specific data cuts. These results reflect all settlements, not just first-year settlements. This matrix contains the total package increase rates (dollar and percentage) for each craft within each region (craft x region). This information

will help users of this report more precisely understand the rates for each craft and each region. This matrix should be used to gain insights about how regional data influence craft averages, and conversely, how craft data influence regional averages.

### Exhibit 2.9

*All increases, craft by region matrix*

United States	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.81	\$2.20	\$1.42	\$1.90	\$1.48	\$1.14	\$1.67	\$2.60	\$2.36
Increase %	2.7%	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%	2.6%	2.9%	3.7%	3.6%	3.9%
Bricklayers	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.86	\$1.48	-	\$2.11	\$1.31	-	\$1.55	\$2.31	-
Increase %	2.6%	2.1%	-	3.5%	2.3%	-	3.0%	3.2%	-
Carpenters	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.13	\$2.14	\$1.07	\$1.99	\$1.55	\$1.47	\$2.08	\$2.69	\$2.19
Increase %	1.8%	3.0%	2.3%	3.5%	2.9%	4.1%	5.0%	3.6%	3.7%
Cement Masons	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	-	\$1.81	-	\$1.84	\$1.03	\$1.14	\$1.75	\$2.35	\$2.50
Increase %	-	2.8%	-	3.4%	2.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%	4.6%
Electricians	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$2.00	\$2.43	\$1.45	\$1.95	\$2.17	\$1.24	\$1.34	\$2.64	-
Increase %	2.8%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%	3.5%	3.1%	2.4%	3.7%	-
Glaziers	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.84	\$2.28	-	\$2.03	\$0.82	-	-	\$3.26	\$2.00
Increase %	3.0%	3.1%	-	2.9%	1.3%	-	-	4.5%	3.0%
Insulators	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$2.50	\$1.67	\$1.31	\$1.57	\$1.23	\$1.50	\$0.91	\$2.64	\$2.14
Increase %	4.1%	2.8%	2.5%	2.6%	1.8%	3.5%	1.9%	3.9%	2.9%
Iron Workers	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$2.42	\$1.78	\$1.13	\$2.07	\$2.04	\$0.75	\$3.00	\$2.25	\$1.75
Increase %	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%	3.2%	3.2%	1.7%	4.5%	2.9%	2.3%
Laborers	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.76	\$1.46	\$0.94	\$1.57	\$1.08	\$0.94	\$1.45	\$2.14	\$2.18
Increase %	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%	3.1%	2.4%	3.6%	4.6%	3.7%	4.4%
Millwrights	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$1.14	\$2.88	\$2.24	\$1.66	\$1.29	-	\$2.73	\$2.98	\$2.96
Increase %	1.9%	4.3%	4.5%	2.8%	2.5%	-	5.5%	3.6%	5.0%
Operating Engineers	NE	MA	SE	ENC	WNC	SC	MNP	SWP	NW
Increase \$	\$2.94	\$2.18	\$1.35	\$2.00	\$1.46	\$0.69	\$1.75	\$3.21	\$2.92
Increase %	3.8%	2.7%	2.6%	3.0%	2.5%	1.7%	3.2%	3.9%	4.5%

There is one color scale for dollar increase and one for percentage increase. The lighter cells contain the lowest values, while the darker the blue shaded cell, the higher the value.

**Exhibit 2.9 (continued)***All increases, craft by region matrix*

<b>Painters</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$1.80	\$1.69	-	\$1.87	\$1.22	-	-	\$1.88	\$1.50
Increase %	3.0%	3.0%	-	3.4%	2.4%	-	-	3.2%	3.2%
<b>Pipefitters/Plumbers</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$2.62	\$2.45	\$1.46	\$2.09	\$1.72	\$1.29	\$1.70	\$2.86	\$2.67
Increase %	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	2.7%	2.8%	3.1%	3.6%	3.2%
<b>Plumbers</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$3.30	\$2.54	-	\$2.21	\$1.58	\$1.00	-	-	-
Increase %	3.4%	3.2%	-	3.0%	2.4%	2.1%	-	-	-
<b>Plasterers</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	-	\$1.79	\$1.25	\$1.72	\$0.97	-	\$1.25	\$2.64	\$0.75
Increase %	-	2.8%	2.8%	3.1%	2.1%	-	2.9%	4.3%	1.2%
<b>Roofers</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$2.01	\$1.85	-	\$1.42	\$1.46	-	-	-	\$1.00
Increase %	3.7%	3.4%	-	2.8%	3.0%	-	-	-	1.6%
<b>Sheet Metal Workers</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$2.34	\$2.29	\$1.33	\$2.20	\$1.87	\$1.05	\$1.56	\$2.97	\$2.72
Increase %	2.7%	3.2%	2.5%	3.2%	2.9%	2.2%	3.0%	3.4%	4.3%
<b>Teamsters</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>ENC</b>	<b>WNC</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>MNP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>NW</b>
Increase \$	\$2.62	\$2.44	-	\$1.56	\$1.20	-	-	\$2.36	\$2.27
Increase %	4.6%	3.7%	-	2.7%	2.5%	-	-	3.5%	4.1%

**Regions****NE—New England:** CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT**MA—Middle Atlantic:** DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA**SE—Southeast:** AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA**ENC—East North Central:** IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI, WV**WNC—West North Central:** IA, KS, MO, NE**SC—South Central:** AR, LA, NM, OK, TX**MNP—Mountain Northern Plains:** CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY**SWP—Southwest Pacific:** AZ, CA, HI, NV**NW—Northwest:** AK, ID, OR, WA

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