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<http://www.reinforcingironworkerslocal416.org/apprenticeship.html>

## **Reinforcing Ironworker**

### **Definition and Nature of the Work**

Reinforcing ironworkers assemble and install the steel bars, known as rebar, that are used to support the concrete in large structures like buildings and bridges. They place the rebar inside forms that will be filled with concrete, tying the bars together with wire according to the building's blueprint. They also lay steel mesh, spreading it over a surface to be covered with concrete. The concrete crew then pours the concrete into the form. While the concrete is still wet, the rebar workers move the bars and the mesh into position with long, hooked poles. Positioning of the steel is very important because the concrete must be evenly supported. Although their materials arrive at the construction site precut, the iron-workers sometimes have to cut, bend, hammer, or weld it to the correct size.

In some construction, the ironworkers use cables for reinforcement. When the concrete is poured, the ends of the cables are left exposed. Before the concrete is completely set, ironworkers tighten the cables using special equipment. This technique, known as post-tensioning, allows architects to design buildings with larger open areas, because vertical supports can be placed farther apart.